



Troy Housing Authority
One Eddy's Lane
Troy, NY 12180



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and at troyhousing.org
For the latest news and information

Deborah A. Witkowski, Executive Director

THA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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- Walter Howard, Tenant Commissioner
- Presently Vacant, Tenant Commissioner



Summer Youth Employment



TROY HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Troy Housing Authority will be hiring a limited number of youth to work in the Summer Nutrition and Recreation Program this year. Motivated resident youth, ages 14-17, who are eager to work are encouraged to apply at the site office where you live. Not everyone who applies will be hired. Applicants will be screened to select those most willing to work. Applicants that seem most suited for employment will be interviewed by your Site Manager for further screening.

At the interview be prepared to discuss why you are the best candidate for a job, and whether or not you have other commitments this summer (summer school, sports, camps, etc). Youth hired will work up to 20 hours per week with assignments beginning as early as June 29, 2020 and continuing through September 4, 2020. Any eligible youth not initially hired will be placed on a waiting list. The work involves setting up for breakfast and lunch, serving breakfast and lunch, cleaning up after breakfast and lunch and leading activities between meals. There may also be limited opportunities to do maintenance or work in offices. See your Site Manager to complete an application.

**Troy Housing Authority's Program is very limited
so all youth are also encouraged to apply to the
Rensselaer County Summer Youth
Employment Program**

RENSSELAER COUNTY

The Rensselaer County Summer Youth Employment Program offers eligible youth, ages 14-18, paid job experiences during July and August. Work locations may include Troy Housing Authority sites.

Applications are available through, and should be returned to, School Guidance Offices or by calling **270-2860** (Rensselaer County One-Stop Employment Center).

Opportunities in the Rensselaer County Program are limited, so apply as soon as possible. Completing an application does not always guarantee employment.

Those youth who complete the **entire application** and submit it by the deadline are eligible to **competitively interview** for a position this summer. At the interview be prepared to discuss what kind of work you would like to do this summer, the transportation you will have to and from work, why you are the best candidate for a job, and whether or not you will be attending summer school.



Troy Housing Authority
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1 Eddys Lane
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NEIGHBORHOODS

Troyhousing.org

March 2020

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Board Meeting Schedule 2020

Wednesdays at 4:30PM unless otherwise noted*.

- 3/11/20 at Taylor
- 4/22/20 at Kane
- 6/3/20 at Corliss
- 7/15/20 at Kennedy
- 8/26/20 at Fallon
- 10/7/20 at Griswold
- 11/18/20 at Conway
- 12/18/20 on Friday at 11:00AM at Martin Luther King

At each meeting there are two opportunities for public input. Prior to the meeting the public is invited to comment on any item on the agenda. During Old & New Business comments are welcome on any topic.

*** any change to the schedule of meetings will be posted on our website and at all site offices.**

2020 Troy Housing Authority Tenant Commissioner Elections

The Troy Housing Authority is governed by a seven-member board of commissioners. Every two years there is an election during which two tenants are elected by tenants to become tenant commissioners. The other five members of the board are appointed for five-year terms by the city government.

The commissioners serve as the Housing Authority governing officers. Some of the responsibilities are to provide leadership and advocate for public housing; set the policies that will govern the Housing Authority's operations and chart the direction of current and future programs.

The Board of Commissioners also establishes policies to prevent fraud, abuse, mismanagement, all forms of discrimination and ensure that the Housing Authority acts legally and with integrity.

The election will be held August 26, 2020. Polling places will be in the community rooms of housing sites. To obtain a Nominating Petition or ask any questions relating to the election see your site manager or contact:

**Tom Hulihan, Clerk of Election
Troy Housing Authority
One Eddy's Lane
Troy, New York 12180**

**Phone: (518) 273-3600 ext. 221
E-mail: hulihant@troyhousing.org**

This year the election will serve two purposes. It will determine the two persons to serve as Tenant Commissioners from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. Additionally, the highest vote getting non-incumbent will begin serving (on September 1, 2020) the remaining term of the Tenant Commissioner seat vacated by the passing of Leonard "Lenny" Watkins. To read more about Commissioner Watkins see page 3 of this issue of Neighborhoods.

THA Tenant Commissioner Elections Rules Regarding Nominations & Elections

Nominating Petitions for the tenant commissioner election can be obtained on or after **May 1, 2020** at site offices or from Tom Hulihan, Clerk of the Election, at the THA Administration Office. Completed nominating petitions must be returned to him by **4:00PM on June 15, 2020**.

To be eligible to nominate a candidate, to become a candidate or to vote, tenants must have their name listed on the lease, live in an apartment owned or managed by the Troy Housing Authority (including Section 8 participants and residents of Kennedy Towers) on **May 1, 2020** and be 18 years old or over on the election date (**8/26/20**).

Fifty signatures of qualified residents are needed to have a candidate placed on the ballot. An eligible voter may sign up to 2 nominating petitions.

Elections will be by secret ballot. Polling places will be located in the community rooms of housing sites for voting on the day of the election. Section 8 participants will vote at the Taylor Apartments. The election will be monitored by staff of Troy Housing Authority.

Tenant Commissioners of Troy Housing Authority also serve on the Board of other affiliate organizations of the Troy Housing Authority.

From the desk of the Executive Director

Deborah A. Witkowski



In order to keep our sites safe and sanitary I am reminding you that all trash and garbage being disposed of must be secured in a heavy duty plastic bag that is tied at the top. This includes trash and garbage placed in individual trash cans, in dumpsters and disposed of in trash chutes in our high rises. Also, such trash and garbage should not be stored in plastic bags outside of your apartment. It must be placed in a proper trash receptacle that is watertight and rodent tight.

Any tenant not following these rules is violating Troy City Code Section 247-9:

The owner or occupant of any premises in the City of Troy ... shall ensure that any garbage will be secured in heavy-duty plastic bags tied at the top and that such plastic bags are then placed in a watertight and rodent-tight plastic or galvanized steel garbage container.

Troy Housing Authority's lease states in Section 6e that tenants are to "comply with all obligations imposed upon Tenants by applicable provisions of building and housing codes materially affecting health and safety." Section 6g of the lease adds tenants are to "to dispose of all garbage, rubbish, and other waste from the Premises in a sanitary and safe manner on assigned trash collection days." Therefore, failure to follow these rules is a violation of the lease that will result in service charges and eviction. This is specifically expressed in Section 6. q. of the lease which states:

Pursuant to the provisions set forth in Section 6f, g, m, and o of this Lease, under the heading "Obligations of Tenant," the following charges for those tenants found to be in violation of the above mentioned requirements will apply:

For the first offense, a warning letter will be issued. A ten dollar (\$10.00) service charge will be assessed following a second offense and a twenty dollar (\$20.00) service charge will be assessed for a third violation. Legal proceedings for eviction will be commenced following a fourth offense.

This information was recently sent to all tenants in a memo but I felt it was worth mentioning here again in an effort to help keep our sites safe and sanitary.

If you have any questions about this you are encouraged to discuss them with your Asset Manager.

Deborah A. Witkowski,
Executive Director

REACT, Inc. Is Available To Help

REACT, Inc. (Resident Empowered Action Council of Troy) is the Resident Organization for Troy Housing Authority tenants. REACT serves as the Resident Advisory Board to Troy Housing Authority whenever we are making plans or setting policies that will have an impact on tenants. REACT also advocates on behalf of all tenants of the Troy Housing Authority.

As a recognized not-for-profit organization REACT also raises funds to help support programs and services to tenants of the Troy Housing Authority. REACT provides supplies for Homework Clubs and Summer Nutrition and Recreation Programs available at Troy Housing Authority locations.

REACT operates a Food Pantry for Troy Housing Authority tenants. The Food Pantry is on Grand Street. Tenants in need of food assistance must call REACT at 518-272-8974 to make an appointment for food. You will need to provide your name, address and age of everyone on your lease. You also need to bring a current Shelter Verification form to Pick up your food.

Feel free to call REACT if you Have any questions.



2020 Playground Safety Poster and Essay Contest

Troy Housing Authority (THA) and Housing Authority Insurance (HAI) are encouraging children in all our apartments to participate in the **2020 Playground Safety Poster and Essay Contest.**

THA will award 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place (\$25, \$15, \$10) prizes for the Poster and Essay Contest in three age categories (8 and Under, 9-11 and 12-14 year olds).

All 1st Place winners will be submitted to HAI for the National Competition to compete for more prizes

Each poster or essay should reflect the national theme:
EXPLORE YOUR PLAYGROUND FOR HIDDEN DANGERS

All posters and essays ARE DUE BY April 15, 2020 and may be returned to any site office during office hours.

Entries must have the participant's full name, age, address and phone number clearly written on the back.

Posters should be on 22" x 28" poster board or smaller.

Local winners will be announced during a ceremony around Playground Safety Week (April 27 to May 1, 2020)

For information contact your Tenant Association or Site Manager.

April 1, 2020 is Census Day in the USA

In March homes across America will receive invitations to complete the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you need to respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone or by mail.

April 1, 2020 is Census Day. This is a key date for the Census. When completing the census, you will include everyone living in your home on April 1, 2020. Census Day will be celebrated with events across the country. The 2020 Census is very important because it will determine congressional representation, inform hundreds of billions in federal funding, and the 2020 Census data will impact communities for the next decade.

Over the next ten years, lawmakers, business owners, and others will use 2020 Census data to make critical decisions. The results will show where communities need new schools, new clinics, new roads, and more services for families, older adults, and children.

Everyone living in the United States is required by law to be counted in the 2020 Census. Also, while you are required by law to participate, the Census Bureau is also required by law to protect your answers. Your responses are used only to produce statistics. The Census Bureau does not disclose any personal information.

The 2020 Census is easy and can be completed online, by phone or by mail. You will answer a few simple questions about yourself and everyone who is living with you on April 1, 2020.

Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.



Stop by any Troy Housing Authority Office during normal office hours on or around **April 1, 2020** to receive Census Promotional Material and to find out where you can get help with completing the 2020 Census. We want to help get a complete count so that our area receives all the support we should be receiving.

LEONARD LEE "LENNY" WATKINS

March 1, 1948 to January 17, 2020



Leonard L. "Lenny" Watkins was born on March 1, 1949 to the late James and Marie Watkins in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. In 1986 Leonard married Diane Watkins and they later moved to upstate New York due to his job relocation. He was a much-loved and cherished employee of the Center of Disabilities until his retirement.

Leonard Lee "Lenny" Watkins moved into The John F. Kennedy Towers Apartments on April 15, 2014. He was first elected to the Troy Housing Authority Board as a Tenant Commissioner on August 31, 2016 and then he was re-elected on August 29, 2018 for a term that ran January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020. During his tenure as Tenant Commissioner he served on several committees that improved housing in Troy.

Leonard Lee "Lenny" Watkins was loved by many and he was always willing to help others any way that he could. This included in his role as Tenant Commissioner for the Troy Housing Authority, during his twenty years with Call to Pray Ministries where he served as church photographer, and during his career at the Center for Disability Services.

On January 17, 2020, Leonard transitioned from his earthly home to his heavenly home and will be missed by his family, including wife, Diane; four children: Leonard Jr. of Brooklyn NY, Shona Smalls of Virginia, Danielle and Eric of Albany NY; seven sisters: Denise De'House, Josephine Williams, Harriet Whitfield-James, Sharyn Toomer, Cynthia Turner, Dorothy Jean Tuner, Darlene Denson; four brothers: James Watkins Jr., Lamont Hughes, George Hughes, Keith Hughes, and a host of other relatives and friends as well as his Troy Housing Authority family.