

## **SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION**

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Since the Columbia Housing Authority is a High-Performing Housing Authority, this section on Security is not a required component of the Annual Plan. However, the CHA wants the community to know that:

- The safety of public housing residents and the security of CHA administrative offices are top priorities for this agency.
- The CHA has an excellent working relationship with all local law enforcement agencies and all safety and security concerns are addressed quickly. The CHA has a Memorandum of Agreement with the City and County for police services.
- One particular area of concern is the security of the CHA's high-rise buildings and its elderly residents. The CHA continues to have Community Monitors at the entrance of each building to address any concerns of our elderly residents. Surveillance cameras have been installed in every highrise. In 2010, an intercom system was installed in every highrise apartment unit; this enables the CHA staff to quickly communicate with every resident simultaneously.
- The CHA implemented a Resident Identification Card Program in 2003. All residents are required to carry these cards. This program has greatly improved security in our larger communities.
- The CHA has been a major player year in the Gang Prevention Efforts implemented by the City of Columbia Police Department and the Richland County Sheriff's Department. The CHA has also played an active role in the Mayor's Task Force meetings on crime prevention and safety.
- The CHA Security Department is working closely with the Warrant Divisions of Richland County and Columbia Police Department.
- The City of Columbia has expanded its use of security cameras in some high-traffic areas of the city. The CHA is working with the City on this initiative, as well as evaluating the installment of security cameras to improve the safety of resident families. In 2009, we installed a security surveillance system at Latimer Manor and CHA Central Office. As needs are identified in other large public housing communities, the CHA will install cameras.
- In an effort to increase the law enforcement presence in our communities, the CHA currently has three part-time constables to patrol all communities in an effort to eliminate criminal activity. Additionally, Community Monitors also ride in vehicles to provide greater security in the CHA's larger public housing complexes.

- The Director of Security constantly monitors the number of incident reports on a community by community basis. The Executive Director receives a weekly report on all police reports. The CHA Board of Commissioners receives a monthly report in its Administrative Packages and briefings at its monthly Board Meetings. In general, the CHA has not seen a major increase in crime, and in most communities it has remained constant.