



**BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

James A. Cloor  
Chair

Bemetra Salter Liggins  
Vice Chair

Ben Dachevall

Lorena Hardwick

Parker A. Homans

Billi Johnson-Griffin

**Jerome D. Ryans**  
President/CEO

5301 West Cypress Street  
Tampa, Florida 33607

P. O. Box 4766  
Tampa, Florida 33677

OFFICE: (813) 341-9101

[www.thafl.com](http://www.thafl.com)

Lillian C. Stringer  
Director of Community Affairs  
813-341-9101, Ext. 3540  
lillian.stringer@thafl.com

## **Letter to our Community from Jerome D. Ryans, President/CEO CoronaVirus Update**

Tampa Fl. (April 8, 2020) At the center of The Tampa Housing Authority's purpose is our commitment to help our families and communities. We hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy.

During this global health crisis, we encourage everyone to observe the "Stay at Home" order that the State of Florida and Hillsborough County have issued, especially for those age 65 and older. To contain the spread, it is important to leave home only if it is essential and to follow all of the precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which include frequent handwashing, especially after coughing or sneezing, and maintaining a social distance of six feet from others. There are two other things we would like to bring to your attention.

First, is that initial studies are showing that a disproportionate number of African Americans are being infected and dying from coronavirus. The reasons are complex, however, it may be, in part, due to the high rate of health issues in the minority population, such as diabetes, heart disease, and lung disease. This weakens a person's immune system and makes it more difficult to fight the virus. This is a stark and strong reminder that the families we serve should take every precaution possible to avoid contracting coronavirus.

And secondly, we know that many of our families are struggling financially at this time. If you are a resident of public housing or receive Section 8 assistance and have had a reduction of employment or work hours, please let your housing counselor know immediately, complete the change form, and we can have your rent payments readjusted.

While our offices are currently closed to the public, we are still working remotely and full-time – nearly 75% of us, in fact. We are focused on serving you with voucher issuance, recertifications, maintenance workorders and lease ups, and our hours remain Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Staff members may be reached via email. For contact information or to download forms, please visit our website at [www.thafl.com](http://www.thafl.com). To contact our Assisted Housing team, logon at <http://www.thafl.com/Departments/Assisted-Housing/contact.aspx>.

Our highest priority is and continues to be those that we serve and that are team is healthy and safe while doing so.

###

**"CULTIVATING AFFORDABLE HOUSING WHILE EMPOWERING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES"**