



February 25, 2015

**Message from the President & CEO**



*Richard C. Gentry*  
President & CEO

San Diego was fortunate to receive a visit this month from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro, who got a firsthand look at one of the San Diego Housing Commission's

(SDHC) newest partnership developments and then spoke at a conference on ending homelessness.

I would also like to share some information with you on a meeting in Washington, D.C., of public housing agencies which participate in HUD's "Moving to Work" program.

**SDHC Partnership – HUD Secretary Julián Castro tours COMM22**

HUD Secretary Julián Castro toured the SDHC affordable housing development partnership COMM22 during a visit to San Diego on February 20, calling it "truly a model of what we would like to see in communities across the United States."

The tour was hosted by U.S. Representative Juan Vargas, 51st District, and SDHC. HUD Western Regional Director Ophelia Basgal joined Secretary Castro on the tour.

COMM22 is a 200-unit mixed-use, transit-oriented development by BRIDGE Housing Corporation and Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee on Anti-Poverty (MAAC), which is helping to revitalize the community of Logan Heights.

It includes 69 affordable units for seniors (62+) financed in part by \$4,190,000 in HUD HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds granted to the City of San Diego and administered and loaned by SDHC, and a HUD 202 Capital Advance Loan of \$4,868,300 for 30 senior units, for which HUD also has awarded federal rental assistance for very low-income seniors.

At the conclusion of the tour of COMM22, I joined our elected officials and our SDHC Board of Commissioners who had the opportunity to meet with Secretary Castro and Representative Vargas: State Senator Ben Hueso; Speaker of the California State Assembly Toni Atkins; State Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez; San Diego City Councilmembers Todd Gloria and David Alvarez; and SDHC Chairman of the Board Gary Gramling, Vice Chair Roberta Spoon and Commissioners Ben Moraga, Dorothy Surdi and Frank Urtasun.

[Read the SDHC News Release](#)



(Foreground left to right on HUD Tour) SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry, San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria, HUD Secretary Julian Castro, and U.S. Representative Juan Vargas



COMM22 Senior apartments with children's playground

**Secretary Castro – Ending Homelessness**

After the tour of COMM22, Secretary Castro also spoke at the National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness, held in San Diego by the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

"We must never accept homelessness as part of American life, and if we all do our part, we'll never have to," Secretary Castro said at the conference. ([Watch the video.](#))



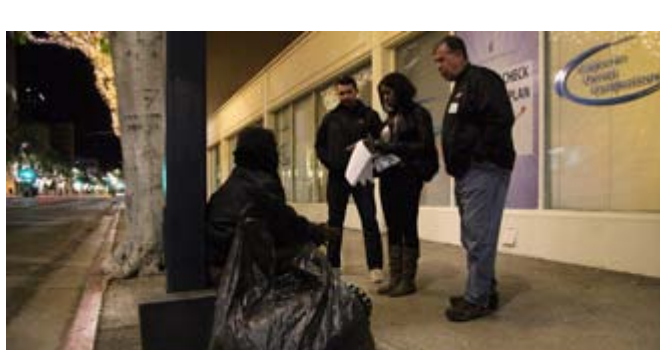
HUD Secretary Julian Castro at the 2015 National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness

I participated as a panelist at one of the workshops at the conference, speaking about [HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO](#), SDHC's three-year Homelessness Action Plan.

**Point-in-Time Count Conducted**

On January 23, about 1,500 volunteers canvassed San Diego County for the annual Homeless Point-in-Time Count, required by HUD and conducted by the Regional Task Force on the Homeless.

Among those taking part in the count in Downtown San Diego were the Speaker of the California State Assembly Toni Atkins, and I was joined by SDHC Chairman of the Board Gary Gramling, Commissioners Ben Moraga and Kellee Hubbard.



(Standing left to right) SDHC Commissioners Ben Moraga and Kellee Hubbard, and SDHC Chairman of the Board Gary Gramling interviewing a homeless San Diegan.

The detailed demographic information produced by this count will be reported to HUD for its Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress. This information helps identify the programs and services that can help address homelessness, and where funding is needed most.

**SDHC – Project Homeless Connect: Housing Assistance and Services**

The 9th Project Homeless Connect–Downtown San Diego assisted 1,145 San Diegans on January 28 in a one-day resource fair. This event helped homeless San Diegans rebuild their lives and provided them with assistance in registering for permanent supportive housing.

For the fifth consecutive time, SDHC was lead organizer of Project Homeless Connect, which included 456 volunteers and 86 service providers. ([View the "thank you" video.](#))

Mayor Kevin Faulconer, the Honorary Chair for Project Homeless Connect, spoke and shook hands with homeless San Diegans as they waited in line to enter the event in Golden Hall at the San Diego Community Concourse.



San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer (left) speaking to homeless San Diegans attending the 9th Project Homeless Connect.

[Read the SDHC News Release](#)

I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Gentry  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
San Diego Housing Commission

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