



April 28, 2015

Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry
President & CEO

I am happy to tell you that the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) received a prestigious local award as the "Outstanding Government Agency" for HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO, our three-year homelessness

action plan.

We also commemorated the midpoint in construction of an affordable housing partnership development in Downtown San Diego, and began to phase in the City of San Diego's (City) new year-round interim housing program that will replace the City's two emergency winter shelter tents.

SDHC Recognized for HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO, Homelessness Action Plan

The Chairman of the SDHC Board of Commissioners, Gary Gramling, and Commissioners Margaret Davis and Kellee Hubbard joined me to accept the Outstanding Government Agency of the Year "Ruby Award" from the San Diego Housing Federation. The award was presented by SDHC Commissioner Frank Urtasun, Regional Vice President of External Relations for San Diego Gas & Electric Company, who chaired the awards dinner.

The Ruby Award is presented to a government agency "that took unusual risk or initiative to support affordable housing and/or community development initiatives in the past year."

The award recognizes HOUSING FIRST–SAN DIEGO, SDHC's three-year homelessness action plan to create additional affordable housing with supportive services that will impact the lives of as many as 1,500 homeless San Diegans. HOUSING FIRST–SAN DIEGO, announced November 12, 2014, is a five-point plan that applies the power of SDHC's federal and local housing resources to create Permanent Supportive Housing under the national Housing First model.



(Left to right) SDHC Commissioners Margaret Davis, Kellee Hubbard, and Frank Urtasun; SDHC Chairman of the Board Gary Gramling; and SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry.

[Read the SDHC news release](#)

[Read HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO Report](#)

SDHC Partnership Development – Alpha Square Topping Off

A symbolic evergreen tree was placed at the top of Alpha Square, marking a construction milestone for an SDHC partnership development in Downtown San Diego's East Village that will provide 201 affordable apartments for homeless and very low-income San Diegans.

I joined San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria for the topping-off ceremony on April 24. The 6-foot tree is part of an ancient Scandinavian construction tradition associated with the halfway mark in construction, and represents strength and long life for the development, said Jim Schmid, CEO of Chelsea Investment Corporation, the developer of Alpha Square.



(Left to right) LeSar Development President & CEO Jennifer LeSar, San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria, Chelsea Investment Corp. Founder & CEO Jim Schmid, and SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry.

The \$47.6 million development is an important part of HOUSING FIRST–SAN DIEGO.

SDHC awarded 76 federal Project-Based Housing Vouchers to Alpha Square for permanent supportive housing for homeless men and women. These housing vouchers have an annual value of \$751,488 – the federal government will pay 70 percent of the monthly rent, and the remainder will be paid by the tenant.

Alpha Square units will remain affordable to very low- and extremely low-income renters for 55 years.

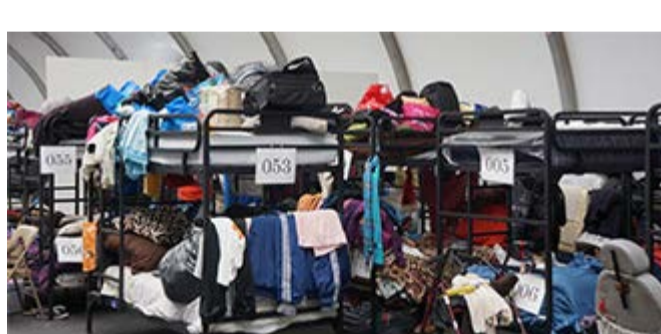
[Read the SDHC news release](#)

[Watch video on SDHC's YouTube Channel](#)

Year-Round Interim Housing for Homeless San Diegans Opens

The City's new year-round, 350-bed interim housing program for homeless San Diegans, operated by St. Vincent de Paul Village, was phased into operation on April 1.

The first interim housing beds, at St. Vincent's Paul Mirabile Center at its Downtown San Diego campus, accommodated 102 residents from the City's emergency winter shelter tents: 49 from the City's Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter and 53 from the Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter. Both tents closed as scheduled on April 1st, ending the City's nearly 30-year-old seasonal tent shelter program for homeless adults.



City's Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter
March 30, 2015

With the San Diego City Council's March 24 approval of an SDHC recommendation, the interim housing facility will go into full operation on July 1.

All residents of the facility will receive supportive services to help stabilize their lives, including resources to help them move into permanent housing.

[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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