



February 16, 2016

Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry
President & CEO

I'm pleased to share with you the comprehensive overview of the San Diego Housing Commission's (SDHC) new collaborative initiative to provide housing opportunities for 1,000 homeless

Veterans in the city of San Diego within a year.

We also had the largest attendance for Project Homeless Connect – Downtown San Diego since SDHC took over in 2010 as the lead organizer of this resource fair.

I invite you to read more about these initiatives, as well as our SDHC activities.

SDHC Supports HUD Smoke-Free Policy

Last month, SDHC advocated in support of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) proposal to require all public housing agencies throughout the country to prohibit smoking in the multifamily housing they own or manage.

SDHC instituted a similar Smoke-Free Policy throughout our multifamily housing on February 1, 2014.

[Read SDHC's letter to HUD](#)

A Path off the Streets for Homeless Veterans

I take pride in announcing that the SDHC Board of Commissioners approved the funds for **The 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative**, the newest initiative of **HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO**, SDHC's landmark three-year (2014-2017) Homelessness Action Plan.

The 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative will invest close to \$12.5 million in Federal, City and SDHC resources to provide a path off the streets for homeless men and women who served their country.

I was joined by San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, City Councilmember Todd Gloria, County Board of Supervisors Chairman Ron Roberts, former San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders, who is the President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, and partners on February 3 to highlight the details of **The 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative**.



Landlord Chris Blatt, a Navy Veteran, speaks at The 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative News Conference - February 3, 2016
2020 Island Avenue – Sherman Heights

An apartment complex owned by a Navy Veteran who rents apartments to homeless Veterans served as the backdrop for the news conference about **The 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative**, which includes four program components:

- Landlord Outreach – "Housing Our Heroes" Campaign
- Rapid Re-housing Assistance
- SDHC Federal Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Vouchers
- SDHC Federal Housing Vouchers with Supportive Services

The initiative will be presented to the San Diego City Council in March for funding approvals.

[Read the SDHC News Release](#)

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

The 10th Project Homeless Connect – Downtown San Diego

The 10th Project Homeless Connect – Downtown San Diego connected 1,215 homeless San Diegans with services that address many of their immediate and longer-term needs.

Total attendance was the highest of any year that SDHC has served as lead organizer, with our major organizing partners including the City of San Diego, Interfaith Shelter Network, Family Health Centers of San Diego, and Father Joe's Villages.



The 10th Project Homeless Connect Golden Hall at the San Diego Community Concourse 202 C Street – Downtown San Diego

Mayor Faulconer served as the Honorary Chairman of the January 27th event, in which more than 70 service providers and 300 volunteers participated, including SDHC Commissioners Kellee Hubbard and Margaret Davis.

[Read the SDHC News Release](#)

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

Homelessness Action Week in San Diego

With Project Homeless Connect - Downtown San Diego occurring in the same week as the annual Point-in-Time Count of homeless individuals, the San Diego City Council declared the week of January 24-30 as "Homelessness Action Week" throughout the city of San Diego.

Councilmember Todd Gloria – who chairs the San Diego Regional Continuum of Care Council – presented the proclamation in the City Council's chambers on January 26.



San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria (center), SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry (left), and Dolores Diaz, Executive Director, Regional Task Force on the Homeless (right) January 26, 2016

During the early morning hours of Friday, January 29, hundreds of volunteers counted and interviewed homeless San Diegans as part of the annual Point-in-Time Count required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Among the volunteers who joined me for the Point-in-Time Count in Downtown San Diego were SDHC Chairman of the Board Gary Gramling and Commissioners Margaret Davis, Ben Moraga, and Dorothy Surdi.

The full numbers from the count, which is part of a nationwide survey, are usually released in mid-spring. Last year's count identified 8,742 homeless individuals in San Diego County, including 5,538 in the city.

Hosting SDHC's Counterparts from Canada

SDHC hosted a two-day informational visit (February 4-5) from the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA), which represents 740 member organizations from throughout the Canadian province, operating more than 163,000 nonprofit housing units.

Ontario recently required municipal service managers to develop plans for addressing homelessness, so the ONPHA officials were particularly interested in our homelessness efforts in San Diego.



Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association bus tour of SDHC partnership developments and programs February 4, 2016

The visit included presentations from members of our leadership team, as well as a bus tour of SDHC partnership developments and programs.

I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

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

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