



July 31, 2013

Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry  
President & CEO

I'm proud to share with you a significant milestone that has been accomplished through partnerships in addressing chronic homelessness in the City of San Diego.

In addition, I am also pleased to tell you that California Assembly Majority Leader Toni Atkins received an award from the Pacific Southwest Regional Council of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) in appreciation for her advocacy for affordable housing.

SDHC Partnership Campaign Reaches Homelessness Milestone

The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC), one of the first public housing agencies in the nation to direct federal housing vouchers to programs that assist chronically homeless adults, and its partners have achieved a significant milestone toward ending chronic homelessness in downtown San Diego—averaging about 18 individuals being taken off the streets each month.

Leaders of the Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego, which includes SDHC, announced on July 18 that for four consecutive months this year, an average of 2.5 percent of the chronic and vulnerable homeless population in downtown San Diego now have a home of their own.

Reaching the 2.5 percent milestone makes the City of San Diego part of the 2.5 Percent Club of the 100,000 Homes Campaign, a national effort to house 100,000 homeless individuals by July 2014.

Since 2010, the partnership efforts of the Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego have taken a total of 565 homeless people off the streets and into supportive housing.

More than half of these homeless individuals who now have a home of their own have been assisted through federal housing vouchers that SDHC has directed to the Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego.

[Read the SDHC news release](#)

CA Assemblymember Toni Atkins Recognized at SDHC Board Meeting



(Left to right) SDHC Chairman of the Board Gary Gramling and California Assembly Majority Leader Toni Atkins

SDHC's Chairman of the Board, Gary Gramling, presented California Assembly Majority Leader Toni Atkins with the Pacific Southwest Regional Council of NAHRO's 2012 Appreciation award at the SDHC Board of Commissioner's meeting on July 19.

SDHC nominated Atkins for the award, which recognizes an elected official who has demonstrated excellence in advocating and supporting affordable housing.



Members of the Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego – Recognition at meeting of July 18, 2013.

SDHC President & CEO Recognized at Tribute in Los Angeles

I had the privilege of being among the individuals recognized on July 18 at LINC Housing's 20th Annual Tribute to Affordable Housing Leaders.

The tribute recognized those who have done exceptional work "to revitalize communities and build stronger neighborhoods."

I was humbled to receive this recognition.



SDHC President & CEO, Richard C. Gentry, received the William F. McKenna Award – July 18, 2013.

A signature achievement for SDHC in my five years leading the agency was our [public housing conversion finance plan](#) that created 810 additional affordable housing units in the City of San Diego, which will remain affordable for at least 55 years.

SDHC leveraged the equity of its former public housing to create the additional affordable housing through public-private partnerships.

This was possible because of a 2007 landmark public housing conversion agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – the largest public-housing conversion ever approved at the time.

Also recognized at the tribute were Matt Schwartz, President of California Housing Partnership Corporation, and Bill Witte, President of Related California.

My congratulations to them, and I was deeply honored to be in their presence.

I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

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

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