



April 20, 2017

Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry
President & CEO

This afternoon, I was honored to introduce and join U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Dr. Ben Carson for a panel discussion about the Federal "Moving to Work" (MTW) program.

Secretary Carson emphasized the importance of encouraging innovative programs, such as MTW, as well as developing the workforce and providing educational opportunities for Federal rental assistance recipients.

The panel for this session at the annual MTW Conference in Washington, D.C., which concludes tomorrow, also included Andrew Lofton, Executive Director of the Seattle Housing Authority; A. Fulton Meachem, Jr., the President & CEO of the Charlotte Housing Authority; and Gregory P. Russ, Executive Director & CEO of the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority.

Two New SDHC Commissioners

Tim Walsh, Chief of Staff for a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and Stefanie Benvenuto, the Public Policy Manager for the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, have been appointed to the SDHC Board of Commissioners.

Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer appointed Commissioners Walsh and Benvenuto to our Board, and the San Diego City Council unanimously confirmed their appointments on April 11, 2017.

I look forward to working with them to provide housing opportunities for low-income and homeless San Diegans.

[Read the News Release](#)



National MTW Conference Panel Discussion – April 20, 2017
(left to right) A. Fulton Meachem, Jr., Andrew Lofton, HUD Secretary Dr. Ben Carson, SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry, and Gregory P. Russ.

The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) is one of only 39 public housing authorities, out of 3,400 in the nation, to receive an MTW designation from HUD.

This MTW status allows SDHC the flexibility to determine the most effective housing assistance programs for the city of San Diego and fosters the creation of innovative, cost-effective initiatives.

SDHC's MTW initiatives include programs that create opportunities for rental assistance participants to become more financially self-reliant and provide essential resources to address homelessness in the city of San Diego.

[Read the SDHC MTW Fact Sheet](#)

City of San Diego Homelessness Ballot Measure

San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer announced a proposed ballot measure, which would create a continuous funding source to address homelessness, at a news conference in which I was pleased to participate.



City of San Diego Homelessness Ballot Measure News Conference
Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer (speaking) and SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry (far left)
April 3, 2017

Upon approval from the City Council, the proposed ballot measure would be placed before voters during a special election this November.

If approved by voters, the proposed measure would increase the city's hotel tax by 1 to 3 percent, depending on location in the city, to fund:

- San Diego Convention Center expansion;
- Street repairs; and
- Solutions to address homelessness.

Approximately \$10 million per year would be directed toward addressing homelessness. This would supplement SDHC's existing resources and help to create additional housing with supportive services in the City of San Diego.

Standard & Poor's Affirms SDHC's 'AA' Credit Rating

Standard & Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings affirmed SDHC's "AA" credit rating citing our "very strong overall strategy and management," as well as a "very strong financial profile."

This affirmation reflects SDHC's prudent management of our financial resources.

The "AA" is S&P Global Ratings' second-highest rating, indicating SDHC's "very strong capacity to meet financial commitments."

[Read the News Release](#)

[Read the S&P Global Ratings Report](#)

I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

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

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