



SAN DIEGO  
HOUSING  
COMMISSION

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# NEWS RELEASE

September 20, 2010

## **SAN DIEGO HOUSING COMMISSION MAKES SITE RECOMMENDATION FOR CITY'S EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM**

**City Council Set To Consider Recommendation Tonight**

**San Diego, CA—** Selected last June to manage the City of San Diego's emergency winter shelter program, the San Diego Housing Commission has made a site recommendation to the City Council for the location of the program's downtown component.

The winter shelter program is scheduled to be heard by the Council at tonight's meeting. The City Council retains final authority on site selection. The cost for the winter tent program is projected to be \$778,115.

The winter shelter program calls for housing up to 200 adults in downtown, with a second site slated for the Midway District for up to 150 military veterans. Each facility would operate for approximately 4 months beginning in December. Known as sprung structures, the pre-fabricated buildings can be rapidly put up and disassembled by city work crews.

For over a decade, the City has operated a winter shelter program that provides homeless persons protection from inclement weather, and also makes available comprehensive services to address permanent housing needs, mental health screening, drug and alcohol treatment, and job counseling.

The recommended site downtown, commonly referred to as East Village Green West, is owned by the City's Redevelopment Agency. It is bounded by F and G Streets on the north and south and by 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Streets on the west and east. Day-to-day operations will continue to be handled by Alpha Project for the Homeless. For the past three years the facility has occupied two different downtown sites.

The Midway District structure will be placed at the Navy's SPAWAR property, a partnership that has continued for several years. Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) will operate the facility.

This week, the San Diego Housing Commission is an active participant in Registry Week to End Homelessness. The homeless survey program is utilizing 200 volunteers to identify the 125 most vulnerable homeless individuals who will be offered immediate housing and intensive case management.

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The Housing Commission will be providing direct housing assistance in the form of 50 rental housing assistance vouchers to those identified as most vulnerable. In addition, the Housing Commission has already provided 75 additional rental housing assistance vouchers to the local Veterans Administration which will coordinate supportive services to assist veterans identified through the Registry data.

Registry Week to End Homelessness will also create a comprehensive registry containing a far more accurate analysis of the estimated 800 persons comprising our downtown homeless population.

### **Housing Commission Homelessness Prevention Programs**

In addition to managing the winter shelter program, the San Diego Housing Commission plays a vital role in regional efforts to prevent homelessness.

#### **Cortez Hill Family Shelter:**

- **San Diego Housing Commission Administers Contract Assisting 150 Families**

The YWCA operates Cortez Hill Family Shelter to provide 150 year-round beds in interim housing and supportive services to families with children. Families' access the program via the YWCA, San Diego Rescue Mission, Catholic Charities, Father Joe's Villages and Jewish Family Services; the program operates at capacity with a waiting list.

#### **Neil Good Day Center:**

- **San Diego Housing Commission in Discussions with City to Manage Contract, Assisting 250 Adults Daily**

Alpha Project operates the Neil Good Day Center to provide day services (mail pick up, showers, laundry, employment and housing connections, medical services) to approximately 250 adults daily.

#### **One-Stop Shop**

- **San Diego Housing Commission Coordinated Citizen's Committee**

A homeless services center, which includes a full service medical clinic along with interim housing beds and permanent supportive housing units, is being proposed at the World Trade Center site. The "one stop" concept evolved from a volunteer citizen's selection committee that was coordinated by the San Diego Housing Commission at the request last year of the City Council's Land Use & Housing (LU&H) Committee. If approved, the program could start serving the homeless in approximately three years and preclude the need for the Winter Shelter adult tent in

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downtown. LU&H approved the proposal in July and it is scheduled to be heard by the City Council on October 5.

### **Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)**

- **San Diego Housing Commission Providing Rental Assistance for 285 Veterans**

Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), the VASH program allocates funds to local housing authorities to provide rental assistance, called housing vouchers, for homeless military veterans. Rental payments are made directly to landlords or building managers. Case management and clinical services are provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Annual funding to the Housing Commission exceeds \$2.7 million allowing the Housing Commission to issue 285 vouchers.

### **Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP)**

- **San Diego Housing Commission Administers the \$5.7 Million Program Providing Rental Assistance for 350 Households**

Funded by the 2009 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, the HPRP will increase its focus on diverting homeless people from the streets and providing temporary homes and services to assist them in getting back into stable living situations and maintaining their housing. Direct payments to landlords or building managers can fund security deposits, back rent, utility payments, and monthly rent. Individuals and families can receive up to a year of assistance.

### **Project 25**

- **San Diego Housing Commission Providing Rental Assistance for 25 Homeless Adults**

In a collaboration of United Way, San Diego Housing Commission and the County of San Diego, United Way has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify at least twenty-five (25) individuals who are responsible for the highest use (and cost) of public services related to impacts of homelessness. This project will provide funding for housing and wrap-around services with intensive case management support for those individuals. The Housing Commission will provide housing vouchers to the 25 persons identified. Rental assistance is paid directly to landlords or building managers.

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## **100,000 Homes National Campaign: Downtown San Diego Partnership Registry**

- **San Diego Housing Commission Providing Rental Assistance for 50 Homeless Adults**

The 100,000 Homes National Campaign is a movement to identify and house the most vulnerable, at-risk homeless individuals. The Downtown Partnership is leading the local effort in

collaboration with LeSar Development; chronically homeless found in the downtown area of San Diego will be interviewed and registered in late September. Based on data from the Registry, a significant number of the most fragile individuals will be offered housing and intensive case management designed to address their health and housing needs. The Housing Commission will provide 50 housing vouchers to assist the most vulnerable persons registered with assistance payments going directly to landlords or building managers.

### **Homeless Population Surveys**

According to the Fiscal Year 2010 homeless profile compiled by the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, there were an estimated 4,526 homeless persons living in the City of San Diego last winter. Of these, 2,049 persons were living on the streets, 595 persons were living in emergency shelter, and 1,882 persons were living in transitional housing.

The profile found that up to 25% of San Diego's homeless are military veterans, and over 20% are women. A majority of the population suffered from mental illness, substance abuse, a physical or medical disability or a combination of the above.

Another study that focused specifically on San Diego's downtown homeless population was conducted in May of 2010 by People Assisting The Homeless (PATH), a Los Angeles-based organization. Based on three dozen in-person interviews, PATH determined that the chronically homeless in downtown are an aging population with clear ties to the area rather than transients from outside the region. The PATH survey also found that more than 40% of the downtown homeless population was female.

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### **Established in 1979, San Diego Housing Commission**

**Through innovative, award-winning programs such as rental housing assistance, homelessness prevention, Achievement Academy, support for first-time homebuyers, loans and grants for home rehabilitation, and its aggressive effort to expand the city's affordable housing stock, the San Diego Housing Commission improves the lives of close to 76,000 San Diegans annually.**