

July 23, 2019

The collaboration that is essential to make housing more affordable and address homelessness is evident in several initiatives and programs in which the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) was pleased to participate in the last month.

SDHC hosted a meeting of the California State Assembly Select Committee on Housing Affordability for the Working and Middle Class and joined the local launch of Habitat for Humanity's new national advocacy campaign, "Cost of Home."



Richard C. Gentry
SDHC President & CEO

We also celebrated the grand reopening of 143 affordable rental housing units, as well as the expansion of a cost-effective, successful homelessness program.

I invite you to read more below about these and additional SDHC activities.



California Assembly Select Committee on Housing Affordability for the Middle and Working Class
Chaired by Assemblymember Todd Gloria
July 17, 2019

SDHC Hosts California Assembly Select Committee

SDHC was pleased to host a meeting of the California Assembly Select Committee on Housing Affordability for the Middle and Working Class (Select Committee), chaired by California Assemblymember Todd Gloria.

As Assemblymember Gloria stated at this meeting, the Select Committee gathers information that may lead to proposed state legislation.

Held at SDHC's main offices in downtown San Diego, the meeting included presentations about:

- The use of state and local agency surplus land for middle-income and affordable housing;
- The implementation of the Permit Streamlining Act—which requires local agencies to act on development projects within specific time limits; and
- How middle-income housing production can help the state meet its climate goals.

SDHC also previously hosted a meeting of this Select Committee in December 2017.

Last year, I was among the panelists for a discussion at a Select Committee meeting held at the San Diego Central Library, where I shared information about SDHC's report that identified the City of San Diego's need for 150,000 to 220,000 new housing units by 2028.

[Watch Video](#)



"Cost of Home" Advocacy Campaign Launch
San Diego News Conference
July 8, 2019

SDHC Joins Launch of Housing Affordability Advocacy Campaign

I joined San Diego City Councilmembers Vivian Moreno and Chris Ward, San Diego Habitat for Humanity President & CEO Lori Pfeiler and additional partners for the local launch of Habitat for Humanity's national advocacy campaign, "Cost of Home."

The campaign seeks to identify solutions and policies at all levels of government that will address housing affordability, with four priority areas of focus:

- Increasing supply and preservation of affordable homes;
- Equitably increasing access to credit;
- Optimizing land use for affordable homes; and
- Ensuring access to, and development of, communities of opportunity.

This campaign aligns with recommendations SDHC has highlighted in three reports since 2015 regarding the housing affordability crisis:

- [Addressing The Housing Affordability Crisis: 2018 Status Report](#)
- [Addressing The Housing Affordability Crisis: San Diego Housing Production Objectives 2018-2028](#)
- [Addressing the Housing Affordability Crisis: An Action Plan for San Diego](#)



Town & Country Grand Reopening
SDHC Partnership
July 15, 2019

Partners Celebrate 143 Renovated Affordable Apartments

The award-winning renovation of Town & Country apartments, an SDHC partnership project, extended the affordability of apartments for low-income families while also adding affordable units and a new community center for programs that assist residents.

San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, SDHC Chair of the Board of Commissioners Stefanie Benvenuto and developer Chelsea Investment Corporation participated in the celebration of the grand reopening of Town & Country.

With this property rehabilitation, SDHC converted 46 previously market-rate units into affordable housing and extended the affordability of 97 rental homes.

All 143 housing units will remain affordable for 55 years for households earning up to 60 percent of the San Diego Area Median Income.

The new community center constructed as part of the rehabilitation project provides a larger location for resident services, such as a computer lab, after-school programs for children, and adult education.

[Read More](#)



Family Reunification Program Expansion
News Conference
June 28, 2019

HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO Homelessness Program Expands

A partnership program that is part of SDHC's homelessness action plan, HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO, is expanding to help additional individuals experiencing homelessness in more neighborhoods of the City of San Diego.

I joined San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, City Councilmember Chris Ward and the Downtown San Diego Partnership, a member-based, nonprofit economic advocacy organization, to announce the expansion of the Family Reunification Program.

This program reconnects individuals and families living on the streets or in emergency shelters with family or other support systems through relocation assistance and follow-up services.

State Homeless Emergency Aid Program funds awarded to the City of San Diego and administered by SDHC will support the expansion of this program into six areas outside of downtown San Diego.

Including this expansion, the Family Reunification Program is expected to serve 1,400 San Diegans experiencing homelessness in Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020).



National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
Awards of Merit Presentation
July 11, 2019

SDHC Receives National Awards

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) presented three Awards of Merit to SDHC at NAHRO's recent summer conference in Boston, Massachusetts.

SDHC Chair of the Board Stefanie Benvenuto, Vice Chair Ryan Clumpner and Commissioner Margaret Davis accepted the awards for SDHC's:

- Comprehensive website redesign;
- Rental Assistance Division's Business Process Re-engineering; and
- "Addressing the Housing Affordability Crisis" reports, which also have been nominated for a NAHRO Award of Excellence.

I am proud of the leadership of our Board of Commissioners and the great work of our staff that earned these awards.



Wake Forest University Recognition

I was honored to be featured in an article in the magazine of my alma mater, Wake Forest University.

I was among 25 Wake Forest alums living in the Golden State who were profiled in the feature article "Voices of California."

[Read More](#)



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SDHC's 40th Anniversary

We're About People

Established in 1979, the San Diego Housing Commission provides a variety of award-winning affordable housing programs and services that stimulate the local economy, revitalize neighborhoods, and impact the lives of low-income and homeless San Diegans.

