The apartments at both properties will remain affordable for 55 years. Affordability levels and that residents qualify based on their income. SDHC will monitor both developments to ensure their rents remain within the specified. The Siena development includes 103 one- and two-bedroom apartments with rents affordable to seniors with income up to 65 percent of AMI. The San Diego City Council approved the bonds in its role as the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego. The San Diego City Councilmember Raul Campillo and I were among the speakers, along with the developer, Chelsea Investment Corporation, and California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, San Diego City Councilmember Raul Campillo, Unite HERE Local 30 President Brigette Browning and California Restaurant Association San Diego Chapter President Ben Clevenger to encourage workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to apply. Two weeks earlier, on March 22, 2021, I also joined Mayor Gloria, City Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera and San Diego Unified School District Board President Richard Barrera for an April 5, 2021, news conference to encourage families with children in the district to apply for the program. To help raise awareness about this program, I joined U.S. Representative Juan Vargas, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, San Diego City Councilmember Raul Campillo, San Diego Housing Commission President Laura Gentner and San Diego City Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera for a roundtable discussion by video conference in which I was pleased to participate yesterday with members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

April 22, 2021

Solving the homeless problem among our military veterans is a key focus of the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) activities.

I discussed changes implemented in the City of San Diego to maximize the utilization of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers. In March 2021, 99 percent of VASH vouchers SDHC administers were leased up at a rental housing unit, had been issued to a household that was searching for a home, or were committed to provide rental assistance at a specific housing unit as a Project-Based Housing Voucher, up from 89 percent in December 2019.

For the first six months in 2021, 92 percent of the VASH vouchers that SDHC administers were successfully matched, compared to 82 percent in 2020. SDHC previously reported that in 2020, 70 percent of vouchers were matched and 30 percent of vouchers became vacant.

I also shared that within the first half of 2021, SDHC administers had distributed 2,792 VASH vouchers across California and 5,450 VASH vouchers were approved nationwide to help veterans find housing.

I discussed new initiatives to help veterans experiencing homelessness. SDHC administers the Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program under the supervision of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This program helps homeless and formerly homeless veterans with a serious mental illness by providing stable housing units and mental health care.

I informed the committee that SDHC administers the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing(VASH) program under the supervision of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This program helps homeless and formerly homeless veterans with a serious mental illness by providing stable housing units and mental health care. The Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing Vouchers are allocated to housing providers across the nation.

SDHC administers this program, which helps households with low income that experience financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Close to 9,700 households in the City of San Diego have applied for financial help to pay past-due rent and utilities since the launch last month of the City of San Diego Housing Stability Assistance Program. More than $83 million is available through the COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program to help qualifying households with rent and utility payments. The program is designed to help workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as past accomplishments, such as the Housing Our Heroes initiative, which within 18 months in 2016 and 2017 helped secure homes for 1,000 veterans experiencing homelessness. In addition, I spoke about the help veterans experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic received through the San Diego initiative known as Operation Shelter to Home, as well as past accomplishments, such as the Housing Our Heroes initiative, which within 18 months in 2016 and 2017 helped secure homes for 1,000 veterans experiencing homelessness.

My thanks to Committee Chair Senator Jon Tester of Montana and Ranking Member Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas for inviting me to be a part of this conversation about helping to provide a path off the streets and out of shelters for the men and women who have served our country.

I invite you to read more below about additional recent San Diego Housing Commission activities.