

Excerpt

Resolutions for San Diegans

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Richard C. Gentry

President & CEO, San Diego Housing Commission

We should resolve in 2016 to help more San Diegans find affordable places to live.

Industry statistics show that only 24 percent of San Diegans can afford a median-priced home, compared to 54 percent nationwide. Renters typically pay 44 percent of their income on rent, compared to 30 percent nationwide. As a result, some police officers, firefighters, teachers and their families can't afford to live in the city they serve.

Neither can many recent college graduates who we need to build our future.

The San Diego Housing Commission provides rental assistance to those who need it most, including senior citizens struggling to make ends meet; veterans re-entering civilian life; and the families of low-wage workers employed at our hotels, stores and hospitals.

We reach more than 70,000 people each year through rental assistance, loans for affordable housing developments and first-time home-buyers, and homelessness programs. But more needs to be done.

As one indicator, our waiting list for rental assistance includes more than 60,700 low-income families.

In compliance with state law, we intend to introduce a ballot measure next year that would create the capacity for up to 10,000 additional affordable rental units for low-income families in the city of San Diego. The measure involves no new taxes, so we are hoping for the same kind of support that a similar proposal received in 2002, drawing nearly 70 percent of the vote.

Our motto is "We're about people." And that starts by helping them find a decent home.