October 19, 2015

Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry President & CEO

I am pleased to share with you that U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro toured a historical Downtown San Diego hotel today that will become permanent housing for homeless Veterans.

Secretary Castro said the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) partnership rehabilitation of Hotel Churchill represents an important step toward the national goal of addressing Veterans homelessness.

U.S. Representative Scott Peters, 52nd District, invited Secretary Castro to Hotel Churchill and co-hosted the tour with me. Also joining us were Speaker of the California State Assembly Toni Atkins and San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria. San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer joined us for a news media briefing atop the Hotel Churchill renovation site.

SDHC, working with its nonprofit affiliate, Housing Development Partners (HDP), is rehabilitating Hotel Churchill to create 72 permanent

affordable housing studios for homeless individuals:



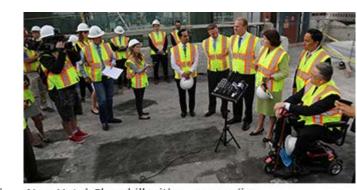
(Right to left) HUD Secretary Julián Castro, City of San Diego Councilmember Todd Gloria, SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry, Speaker of the California State Assembly Toni Atkins, U.S. Representative Scott Peters

- 56 units for Veterans;
- 8 units for youth aging out of foster care; and
- 8 units for adults exiting the corrections system who will also need supportive services.

SDHC is investing more than \$12.1 million in HUD Federal funds toward the renovation of Hotel Churchill, including more than \$9.2 million through the Moving to Work program.

The renovation is expected to be completed in June 2016.

And in a move that may help to bolster the work that is being done in San Diego, HUD Secretary Castro announced that in spring 2016, HUD will provide the San Diego region a



Atop Hotel Churchill with news media 827 C Street Downtown San Diego

significant first step toward making its case to receive its fair share of funding for homelessness programs. In 2014, despite having the fifth largest homeless population in the country, San Diego ranked 23rd in funding because HUD uses an outdated funding formula from the 1970s.

HUD will begin receiving public comments in the spring about this funding formula.

At the conclusion of the tour of Hotel Churchill, I joined Secretary Castro, along with Representative Peters, Speaker Atkins, Mayor Faulconer, and Councilmember Gloria, at a meeting with local government officials and nonprofit organizations to further discuss regional homeless programs.

We met at San Diego Square, another
HUD-supported SDHC-HDP
partnership rehabilitation in
Downtown San Diego that is
preserving 154 affordable housing
units for low-income seniors age 62 and older.



Meeting to further discuss regional homeless programs San Diego Square 1055 Ninth Avenue Downtown San Diego

Read the SDHC news release

Watch video on SDHC's YouTube Channel

The HUD Secretary's visit was a fitting recognition during October, Housing America Month.



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Sincerely,

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



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Established in 1979, the San Diego Housing Commission provides a