



December 7, 2017

Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry
President & CEO

This holiday season, I am mindful once again of the many valued partners who worked with the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) throughout the year to create innovative housing solutions and provide safe, quality affordable rental homes for individuals and families in need.

This morning, SDHC is hosting a hearing of the California State Assembly Select Committee on Housing Affordability for the Middle and Working Class, with Assemblymember Todd Gloria, the Select Committee Chair, and Assemblymember Brian Maienschein, a member of the Select Committee. The hearing will focus on the housing needs of employees in metropolitan and urban areas.

And within the last month alone, SDHC and our partners have commemorated the launch of a new development for homeless Veterans, the certification of SDHC affordable housing properties as "crime free," an award for an SDHC historic preservation, and the opening of the City of San Diego's Temporary Bridge Shelter to assist homeless San Diegans.

I am pleased to share these events with you.

On behalf of SDHC, I wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Hotel Churchill Receives Architecture Award



SDHC's renovation of the historic Hotel Churchill in downtown San Diego received a Merit Award for Architecture from the American Institute of Architects, San Diego Chapter (AIASD) as part of their annual Design Awards.

This is the seventh time the Hotel Churchill renovation has earned recognition.

SDHC, working with its nonprofit affiliate, Housing Development Partners, renovated Hotel Churchill, originally built in 1914, to create 72 permanent supportive housing rental studios for homeless San Diegans, predominantly Veterans.

Groundbreaking – Apartments for Homeless Veterans

Construction is under way on an SDHC partnership development that exemplifies the kind of innovation and collaboration that is needed to help homeless San Diegans obtain a path off the streets.



Zephyr Grantville Veterans Apartments Groundbreaking
84 Affordable Apartments for Homeless Veterans
November 30, 2017

San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer and San Diego City Councilmember Scott Sherman were among the speakers at the groundbreaking for Zephyr, which celebrated the launch of Affirmed Housing Group's conversion of a former motel into 84 units of transit-oriented, affordable rental housing with on-site supportive services for homeless Veterans.

Through **HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO**, SDHC's homelessness action plan, SDHC awarded 84 Federal rental housing vouchers and a \$3 million loan to this development:

- \$2.9 million in Federal Community Development Block Grant funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the City of San Diego and administered by SDHC; and
- \$100,000 from the City of San Diego's Affordable Housing Fund, also administered by SDHC.

Zephyr also is one of the first developments in San Diego to receive funds awarded by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) through the Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention (VHHP) Program.

[Read the News Release](#)

[Watch the Video](#)

SDHC Properties Certified "Crime Free"

SDHC Chairman of the Board Frank Urtasun and San Diego Police Chief Shelley Zimmerman joined program partners and residents as nine SDHC affordable rental housing properties were certified as "crime free" by the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) through the Crime-free Multi-housing Program.



SDHC Chairman of the Board Frank Urtasun (left) and San Diego Police Chief Shelley Zimmerman (right)
November 29, 2017

The collaborative program brings together property owners, managers, residents, and law enforcement agencies to enhance safety and security in multifamily housing communities.

This brings the total number of SDHC properties that have received crime-free certifications to more than 40.

[Read the News Release](#)

City's Temporary Bridge Shelter Opens

One of three City of San Diego Temporary Bridge Shelters for homeless individuals and families in the City of San Diego is now open, providing up to 350 beds.

Two additional shelters will open in a few weeks.



Temporary Bridge Shelter Opens
Downtown San Diego
December 1, 2017

Together, the three bridge shelters will provide a total of up to 700 beds. These shelters will offer homeless individuals and families a safe place to receive shelter and appropriate services as they exit to permanent housing with the "Housing First" model of addressing homelessness.

The Temporary Bridge Shelters are a public-private partnership among the City of San Diego, SDHC, County of San Diego, nonprofit service providers and private businesses. Private sector donations covered the City's cost to buy and construct two of the three Sprung structures.

SDHC provided \$1.1 million of its funds toward start-up costs, and the San Diego City Council authorized SDHC to provide an additional \$6.5 million of its funds toward the operation of these shelters through June 30, 2018.

I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

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

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