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SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTERS OPENS AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMPLEX IN CITY HEIGHTS

Project Will Provide 150 Units for Low-Income Seniors

SAN DIEGO - August 10, 2007 - To help combat the diminishing number of affordable housing options for seniors, Senior Community Centers opens its newest affordable housing complex - City Heights Square - which boasts a variety of supportive amenities and "green," eco-friendly features to help save costs, protect the environment, and give seniors a safe and comfortable place to live.

"City Heights Square is a perfect example of how affordable housing should be integrated into a neighborhood," said City Councilmember Toni Atkins. "This Senior Community Centers' project ensures that our seniors have an affordable, quality place to live; one that provides easy access to services, which are vital to the health and safety of its residents."

The City Heights area is an ideal location for Senior Community Centers' housing project. In addition to the nutrition, and medical and mental health services residents have access to at City Heights Square, the surrounding community boasts many essential amenities, including bus stops, 24-hour pharmacies, health clinics and shopping centers.

The complex, located at 43rd Street and Polk Avenue in City Heights, will provide housing and an array of supportive services - such as nutrition, medical and mental health services, and access to social case workers - to the residents in its 150 handicap-accessible

units. The new building is also designed to be 15 percent more efficient than California's energy standards.

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CITY HEIGHTS SQUARE - 2-2-2-2-2

The building's energy-efficient and environmentally friendly features include a high-efficiency heating and cooling system, the use of many recycled materials, energy-saving windows and light bulbs, and roof-mounted solar panels, which help lower energy usage and costs - ensuring a more sustainable future for the building and its residents.

"City Heights Square stands as a monument to what we can accomplish when public and private sectors work together to provide a better quality of life for our fellow San Diegans," said Paul Downey, president and CEO of Senior Community Centers. "We still need the community's support, however, to help raise funds to cover the remaining costs from the building's construction and establish an endowment to ensure that seniors will always be able to call City Heights Square home."

Qualifying residents must be older than 62-years of age and have an annual income less than \$22,000. Each unit at City Heights Square comes with a stove, refrigerator, sink, balcony, private restroom and storage unit. The building features laundry facilities, a computer lab and library, underground parking, and will have an outdoor park and garden area once redevelopment efforts on the block are complete. Monthly rent ranges from \$359 to \$549, depending on income and the unit leased.

According to Jim Schmid, president of Chelsea Investment Corp., which partnered with Senior Community Centers to build its newest venture, the project wouldn't have

been possible without a collaborative effort.

“We are honored to have entered into this project with Senior Community Centers as both a partner and developer, and are thankful for the San Diego Redevelopment Agency and Affordable Housing Collaborative’s efforts and contributions to City Heights Square,” said Schmid.

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CITY HEIGHTS SQUARE - 3-3-3-3-3

The San Diego Redevelopment Agency, a department of the City of San Diego, provided funding to help initiate a presence of affordable housing options in the City Heights neighborhood.

“We’ve been fortunate to work with this redevelopment team to build much-needed affordable housing while revitalizing the community in the process,” said Mayor Jerry Sanders. “City Heights Square will benefit deserving seniors for years to come.”

In addition to the Redevelopment Agency’s support, the project used 9 percent tax credits and also received generous funding from the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC).

“We are very pleased to celebrate the opening of this exciting new affordable housing project in City Heights,” said Nancy Graham, president of CCDC. “This senior housing development is a result of a positive collaboration with the city. CCDC was proud to contribute more than \$8 million to the project from downtown affordable housing

funds. This year, CCDC has committed more than \$100 million to affordable housing, which remains a top priority for our organization.”

City Heights Square follows the supportive housing model implemented in Senior Community Centers’ first affordable housing complex, Potiker Family Senior Residence, located downtown. The supportive services are such a valuable asset to those living at Potiker Family Senior Residence, that many of the residents are able to become more independent and self-sufficient, and the location has become a national model for senior organizations around the country.

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CITY HEIGHTS SQUARE - 4-4-4-4

“Dominy & Associates, Red Capital and Harper Construction should also be recognized for their outstanding contributions to City Heights Square and their involvement in a project that will help restore dignity to the lives of San Diego’s seniors,” said Downey.

Seniors interested in renting at City Heights Square can receive rental information by calling Hyder Property Management at 619/281-0483.

Senior Community Centers is a nonprofit agency providing low-income seniors with meals, social, medical and mental health services, homeless and housing assistance, and cultural activities. For more information, visit www.servingseiors.org or call 619/235-6572.

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