

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FOR SENIORS OPENS IN THE SECOND DISTRICT**

County Celebrates the Grand Opening of the Athens Vistas Apartments as Housing Communities Nationwide Commemorate Housing America Month

Los Angeles, October 17, 2019 – Officials from the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) joined Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles County Housing Development Corporation, and Veloce Partners, along with FPI Management, Inc., at the Grand Opening of the Athens Vistas Apartments.

The site is located in the Athens Westmont area of unincorporated Los Angeles, formerly owned by the LACDA. Athens Vistas is a permanent supportive housing development for persons with limited means and homeless seniors, aged 62 and above. The project features 73 units plus one manager's unit. Unit amenities include ENERGY STAR appliances and ceiling fans, dual flush toilets, energy efficient lighting, and access to either a patio or balcony. The senior units all meet the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act standards and include Universal Design standards. The development includes landscaped grounds, a central outdoor courtyard, container garden and edible landscaping, two community rooms, a laundry room, gym, designated exercise room, computer room, and social services.



“Seventy-four deserving seniors - half of whom were previously living on the streets - now have a beautiful, dignified, and affordable place to call home. This is what individual transformation and community transformation can and should look like,” said Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. “We have to do more and do it faster because we have over 4,000 seniors throughout the County who still need and deserve a place they too can call home.”

The Salvation Army is the lead service provider for the project and will provide an onsite Service Coordinator to link residents with essential services based on their individualized needs and assist residents with resume creation, coordinate employment training, organize community building activities, transportation, and develop educational

programming. The Service Coordinator will also assist residents with obtaining services from other providers, who will be providing case management, mental health counseling, substance abuse counseling, and other supportive assistance.

The YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles also provides additional supportive services by addressing the detrimental impacts of social isolation and physical inactivity by providing residents with a curriculum of senior programming and activities that are fun and interactive.

The project received \$2,575,900 in Affordable Housing Trust Funds (AHTF) from Notice of Funding Availability 21, 37 Project-Based Vouchers, and \$2,000,000 in HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds provided by the LACDA. A \$35,000 incentive for providing an onsite gym and a \$25,900 incentive for quality insulation installation are incorporated into the total funding amount. The LACDA also provided a seller carryback loan in the amount of \$1,350,000 and transferred the LACDA-owned land to the developer at construction closing.



Each October, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) and its membership, including Los Angeles County, work collectively to raise awareness of the unmet housing need for many of America's most vulnerable, and the vital need for safe, decent, and affordable housing in sustainable communities. New housing developments, such as Athens Vistas, support Housing

America Month's goals, as Los Angeles County recommits itself to meeting the local affordable housing and community development needs.

For more information on Athens Vistas Apartments, please contact George Garcia at [George.garcia@fpimgt.com](mailto:George.garcia@fpimgt.com). All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, LACDA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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