



PRESS RELEASE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTY CELEBRATES THE GRAND OPENING OF STAR APARTMENTS IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES

102 Units of Special Needs Housing is Combined with Health Services to
Provide Residents a Well Rounded Support System



Los Angeles, October 8, 2014 - The Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles (CDC) joined Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Councilman Jose Huizar, former Speaker of the California State Assembly John Perez, Congressman Xavier Becerra, Skid Row Housing Trust (SRHT), residents, neighbors, and supporters

to celebrate the grand opening of Star Apartments, a 102-unit affordable housing development. Star Apartments provides much needed supportive housing for homeless individuals, including 77 units for people living with mental illness, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, or co-occurring disorders. Each unit was designed to support residents' independent living, with individual bathrooms and kitchens equipped with appliances.

The unique six-story development provides commercial retail space and parking on the first floor, and outdoor athletic facilities (a basketball court and running track),

community gardens, a library, a community room, primary healthcare, and supportive services on the mezzanine and second levels. The remaining levels contain pre-fabricated efficiency units that are intricately stacked in a unique “Lego-style” on a cantilevered podium structure.

Star Apartments incorporated sustainable building methods into the project and received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, which recognizes the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings, homes, and neighborhoods.

The CDC supported the project with an award of \$2 million in former redevelopment funds for construction and permanent financing, in addition to a grant of \$400,000 of Homeless Service Center funds for construction costs. Star Apartments will help to reduce the high rate of homelessness in the area, will provide residents with a support system to assist in maintaining housing stability, and will help with the shortage of housing accessible to people living with HIV/AIDS. CDC Executive Director Sean Rogan said, “Star Apartments impresses passers-by with its intricate design, and the services offered in this state-of-the-art building were designed to stabilize, support, and encourage residents to live comfortably in their new home.”

Additionally, SRHT and the Department of Health Services (DHS) partnered to create an on-site Wellness Center that provides preventative care, nutrition, health and exercise programs, and emergency health care to residents. Administrative offices from DHS will also be located in the complex.

For more information on the development of Star Apartments, please contact Sasha Truong at (213) 683-0522, Ext. 153. All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, Public Information Officer for the CDC, at (626) 586-1762.

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