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“All the Way Home” Campaign to End Veteran Homelessness Launches on Veterans Day 2015

City, County and Housing Authority join forces to house over 700 homeless veterans

Nov 11, 2015 – Today, Mayor Sam Liccardo and Supervisor Dave Cortese announced they will honor the service of more than 700 veterans currently living on the streets and in shelters in San José and Santa Clara County by launching “All the Way Home,” a campaign to end veteran homelessness by 2017.

The campaign, which is a collaboration of the City of San Jose, Santa Clara County and the Housing Authority, has set a goal of housing all of the estimated 700 homeless veterans, which make up about 10 percent of the 6,556 homeless

people living in Santa Clara County. Nearly half of the homeless veteran population is considered chronically homeless.

“I’m pleased to join Supervisor Cortese as we work toward the important goal of honoring the service of our veterans by making sure all of them have a home to call their own,” said Mayor Liccardo. “By focusing our resources and maximizing our communities’ commitment, we can end veteran homelessness in our community.”

Said Supervisor Cortese, “No man or woman who has served their country should sleep under a bridge at night. We at the County are committed to stepping up our efforts and sharpening our focus on creating housing solutions for homeless veterans. Together, we can address this community crisis.”

“The partnership between the City of San Jose, the County of Santa Clara and Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara on this campaign is a natural one,” said Jennifer Loving, Executive Director of the County’s Destination: Home. “Our community will end veteran homelessness in partnership with the federal government.”

In addition to resources that the City, the County and Housing Authority currently allocate for the homeless, including veterans, the City and the County have identified new money to specifically address the problem of veteran homelessness. The City of San Jose will be committing up to \$6 million for new housing opportunities that could serve more than 100 veterans. Recently, the Board of Supervisors authorized an additional \$1.5 million a year (on going funding) in housing and services for homeless veterans. The Housing Authority has \$7.445 million in federal funds available each year through Veterans Affairs (federally supported) Supportive Housing (VASH) Vouchers.

The “All the Way Home” campaign also will work with landlords and apartment owners to increase access to rental units for homeless veterans and their families. For information, contact Julia.burkhead@hacsc.org. Outreach will additionally be made to corporations and faith based groups to aid with housing development,

land acquisition, access to rental units, financial assistance and services. Other initiatives are in the planning stages and will be announced in future phases of the campaign.

Please see attached FACT SHEET and www.destinationhomesc.org/AllTheWayHome for more details about our homeless veteran population, their needs and ways to get involved.

About City of San Jose

San Jose is the third-largest city by population in California, the tenth-largest by population in the United States, and the seat of Santa Clara County. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the population to be 1,015,785 as of July 2014. It is also known for being a city rich in cultural history and diversity.

About Santa Clara County

The County of Santa Clara has one of the highest standards of living and median incomes in the country, with a wide diversity of cultures, backgrounds and talents. Over 100 languages and dialects are spoken among the County's 1.8 million residents.

About The Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara

The Housing Authority provides federal rental assistance to 16,000 families county-wide. The agency also develops and manages affordable rental housing properties. Their programs and properties are targeted to assist low, very low, and extremely low-income households.

About Destination: Home

Destination: Home, a program of The Health Trust, is a public-private partnership that uses collective impact strategies to accomplish its mission, ending homelessness in Santa Clara County.