

MEDIA RELEASE

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION ACCESS PROVIDED FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY RESIDENTS

Grand Opening of Metro @ Western Brings New Opportunities

Los Angeles, CA, March 11, 2020 – The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) joined Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles City Mayor Eric Garcetti and Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, to celebrate the grand opening of Metro @ Western. The 33-unit affordable housing development, built on a half-acre site, is located within a short walk from the Western Stop on the Metro Expo Line.

Built by Meta Housing Corporation and Western Community Housing, the development features a four-story apartment building atop a podium parking structure. It includes affordable and supportive housing for 16 chronically homeless veterans, 16 households with limited means, earning at or below 60% area median income, and one unit for management. The amenities include outdoor lounge areas, community garden, a large community room with kitchen, computer lab, and offices for property management and supportive services.



“These grand openings are occurring at a pace like never before, but I believe we can take it to another level - a Comprehensive Crisis Response,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. “We are housing 130 people every day, but the shortage of affordable apartments remains dire. We must all be inspired by partners like Meta Housing and Western Community Housing, and act with compassion and urgency to make Los Angeles County a place where all residents have a place to call home.”

The LACDA provided approximately \$1.5 million in Affordable Housing Trust Funds for the construction and permanent financing of the development. Over the past five years, over 4,300 affordable housing units, or 70% of total units funded within Los Angeles County, have been reserved for its most vulnerable populations, including veterans experiencing homelessness and families with limited means.



“Coming together and joining our partners to celebrate a beautiful development in this deserving community is at the core of that for which we strive,” said Emilio Salas, Acting Executive Director. “With the ongoing support of community leaders, including the County and City of Los Angeles, we can continue to invest and increase the number of quality affordable housing developments that are desperately needed.”

LifeSTEPS, a non-profit committed to community development and ending generational poverty, will serve as the lead service provider for all residents at Metro @ Western. Some services include intensive case management, mental health assessment and counseling, physical health care, substance abuse services, service linkages, medication management, employment and education services, and life skills training. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will provide additional support to eligible homeless veterans for healthcare assistance.

“Metro @ Western is a prime example of how public-private partnerships can deliver housing to the communities that need it most,” says Kasey Burke, President at Meta Housing. “The County of Los Angeles has proven itself a leader in this endeavor. By partnering with our firm, which has specialized in the development of high-quality affordable housing for nearly three decades, and by collaborating with other like-minded partners and organizations, the County was able to deliver this much-needed, safe and affordable living environment to veterans and citizens in need.”

For more information on the Metro @ Western, please visit <http://www.metahousing.com/location/metro-western/> or call (323) 978-3871. All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, LACDA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

###