



February 14, 2013

Honorable Members of City Council
c/o City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Proposed New Housing and Neighborhood Development Department

Dear Honorable Members:

United Way of Greater Los Angeles is pleased to offer its support for the City's proposed consolidation of the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) and the Community Development Department (CDD) into a new Housing and Neighborhood Development Department.

As one of the oldest and largest organization of its kind in Los Angeles, United Way of Greater Los Angeles has a history of results that spans over eight decades. We are committed to creating pathways out of poverty so that everyone who lives in our communities can have a better quality of life. Through our work, we recognize that housing alone or individual services provided in isolation are not enough to move residents out of poverty. Instead we need a comprehensive strategy that holistically addresses the needs of low income Angelenos and the places they live.

The City's proposed 2013-2017 Consolidated Plan, which lays out an integrated transit, community, economic and housing development investment strategy to revitalize low income neighborhoods, is a welcomed sign of the City's holistic approach to address poverty in Los Angeles. Too often, however, efforts to improve low income communities were fragmented among various departments. By combining the strengths of the LAHD and CDD together into a new Housing and Neighborhood Development Department, we believe the City will have a stronger and more effective department to coordinate community revitalization efforts and to serve as the liaison to community residents and stakeholders.

We thank you for your leadership and ask you to move forward with the recommendation for a new Housing and Neighborhood Development Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elise C. Bulk".

Elise Bulk
President & CEO
United Way of Greater Los Angeles