



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **SACRAMENTO HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY WELCOMES U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT DEPUTY SECRETARY ON FIRST TIME VISIT TO SACRAMENTO PROMISE ZONE**

**Sacramento** – Officials from Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) welcomed U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Assistant Deputy Secretary for Field Policy and Management Matthew Hunter on his first visit to Sacramento on Thursday, November 16th to learn about the Agency’s role in Sacramento and a tour of the Promise Zone. Mr. Hunter was accompanied by Regional Administrator Jimmy Stracner, Regional Director Wayne Sauseda, and Field Supervisor-Northern California Cynthia Abbott. *(Pictured l-r - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Assistant Deputy Secretary for Field Policy and Management Matthew Hunter, SHRA Executive Director La Shelle Dozier, HUD Regional Administrator Jimmy Stracner, SHRA Director of Development/Promise Zone Director Tyrone Roderick Williams and HUD Regional Director Wayne Sauseda).*



Sacramento is the first Promise Zone that Mr. Hunter has visited since his appointment in August 2017, and is one of 14 urban Promise Zone designations in the country which he oversees.

“I’m here to understand the goals and the process of the Promise Zone and the role partners are playing to achieve them, as well as find out what we can do in Washington to help grow Promise Zones,” said Mr. Hunter.

Since receiving the designation in 2015, Sacramento has attracted over \$60 million in funding resources into the Promise Zone. “We’ve created partnerships with more than 60 local, state and federal agencies and together we’re changing lives by addressing barriers to success focusing on the key issues of health, education, economic development, jobs and sustainably built communities,” said Tyrone Roderick Williams, SHRA Director of Development and Promise Zone Director.

SHRA Executive Director La Shelle Dozier said the Agency is a very unique organization with functions that expand beyond the traditional tools that are normally performed within a housing authority. “As a former redevelopment agency, we’ve honed our expertise in doing housing activities and community revitalization and we saw the Promise Zone opportunity as another tool to replace the loss of redevelopment.”

The visit provided an opportunity for Mr. Hunter to meet many of the Promise Zone partners and resource providers. The tour included key locations in the Promise Zone which encompasses 22 square miles of the economically hardest-hit neighborhoods in the city – from Del Paso Heights in the North Area to The Avenues in the South County. The group visited the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps which provides 18 - 25-year-old adults the opportunity to acquire educational achievement and training certificates, and paid work experience in areas such as recycling, landscape maintenance and construction. The tour also included the Jobs Plus Pilot Program at the Marina Vista and Alder Grove public housing communities where housing authority staff work with partner and resource providers to offer high school diploma classes, job training and employment resources for residents.

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