

DATE: April 22, 2009

TO: MID-CITY CAN

FROM: Robert J. Moser, Ph.D.
Deputy Director

RE: Application for Oversight Committee
Building Healthy Communities Initiative

1. Organizational History Serving City Heights:

Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego has been in operation for 90 years. Our Mission is to witness to mercy, to advocate for justice and to enhance the well-being of persons residing in San Diego and Imperial Counties, especially those communities with low-income and immigrant populations. Many of our programs have a long history of service in the City Heights area, including Refugee Resettlement, which has resettled refugees groups since 1975 from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Burma, Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia and Cuba in this community. Our Immigration Program assists families to be reunited, enables eligible adults to become citizens and helps victims of domestic violence achieve permanent residence. Our Senior Residential Program meets the needs of seniors at Our Lady of Guadalupe Plaza adjacent to Our Sacred of Heart Church on Orange Ave. Our Food Resource Center provides food and other emergency services at the Mid-City Christian Service facility. Our Smoke-Free for All San Diegans Project seeks to reduce second-hand smoke in apartment buildings throughout City Heights. Our Parents As Teachers (PAT) Project works with low-income immigrant families to enhance the early childhood development and literacy skills of children aged 0-5.

2. Resident Base:

The largest group of City Heights residents with whom we have on-going contact and relationship are those refugees and immigrants we resettled and assisted through our various programs.

3. Planning Role:

Catholic Charities is a member of Mid-City CAN. We are an active participant in numerous collaborative efforts and serve as the fiscal agent on several multi-agency endeavors. We have participated in prior community needs assessments, including those dealing with CalWORKS, homelessness and mental health. We can bring this experience in collaboration and assessment to the table. We also have a wide range of expertise within our agency in a wide variety of professional disciplines and service areas that we can tap to address the various outcomes

associated with **Building Healthy Communities**. Our particular interest is in the following five outcomes:

- **health and family-focused human services shift resources toward prevention**
- **children and their families are safe from violence in their homes and neighborhoods**
- **communities support healthy youth development**
- **neighborhood and school environments support improved health and healthy behaviors**
- **community health improvements are linked to economic development**

Finally, our Deputy Director, who will be our agency's representative during the planning process has nearly three decades of experience in program development and evaluation and possesses a Masters in Regional Planning Degree from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. His contact information is: phone 619-287-9454 and e-mail rmoser@ccdsd.org

4. Organizational Representation of Community Diversity

Catholic Charities is the official social service agency of the Diocese of San Diego. As such, we have strong ties with the Catholic parish communities and institutions in City Heights. Our years of experience resettling and serving refugees and immigrants provides us with a level of cultural competency that enables us to understand and appreciate how cultural and social factors influence the viability and effectiveness of service interventions.