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Mid-City Community Advocacy Network  
 4275 El Cajon Boulevard, Suite 101  
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Dear Mid-City Community Advocacy Network:

I am writing this letter to solidify SANDAG's commitment to partner with Mid-City CAN and the larger City Heights Community in the "Building Healthy Communities" planning process. SANDAG recognizes the incredible opportunity City Heights has been given by being selected as one of the 14 communities that The California Endowment wants to make a long term and pervasive investment. With the goal of creating a neighborhood where children and youth are healthy, safe, and ready to learn, Mid-City CAN has a daunting task of facilitating the extensive planning needed to design a model that achieves the ten desired outcomes.

SANDAG is excited about the prospect of contributing to this important endeavor. In addition to offering our planning expertise as a forum for regional decision making, the newly formed Applied Research Division can support the planning process by drawing on the experience of our diverse staff that includes economists, planners, criminologists, sociologists, demographers, and GIS specialists. The work of our Criminal Justice Research Division has allowed us numerous opportunities to work closely with community partners at all levels in the justice and public health sector to identify solutions to difficult problems. Additionally, SANDAG has a successful history of being involved in large-scale planning endeavors (e.g., the Regional Comprehensive Plan, San Diego County Comprehensive Strategy for Youth, Family, and Community) and we are aware of the time, focus, and level of flexibility required in creating a coordinated and informed strategic plan.

As Mid-City CAN embarks on this nine-month planning process, I would like to offer SANDAG's support and full commitment of the Applied Research Division to assist bringing the vision of the *Building Healthy Communities* to fruition. Realizing the planning process is still in the stages of uncharted waters and, therefore, the needs may shift, I propose the preliminary list of in-kind resources and staffing SANDAG can bring to the table:

- ✓ Active staff participation at planning meetings (staff time as needed, anticipating 8 hours per month).

- ✓ Summarize and analyze available SANDAG data (e.g., demographic, economic, crime) that can inform the ten outcomes (anticipate 20 to 40 hours of a Research Analyst's time).
- ✓ GIS support (e.g., map of schools or parks in the area).
- ✓ Rooms to hold meetings.
- ✓ Staff feedback on written documents and plans.

Understanding that the above activities can be adjusted as more information is revealed, I hope this initial list demonstrates the level of SANDAG's commitment to this project and process. The *Building Healthy Communities* initiative and its success is completely in sync with our agency's strategic goal to *Encourage Quality of Life Improvements* and I appreciate the possibility of our being included in this valuable work.

Sincerely,



CYNTHIA BURKE, Ph.D.  
Director, Applied Research Division

DBU/SKE/cda