



**PRESS RELEASE**

# Felipe Fuentes

*Councilmember of the Seventh District*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 1, 2015**

Contact: Cheryl Getuiza  
Cell: 213-327-4914  
Email: [cheryl.getuiza@lacity.org](mailto:cheryl.getuiza@lacity.org)

## **Councilmember Fuentes tackles homelessness and quality of life issues by bringing easier access to service providers in the District**

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA- Since taking office, more than two years ago, Councilmember Felipe Fuentes, of the 7<sup>th</sup> District, has made it a priority to partner with social services agencies to provide resources to address quality of life issues such as graffiti, trash and homelessness in our neighborhoods.

Over the years, he's met with community organizations who've discussed these concerns, that's why he's announcing today that he will provide space at the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood City Hall, a city owned property, to L.A. Family Housing, (LAFH), Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), and Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC).

"LAFH and LAHSA provide critical services to our homeless population. Because of their expertise and knowledge, they will be able to bring the necessary tools to begin addressing homelessness in the San Fernando Valley," said Councilmember Fuentes.

"LA Family Housing has long been involved in the efforts to end homelessness in the Sunland-Tujunga community," said John Horn, Vice-President of Programs, LAFH. "Our presence on an ongoing basis will help us increase the level of services we can provide and will allow us to better respond to service needs."

LAFH provides various resources such as outreach and assessment, housing location and placement, case management, job training and employment services, child care and tutoring, continuing education services, financial literacy, onsite primary and behavioral health care and more. They are our Coordinated Entry Service (CES) provider in the County's largest Service Planning Area (SPA).

LAHSA's mission is to support, create and sustain solutions to homelessness in Los Angeles County by providing leadership, advocacy, planning, and management of program funding along with LAFH. Through both organizations, funding, program design, outcomes assessment and technical assistance is provided to more than 100 non-profit partner agencies that assist homeless persons achieve independence and stability in permanent housing. Their partner agencies provide a continuum of programs ranging from outreach, access centers, emergency shelters, safe havens, transitional and permanent housing, and prevention, along with the necessary supportive services designed to provide the tools and skills required to attain a stable housing environment.

Councilmember Fuentes said, "By partnering with these service providers, we are responding to the growing need for services for chronically homeless individuals. Tackling this city-wide issue cannot and must not wait, therefore providing space was necessary to better serve the area."

Additionally, Councilmember Fuentes saw a need to provide pathways to success for our youth while beautifying and greening the District.



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“Through service projects for our school-aged youth and at-risk young adults, LACC will help keep our streets clean and green,” said the Councilmember.

“This partnership mutually benefits Los Angeles and the surrounding communities as well as the Corps,” says Wendy Butts, Chief Executive Officer for the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. “By working on conservation service projects, our Corpsmembers will receive valuable work experience and marketable job skills that will open countless doors for them once they leave our program. Residents, though, will notice a marked shift in their neighborhood. The areas in which we work will be greener, and streets and alleys will be cleaner and safer to navigate, which in turn improves residents’ quality of life and will create a sense of pride in their community.”

Also, the organization will maintain the Howard Finn Community Garden to allow access to healthy foods and educate our residents about healthy living.

The Councilmember is happy to continue collaborating with existing organizations, in the neighborhood, such as the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, who will carry on with its monthly meetings at the District Office.

Fuentes added, “I’m excited about this new time in Council District Seven. There will be an Open House early next year, after all of the tenants move in. Community members will have the opportunity to welcome and meet representatives from each of the organizations.”

“The end goal is to ensure EVERYONE in our communities is safe and receives the services they need and deserve,” he said.

**ADDITIONAL CONTACTS:**

Kea Duggan, LA Conservation Corps: (213) 362-9000 ext. 215, [kduggan@lacorps.org](mailto:kduggan@lacorps.org)

Andrea Johnson, LA Family Housing: (818) 982-4196, [ajohnson@lafh.org](mailto:ajohnson@lafh.org)

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