



Local Initiatives Support
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**SACRAMENTO HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
RECEIVES \$10K AWARD FOR
REVITALIZATION OF AUBURN BOULEVARD
*Benefit-Cost Analysis Finds This Collaborative
Crime Reduction Strategy Saved County \$8 Million***

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Sacramento, CA (April 5, 2005) – The Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) and the Sacramento County Sheriff Department were recipients of the MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Award for their innovative efforts to stem crime and increase development on Auburn Boulevard. A benefit-cost analysis commissioned by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation found that the partnership's multi-agency model may have saved Sacramento County \$8 million dollars by coordinating enforcement activities across organizational lines.

The MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Awards is sponsored by MetLife Foundation and administered by the Community Safety Initiative (CSI) of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). The award recognizes partnerships between community development groups and police departments that have reduced crime and spurred housing development, economic activity, and improved community services in low- and moderate-income communities. The Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Corporation will receive a \$10,000 award.

"By working together, community groups and police not only improve safety, but build opportunity, hope and community," said Sibyl Jacobson, president, MetLife Foundation. "We are pleased to recognize the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency for their exemplary work and hope it will serve as a model for other community-police partnerships nationwide."

By partnering with city agencies, the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Department, and neighborhood associations, SHRA was able to attack problem properties on Auburn Boulevard that caused criminal activity to spill into surrounding neighborhoods. The project created the first joint city/county redevelopment project because the Auburn Boulevard area crosses city and county lines. The new "Community Prosecutor" joined the sheriff deputies and code enforcement officers on the street to address building code and criminal violations. By instituting problem oriented policing (POP) strategies on Auburn Boulevard and surrounding neighborhoods, the partnership improved lines of communication and built relationships between the police and residents.

This innovative partnership practically eliminated prostitution from Auburn Boulevard and substandard motels that catered to this business have been shut down, remodeled, or demolished. The private sector has regained confidence in the area. Long standing businesses have expanded and new investors have opened up ventures. Codes violations have dropped by about 80 percent and 225 new affordable senior housing units have been built. The Auburn Boulevard model has been replicated in other neighborhoods and the partnership plans on expanding their work to continue to beautify and improve the area.

In addition, a benefit-cost analysis conducted by the Sacramento State University found that the multi-agency collaboration was also economically efficient. A moderate analysis of the streams of costs and benefits concludes that Sacramento County saved \$8 million between 1994-2004 by enabling agencies and the Sheriff's Department to work together to address problem properties and crime. Assuming that the positive impacts of the revitalization of Auburn Boulevard will continue, the value and savings of the project may continue to grow in the future.

The Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency was selected from among almost 200 applicants nationwide for the award. Other MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership award recipients include: Edison Weed & Seed Program, Kalamazoo, MI; South Wedge Planning Committee, Rochester, NY; West Side Community Collaborative, Buffalo, NY; TARGET Area Development Corporation, Chicago, IL; and University City District, Philadelphia, PA.

“All of these groups are doing extraordinary work in reshaping their neighborhoods and demonstrating how public safety is a catalyst for other elements – housing, economic development, job creation – that comprise healthy communities,” said LISC Senior Program Director Lisa Belsky, whose Community Safety Initiative (CSI) administers the awards program for the MetLife Foundation.

CSI builds formal, long-term partnerships between police departments and community economic development corporations in troubled neighborhoods to reduce persistent crime, disorder and fear. The partners select, coordinate, and implement their development initiatives and crime-control efforts to produce results - crime reduction that promotes development and development that promotes crime reduction. By the unconventional linking of innovative policing with economic development, police and developers aim to attract the kinds of social and financial investments that make communities safer and more vibrant. More information on CSI can be found at www.lisc.org/csi.

LISC is the nation's leading community development support organization. Since 1980, it has provided grants, loans and business expertise to community development corporations from one end of the country to the other. In that time, LISC has raised \$5.7 billion from the private sector to invest in community development initiatives. That investment has leveraged another \$7 billion, helping 2,400 groups develop 147,000 affordable homes and 22 million square feet of commercial and industrial space. LISC established CSI in 1994 to help neighborhood groups develop alliances with police departments to combat persistent crime and disorder problems.

MetLife Foundation, established by MetLife in 1976, is a long-time supporter of LISC's community revitalization programs. In 1994, the Foundation made a \$1 million leadership grant to the organization to pilot the CSI. MetLife and the Foundation also have made below-market rate loans of over \$63 million to the organization. MetLife Foundation supports health, education, civic and cultural programs throughout the United States. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.metlife.org.

SHRA is a Joint Powers Authority created by the City and County of Sacramento to represent both jurisdictions for affordable housing and community redevelopment needs. SHRA oversees residential and commercial revitalization activities in 13 redevelopment areas throughout the City and County. The Agency is the leading public developer of affordable housing with a FY 2005 budget of \$222 million and approximately 325 employees. The Agency owns 3,200 units of public housing and is one of the largest landlords in Sacramento. SHRA also administers about 11,000 rental assisted vouchers per month.