



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**RIBBON CUTTING SET FOR LOUISE A. PEREZ COMMUNITY CENTER
CREATING ONE-STOP SOCIAL SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS IN “THE AVENUES”
Slain Sheriff’s Deputy Vu Nguyen to be honored for service to the community**

Sacramento, CA | Community Resource Project, Inc., (CRP) in partnership with Sacramento County and Supervisor Jimmie Yee, and Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) will hold a ribbon cutting celebration for the Louise A. Perez Community Center on Friday, May 9, 2014 at 11 a.m. at 3821 41st Avenue, Sacramento (corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and 41st Avenue).



The facility will provide much needed services in the socially and economically disenfranchised South Sacramento neighborhood known as “The Avenues.”

“This public-private partnership project is long overdue for this community,” said Supervisor Jimmie Yee. “Through the commitment and dedicated efforts of the Community Resource Project, residents in this area will finally have convenient access to services, programs and resources that will help them feel safe, provide employment opportunities, and improve their quality of life.”

Representatives of the Community Resource Project named the facility after its former executive director who passed away before construction began. Louise A. Perez was instrumental in making the vision for the community center become a reality.

“The Community Resource Project is committed to providing the assistance and services necessary to move families from dependency to self-sufficiency,” said Executive Director Patricia Johnson. “We are excited and honored to continue the proud legacy of excellence, as established by our Founder, Louise A. Perez.”

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The CRP Board will also pay special tribute to the memory of Sheriff's Detective Vu Nguyen who was shot and killed in the line of duty in December 2007 while chasing a suspected gang

member in the neighborhood. Detective Nguyen served in the Sheriff's Department Gang Unit and many of his former colleagues are expected to attend the event, as well as members of the Nguyen family.

Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency Executive Director La Shelle Dozier said the key to successfully reverse the cycle of high crime, unemployment, and socio-economic distress is to combat these problems with public and private investment.

"This is the kind of community revitalization effort where SHRA has been able to bring resources to the table and effectively help address challenges that create noticeable, lasting improvements and a much better quality of life for residents," said Dozier.

The \$2.4 million facility will serve as a hub that connects residents in the neighborhood and nearby communities with multiple community-based organizations offering employment and training programs, small business and microenterprise courses and various health and wellness resources. The center features space for classrooms, meetings rooms, and office space for partnering organizations.

Community Resource Project, Inc. will provide health and nutrition services through its WIC program, as well as assistance to low-income residents with their energy bills through the Home Energy Assistance Program. The organization is already in discussion with local government, private corporations and health based organizations to bring additional services to the community.

For more information about services and programs at the Louise A. Perez Community Center, contact Tonya Mack, CRP Outreach Specialist at (916) 567-5220, Ext 2232 or tonyam@cresource.org.

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