PRESS RELEASE

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Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency Executive Director La Shelle Dozier announces retirement October 3

Sacramento, CA | After 23 years at the helm of the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, Executive Director La Shelle Dozier has announced her retirement from SHRA effective October 3.

"I've given my decision a lot of thought because I'm leaving an exceptional organization that has allowed me to do meaningful work for the community that aligns with my belief that everyone has a basic right to a safe, stable, affordable home."

Ms. Dozier has served as Executive Director since 2009. She joined the Agency in 2002 serving in various management positions including Assistant Director of the Housing Choice Voucher Program and Director of the Public Housing Program.

As Executive Director, Ms. Dozier oversees a $300 million budget under the Agency's unique JPA structure that consolidates all the City and County housing functions under one agency.

"It's really quite a remarkable structure because the JPA allows SHRA to work with developers to provide gap financing for affordable housing and at the same, administer the federal public housing program for both jurisdictions."

The Agency's housing finance portfolio includes approximately 25,000 units of affordable rental housing in addition to offering programs to provide downpayment assistance for first time homebuyers. In its function as the Housing Authority for the City and County of Sacramento, SHRA administers federally funded rental assistance programs to provide safe, decent housing that serves more than 50,000 low-income individuals.

Reflecting on her proudest accomplishments, Dozier counts the $330 million Mirasol Village development in the River District which involved transforming the 218-unit Twin Rivers public housing community into 427 homes offering a range of income affordability.

“Mirasol Village is a $330 million catalyst project that has infused new investment and opportunities in the neighborhood and surrounding community for residents and businesses,” said Dozier. “Twin Rivers was an enclave cut off from services and amenities, but Mirasol Village achieved our vision of a vibrant and thriving community with resident services, a beautiful city park, an Early Childhood Education Center to serve 60 children, and a new light rail station which is expected to be completed next year.”

Navigating the Agency through the pandemic was a major challenge that tested the organization’s resiliency and strategic response to quickly develop a plan to keep residents and employees safe while still delivering on customer service and projects.

“We had already anticipated that a crisis response would be needed and within 24 hours, we put our plan into action to equip staff with computers to work from home, and communicated with residents about how we would continue to serve them safely,” said Dozier. “We had the foresight to create a local emergency rental assistance program with about $6 million in initial funding from the City and County until we received an award of over $200 million from the federal emergency rental assistance program which helped us assist over 16,000 struggling families so they could remain in their homes.”

The loss of redevelopment in 2012 was a major setback which Dozier says caught the Agency by surprise.

“Most of us heard it for the first time while watching the news on television and we were pretty much in a state of shock,” said Dozier. “Who would have thought we would lose tax increment which was our major source of funding to do our work? We also lost 30 percent of our staff through layoffs. But in the face of adversity, we always find a solution and here we are today, still standing.”

Dozier praised her staff of over 230 employees for their tireless creativity, dedication, and professionalism to achieving the Agency’s mission.

“We’ve expanded affordable housing opportunities, preserved critical housing stock, revitalized neighborhoods, and created programs that have truly changed lives,” said Dozier. “Together, we have built not only homes, but pathways to stability and hope for thousands of Sacramento residents. I know that SHRA will continue to lead with vision and purpose, advancing housing and community development for years to come.”

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