

# HIGHLAND Community News

Your Community. Your Newspaper.

Friday, July 11, 2014 • For daily news, visit our website: [www.highlandnews.net](http://www.highlandnews.net)

46¢ plus tax

[www.highlandnews.net](http://www.highlandnews.net) ■ Friday, July 11, 2014 ■ Highland Community News ■ 7

## Phoenix Square plans to rise higher

By **HECTOR HERNANDEZ, JR.**

REPORTER

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY NEWS

The Time for Change Foundation (TFCF) invited San Bernardino government and school dignitaries to its low-income and crime fighting apartment housing, Phoenix Square, to celebrate the program's two-year anniversary and to conduct the building dedication.

During the event Executive Director Kim Carter revealed plans for the program's expansion into three neighboring properties asking the invited San Bernardino city, county and education dignitaries for their support of the project.

In 2012, the TFCF opened the seven-unit Phoenix Square apartment complex to residents of the city of San Bernardino who earn less than 50 percent of the area's median income. The apartment building's refurbishment was designed to provide safe and crime-free housing for women and children transitioning from homelessness and emergency shelter circumstances.

The Phoenix Square was spoken of as the "epitome of rising from the ashes" as it refurbished an abandoned and dilapidated building to provide a place for women to turn their lives around while they learn to become self-sufficient.

The building, built as a crime-fighting tool complete with surveillance cameras, has been instrumental in helping law enforcement solve neighborhood crimes on several occasions, Carter said. When first refurbished in 2010, it was awarded the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Award.

According to San Bernardino Assistant Chief of Police Eric McBride, the corner of 7th and F streets where the Phoenix Square sits was once "one of those areas that, as a police officer, you drive by everyday because there is always something happening there."

"The Time for Change Foundation has absolutely changed this location for the better," McBride continued. "Thank you for turning around this location and making it one less location police officers have to check every day."

While the building's cameras have helped solve neighboring crimes Carter said Phoenix Square itself has had zero cause for police or ambulance calls in its first two years. It exemplifies that low-income housing can remain crime-free and be uplifting for a neighborhood, Carter said.

"After two years of existence this hasn't become a rundown, dilapidated drug-infested haven for crime as some argued initially. There have been zero calls for the police department, fire department or ambulances," Carter said.

"We do not recycle the homeless at Time for Change. When you come in we get you to stand on your own two feet where you pay your own rent and take care of your own kids. Until you're there you're not self-sufficient," Carter said. "We're not creating the next Welfare recipients; we're creating the next tax payers, citizens and voters."

Before revealing the plans for expansion, Carter gave out certificates acknowledging the growth and accomplishments of several of the women living at Phoenix Square. These awards were given for growing in self-sufficiency and reuniting separated families.

She then thanked many of the project's supporters presenting each with a symbolic golden key including County Supervisor Josie Gonzales, San Bernardino School Board Member and Highland resident Margaret Hill, Chief McBride and Red-

lands Mayor Pete Aguilar.

Carter revealed the plans for the new Phoenix Square Multi-Housing Project by showing several artistic renderings of the project. The plan proposes the development of four additional structures including the renovation of the old GTE building at the corner of E Street and Victoria Avenue.

Carter said she would like to become a partner with the city's proposed Homeless Access Center (HAC) in obtaining the 60,000 square foot building for renovation into TFCF housing and office space for the TFCF offices, HAC offices and leasing.

Carter emphasized that TFCF is not asking for funding from the city but a partnership in efforts and goals as having the new Phoenix Square Multi-Housing adjacent to the HAC will be mutually beneficial.

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY NEWS PHOTO BY HECTOR HERNANDEZ JR.

San Bernardino City Unified School District Board Member and Highland resident Margaret Hill accepts a "key to hope" presented to her by Kim Carter for Hill's support of the Phoenix Square project.

