



NEWS RELEASE

April 29, 2016

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Security grant to protect residents after spike in city crimes

So far this year, the City of San Bernardino has experienced 24 homicides compared to 44 homicides in all of 2015 – including the 14 people killed during the Dec. 2 terrorist attack. As a result, the Housing Authority is taking additional precautions to protect the health and safety of its Waterman Gardens housing residents by applying today for HUD’s Emergency Safety and Security Grant. The potential \$250,000 grant would provide funding for security fencing, lighting, and surveillance equipment.

The Housing Authority has had success in minimizing criminal activities on site in the past by deploying armed security guards as well as utilizing proactive property management techniques in collaboration with local law enforcement under the “Crime-Free Multifamily Housing” program. The neighborhood adjacent to Waterman Gardens is a recipient of the Department of Justice’s Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grant, and has made inroads toward building neighborhood capacity to combat crime.

Regardless of these past crime reduction efforts, the economic realities of a major city in bankruptcy is making it increasingly difficult to overcome significant upticks in violent crime. Such crime is becoming commonplace within urban neighborhoods that rank as some of the most impoverished in the country.

The Housing Authority and city leaders will, nevertheless, continue to aggressively pursue strategies intended to stimulate neighborhood-wide revitalization. The Waterman Gardens site is where the most intense redevelopment work is already underway. This grant funding will help ensure the safety of the Waterman Gardens residents and those in the surrounding neighborhood.

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