



Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

a joint powers authority of the city & county of los angeles

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For Immediate Release

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa Appoints United Way's Elise Buik to Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission

Los Angeles, CA, May 11, 2011 - The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) today announced that the City Council confirmed Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's appointment of Elise Buik to LAHSA's Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Buik is the President and CEO of United Way of Greater Los Angeles (UWGLA) and the first female to assume that role when she took office in 2005. Prior to her current position, she served as UWGLA's Chief Operating Officer and in the organization's marketing department. Ms. Buik joined UWGLA in 1994 after spending seven years as the marketing manager for a medical software firm.

As head of UWGLA she oversaw the launching of various initiatives. Among these are *Creating Pathways Out of Poverty*, a 10-year strategic plan to address poverty and homelessness in Los Angeles County, and the *Home For Good* plan, a joint effort with the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce to end chronic and veteran homelessness in the County by the year 2016. Ms. Buik serves on several boards, including the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and United Ways of California.

"We are delighted to have Elise Buik on LAHSA's Board of Commissioners--she brings so much to the table in our fight to end homelessness in Los Angeles," said Michael Arnold, Executive Director of LAHSA. "Her proactive leadership will certainly add tremendous depth and strength to our Board and agency."

"Elise Buik has an incredible track record of working collaboratively and strategically to address the epidemic of homelessness," stated Los Angeles City Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "Serving on the Commission will give Ms. Buik the platform to create solutions on how to give the most vulnerable Angelenos the proper services and housing they need to get them back on their feet."

About the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority: *The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) is a joint powers authority of the City and County of Los Angeles created in 1993 to address the problems of homelessness in Los Angeles County. It plans, funds and administers programs that assist homeless individuals and families in their transition to permanent housing. LAHSA is the lead agency in the HUD-funded Los Angeles Continuum of Care and coordinates and manages over \$70 million dollars annually in federal, state, county and city funds for programs providing shelter, housing and services to homeless persons. LAHSA is governed by a politically appointed, 10-member Commission. Five members are selected by the County Board of Supervisors and five are chosen by the Mayor and City Council. The Commission has the authority to make budgetary, funding, planning and program policies. For more information, please visit: www.lahsa.org.*

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