



Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

John Polansky, Chair
Jim White, Vice Chair
Barbara Keller
Selfa Saucedo
Karol Schulkin
Diana Sparagna
Wanda Sumner

Denise M. Wise, Chief Executive Officer

July 13, 2020

Dear residents, partners and stakeholders:

For the past several months, our lives have been overtaken with COVID-19. We now are still sheltering in place, social distancing and donning masks and gloves to run our normal life routines. As we struggled to balance this “new normal” and stay safe, like many, we’ve spent the last few weeks pausing to listen and learn and, for some of us, get involved with members of our community called for long-overdue change. We are witnessing millions gather in unity to protest oppression and systemic racism.

The senseless killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor – and so many more, too many more across our country – have shaken us to our core. I share in everyone’s feelings of sadness and outrage for the victims. The pain is deep and raw. My heart goes out to their families, friends and communities.

Our mission goes beyond providing decent, safe affordable housing. Through our housing efforts, we are committed to building inclusive safe communities that provide opportunities to improve lives. Providing a family with a stable and affordable home is the first step to strengthening a family’s environment. By working with our partners to provide access and equity to, not only housing but also, education, healthcare and childcare, we believe the only way to disrupt institutional racism is through an integrated approach and we strive to achieve that in our programming and housing developments.

We are at a crossroads in our country and we must use our voice and actions to express that we’re against racism and injustice and we must do better as a community and country. We invite you to join us in calling out racism when you see and hear it and changing the language of separation to one of humanity and compassion.

“A riot is the language of the unheard.” - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

Mejorarse siempre,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise M. Wise".

Denise M. Wise

Chief Executive Officer



995 RIVERSIDE STREET VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93001
PH (805) 648-5008 FAX (805) 643-7984 TDD (805) 648-7351