



News Release

San Antonio Housing Authority
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SAHA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ANNOUNCE INTERIM CEO

SAN ANTONIO – During a special board meeting today, the San Antonio Housing Authority Board of Commissioners voted to select Retired Maj. Gen. Alfred A. Valenzuela as interim CEO for the housing authority. He will be replacing former CEO Henry Alvarez who left to take a similar position in San Francisco.

“We are very fortunate to have Maj. Gen. Valenzuela assume the role of interim CEO,” said Ramiro Cavazos, SAHA Chairman. “His strong leadership and impeccable credentials offer the right combination of experience to provide our board with a fresh review of SAHA’s operations and procedures. And, as a native of San Antonio, he understands our community very well and has the necessary compassion needed to help our residents.”

Cavazos added that Maj. Gen. Valenzuela’s expertise provides an independent approach to solving long-standing systemic problems, has expressed a desire to provide more accountability from all staff within the organization, and will employ a straight-talking approach to better respond to questions from key San Antonio stakeholders.

Maj. Gen. Valenzuela will act as interim CEO through the end of this year, while the board conducts a national search for a permanent CEO. His background will ensure for a smoother transition for SAHA.

While in the Army, Maj. Gen. Valenzuela served in posts around the world, including Panama, Germany, Korea, El Salvador and Turkey. His San Antonio civic involvement is extensive. He presently serves on a number of prominent civic boards, including the USAA Federal Savings Bank Board of Directors and St. Mary’s University Board of Trustees.

He was also instrumental in the relocation efforts of U.S. Army South to Fort Sam Houston from Puerto Rico, where he served as the Deputy Commanding General and Deputy Joint Task Force Panama Commander.

A highly decorated military leader, Maj. Gen. Valenzuela was recognized by *Hispanic Magazine* as the nation’s highest-ranking active-duty Hispanic military officer and among 100 of the most influential Hispanics. He recently wrote a book, “No Greater Love: The Life and Times of Hispanic Soldiers,” commemorating the 21 soldiers he buried over the course of his 33 years serving our country. In March 2003, Valenzuela presided over the funeral of the first casualty of the Iraqi War.

SAHA owns and manages approximately 6,400 public housing units and 3,200 affordable housing units. SAHA also administers nearly 12,000 Section 8 vouchers, all with a \$130 million annual operating budget and more than \$300 million in assets.

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