



San Antonio Housing Authority  
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# News Release

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## SAHA SELECTS NEW PRESIDENT/CEO

SAN ANTONIO – The Board of Commissioners of the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) is pleased to announce that Lourdes Castro Ramirez has been selected as the next President/CEO of SAHA. Castro Ramirez was selected after an exhaustive nationwide search. The unanimous decision was made at a special board meeting this evening.

“It was a tough decision. We had a very strong group of finalists. Ultimately, we believe that Castro Ramirez has the best combination of skills and experience to lead SAHA into the future” said Ramiro Cavazos, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

“Castro Ramirez has been described as one of the best and brightest in the public housing industry,” Cavazos added. Currently, she directs the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program for the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, the second largest program in the country. Selected to transform Los Angeles’ troubled and underperforming program, which was facing potential receivership, she reformed it into one of the highest performing Section 8 programs in the country.

Castro Ramirez holds a Bachelor’s degree and a Master’s degree in Urban Planning from the University of California at Los Angeles. She is bilingual in English and Spanish, and currently supervises over 400 employees, and manages a budget of over \$450 million. She has over 13 years of experience in housing and community development.

“SAHA has been very fortunate to have the services of Major General Freddie Valenzuela as our interim President and CEO. We would not have been as successful over the past several months without General Valenzuela executing the Board’s policies and initiatives. General Valenzuela has been a valued member of our team. We will be proud to have him work with the Board as a consultant and advisor over the next few months to facilitate the transition to new leadership,” said Cavazos.

In additional action taken by the Board, SAHA’s Chief Financial Officer, Ed Hinojosa, was named interim President and CEO of SAHA, until such time that Castro Ramirez joins the agency.

SAHA, the largest Public Housing Agency in Texas, 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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