



# NEWS RELEASE

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## SAHA INVITING COMMUNITY INPUT ON FINAL CANDIDATES FOR NEW CEO

**SAN ANTONIO, TX (February 20, 2009)** --- The San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) Board of Commissioners has announced five candidates as finalists for consideration as the agency's next President and Chief Executive Officer, and the Board is inviting stakeholder and community input in the process.

"The Board has been conducting a national search for the past several months, and we are very pleased to have selected five diverse and exceptionally qualified candidates from a very large pool of interested parties," said Richard Gambitta, Chair for the SAHA Board's Human Resources and Operations Committee. "This extensive recruitment is the next step in our Board's efforts across this past year to institute meaningful reforms at SAHA and build the most effective, efficient, and, simply put, best housing authority in the country."

More than 200 individuals had expressed an interest in the position, and following telephone interviews and reference and background checks, conducted by Allen Austin Executive Search Consultants, the list has narrowed to five final candidates: Lloyd Blanchard, Director of Public Performance Management, IEM, Inc., Baton Rouge (Louisiana); Tory Gunsolley, Chief Administrative Officer for the Newark (New Jersey) Housing Authority; Seledonio "Cele" Quesada, Executive Director of the Port Arthur (Texas) Housing Authority; Lourdes Castro Ramirez, Director of the Section 8 Program for the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (California); and Alfred "Freddie" Valenzuela, Acting President and CEO of SAHA .

"The Board is committed to selecting the absolute best person nationally for SAHA's residents, employees and community," said Ramiro Cavazos, SAHA Board Chair. In that effort, each candidate will participate in a lengthy interview schedule, involving commissioners, local officials, elected officeholders, employees, SAHA stakeholders and community representatives. "This is certainly one of the most important decisions this Board will make, so we want to give it all the consideration that it is due," added Cavazos.

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Additional information provided in separate attachments:

- candidates information/schedule
- candidates photos