



Casa Esperanza Homeless Center

Offering hope and help every day!

June 1, 2015

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Honorable Janet Wolf, Chair & Members of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Casa Esperanza – PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) Merger

Dear Chairperson Wolf and Supervisors:

We have been asked by staff to prepare for your review an update of the Casa Esperanza-PATH merger. We have previously briefed County staff and the Supervisors individually on the elements of the merger and provided detailed information about PATH. Objections to the merger have not been raised.

The merger will be effective July 1, 2015. New contracts with County departments are being issued in the name of PATH. The merger is subject to non-action by the California Attorney General and PATH must be approved by the County and City of Santa Barbara as operator of Casa Esperanza's programs.

PATH expects Casa Esperanza to be self-funding. If the County and City approve previously submitted requests for discretionary funding from General Funds in the amounts of \$120,000 and \$125,000, respectively, Casa will have a break even budget for fiscal 2015-16.

PATH has successfully housed thousands of homeless individuals in the past three years and has significant successful experience performing under Federal, City, County and State grant programs. PATH's track record and expertise will enhance Casa Esperanza's programs and capabilities to better serve the Santa Barbara community. The merged operation will be named PATH Santa Barbara, building upon PATH's success in the homeless services sector.

Local input to key operating and strategic decisions will be assured through governance. Three current or former Casa Board members will join PATH's Board, and an Advisory Committee, which will consist of the rest of Casa's Board members and other community representatives, will advise PATH on local operating matters.

We welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Jessica Wishan
Managing Director

Joseph Tumbler
Executive Director (Interim)