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**NATIONAL
COMMUNITY
RENAISSANCE**

PRESS RELEASE

-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

May 6, 2010

National CORE and Hope Through Housing Foundation CEO Orlando Cabrera Released a Statement in Letter to the Editor in Response to Local News Reports Regarding Congressional Funding to Nonprofit Organizations

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif. – The following media statement was released as a Letter to the Editor to local newspapers on Thursday, May 6, 2010 in response to news reports about congressional funding received by National Community Renaissance and Hope Through Housing Foundation.

As the CEO of National Community Renaissance and Hope Through Housing Foundation, I am dismayed our organizations are caught in a political crossfire of this year's election cycle. Our organizations serve countless families and seniors by providing basic human needs such as clean, safe, affordable housing as well as services, such as academic enrichment for students, senior health services, and low-cost preschools in low-income communities. Numerous times we have been nationally recognized for our work. If anyone has any question about the value National CORE and Hope bring to communities, they need only travel to any of our sites in five states to see the positive impact on individual lives and entire communities.

Congressional candidate Lee McGroarty requested the District Attorney investigate whether political contributions to Congressman Gary Miller by Jeff Burum influenced earmarks received by nonprofit organizations where Mr. Burum was on the board. National Community Renaissance and Hope Through Housing Foundation are referenced in this

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STATEMENT FROM CEO AND PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL COMMUNITY RENAISSANCE AND HOPE THROUGH HOUSING FOUNDATION

accusation. That is an interesting stunt: ask a state prosecutor to investigate *federal* contributions and then allow the situation to appear as if somehow something Congressman Miller did was untoward. Although Congressman Miller recommended our applications for funding he never sat on any appropriations committee or subcommittee where approval of the appropriation is debated and decided. Just to give your readers a sense of how absurd that allegation is, it's a little bit like accusing the Lakers of cheating in a King's game.

Like many nonprofit organizations, National CORE and Hope Through Housing Foundation apply for congressional funding as a way to deliver services to communities. We apply based on what funding is available for programs we provide, and we apply for these funds through congressional offices in those districts where we serve. Members of Congress who support our applications, have visited our sites and know the positive impact our work has in communities. The federal funding Congressman Miller and *many* other Members of Congress supported are for afterschool programs, youth violence prevention programs, and the creation and preservation of affordable housing.

Mr. McGroarty is exhibiting his willingness to misuse facts, so here are some undeniable facts that cannot be mischaracterized. Gary Miller has been a great advocate of affordable housing and balanced communities throughout his career. He never received any compensation from our organizations or anyone who works for our organizations. As our organizations' current CEO, I state without equivocation that while Mr. Burum sat on our Board he did so for no compensation whatsoever. He offered his expertise, knowledge, and leadership and has been a generous contributor to our mission. He has no personal financial interest in our organizations or any of our transactions. National CORE's nationally acclaimed and award-winning work is easily visible in the neighborhoods it created and transformed and that transformation is directly attributable to Mr. Burum's two decade long efforts.

Having served under President George W. Bush, as an Assistant Secretary at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Governor Jeb Bush as Executive Director of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, I understand the critical need for competent nonprofits that deliver outstanding services which working families and seniors can depend. National CORE and Hope Through Housing Foundation are

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tremendous organizations; it is disconcerting that Mr. McGroarty would hurl insinuations without regard or knowledge of what these organizations accomplish. I have to wonder about the future of our Republican Party if candidates like Mr. McGroarty are elected on the basis of misrepresentation of facts to constituents, misunderstanding of law, and complete mischaracterization of the legislative process. I am even more consternated that Republicans of the 42nd District would consider someone who so has so fundamentally misled them under these facts to replace Congressman Miller.

By promoting his visit to the San Bernardino District Attorney, Mr. McGroarty seems to imply that political contributions are of questionable legality, a nearly incomprehensible stance with which I fervently disagree. I have personally contributed and will continue to contribute to Congressman Miller's campaigns because he earned and deserves my trust and because I believe in him. I have contributed toward many other congressional, state and local campaigns during my career because I cherish my ability as an American to participate in the political process, which is at the core of our constitutional system. In Congressman Miller's case, Southern California and the nation have benefitted from his service to our country and his constituents should be proud. In spite of the partisan gridlock in Washington, he has solved problems faced by his district, state, and country. Casting baseless aspersions hoping that something will stick is cheap and small. I wish Mr. McGroarty would see that to be the case, but given his recent actions and comments, he seems more inclined to dish dirt than deal with the truth. I believe that the constituents of the 42nd District are smart enough to see that the road Mr. McGroarty is currently traveling is hardly the high one.

Sincerely,

Orlando J. Cabrera
Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing (Former)
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
(2005-2008)

Chief Executive Officer and President
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