

Sacramento, California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SafeGround Rally and March
Democratic Central Committee Supports SafeGround Sacramento**

SafeGround Sacramento (www.safegroundsac.org), a coalition of non-profit homeless service providers and unsheltered Sacramento citizens plan a **Rally and March** at Sacramento City Hall tomorrow morning:

- Thursday, September 10, 2009
- 10:00 a.m.
- 915 I St, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Last year, overall homelessness increased by 14% even while chronic homelessness was reduced by 35% - in other words, new incidents of homelessness are growing at an alarming rate, with no signs of stopping.

Last week, the County decided that due to budgetary constraints, they will be unable to open the seasonal overflow shelter, no matter how bad the weather gets this winter, AND they were also forced to cut funding to numerous programs that provide hundreds of beds for homeless individuals.

Every day, more than 1,450 homeless men, women, children and families are struggling to make it on Sacramento County's streets, while the current ailing economy has resulted in more people on the streets, but fewer private and government dollars to help them.

Tuesday, September 8, 2009, the Democratic Central Committee met and unanimously passed a resolution in support of SafeGround Sacramento. The resolution cited the nationwide shortage of affordable housing, the persistent lack of shelter space, and the continuing economic crisis as reasons for the immediate need for an alternative to the traditional emergency shelter system. The resolution states, in part, that:

“The Democratic Party of Sacramento supports the provision of Safe Ground for homeless people in Sacramento by providing for one or more secure camping sites legally sanctioned by the city and operated by residents.”

SafeGround Leaders Sr. Libby Fernandez, Greg Bunker, Rev. David Moss, and Jim Gilland will speak at the rally and be available for interviews.

For further information, please contact Joan Burke, Loaves & Fishes, at (916) 879-5082