

# Press Release

From the Office of

**Supervisor Neil Derry**

County of San Bernardino, Third District

[www.sbcounty.gov/derry](http://www.sbcounty.gov/derry)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2009

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## **Board of Supervisors Eliminates Senior Home Repair Program**

### *Derry Opposes Attack on Low-Income Senior and Disabled Residents*

SAN BERNARDINO, CA – Reaffirming his commitment to seniors, Supervisor Neil Derry strongly opposed the termination of the Senior Home Repair Program.

Designed to help low-income seniors and those with permanent disabilities who own their own home to correct code violations and/or health and safety problems, the program offers qualified applicants one-time grants in the form of labor and materials. The costs associated with building ramps, handrails and other aids for those with disabilities can be onerous. For those on a fixed income, making necessary repairs to big ticket items like a roof can be prohibitively expensive.

Elderly and disabled residents are some of our most vulnerable and are susceptible to fraud and abuse. Not only has the Senior Home Repair Program been instrumental in assisting residents with immediate needs, it has served as an informational conduit between these populations and the County so as to provide them information on additional services that are available to them.

**“Creating and ensuring continued independence and mobility for our seniors and disabled residents is vital to a healthy community,”** stated Third District Supervisor Neil Derry. **“I am committed to protecting and empowering these residents and opposed the termination of this program.”**

Many of the cities in San Bernardino County already offer similar programs to their seniors and disabled populations. Consequently, this will place a disproportionate burden upon those residents in the unincorporated areas and smaller cities that contract with the County for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

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The Second District, with a heavy distribution of residents in these cities with their own programs, proposed deleting this program so that they can use the money for other pet projects. Supervisor Derry refused to let our low income seniors become pawns in what amounts to a political money grab.

**“Some of my colleagues want to pull the rug out from under our most needy all in the name of bringing back pork to their district to fund pet projects,”** Supervisor Derry stated. **“It is simply unconscionable and a wrong that can not be tolerated.”**