

CityView @ Van Ness opens

By BoNhia
Lee

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The Fresno Housing Authority celebrates the grand opening of CityView @ Van Ness in downtown Fresno, California.

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The [Fresno Housing Authority](#) held a warm celebration under cloudy skies — and with the help of space heaters — on a chilly Wednesday morning in honor of [CityView @ Van Ness](#).

The downtown Fresno workforce housing complex, on the corner of Van Ness Avenue and Inyo Street, is now open more than seven years after the authority's executive director, Preston Prince, first declared the spot a good place to develop.

That was 2007, when Prince was in Fresno interviewing for the authority's top position. He saw the building and fell in love.

"I know most of you, when you saw it, said it's an eyesore, but I saw it and said 'that's a beautiful building, that's a beautiful site, that's where I want to develop something,'" Prince told community leaders, authority employees and others interested in getting a peek at the inside of the building on Wednesday.

Mayor Ashley Swearingin attended and applauded the work of the authority to revitalize the south end of downtown which she referred to as "So Yo" or south of Inyo. It's a play on the term "So Tow" or the area along Fulton Street, south of the Tower District.

CityView visitors were surprised at the quality of the model apartments that were open for tours. Quality is what the authority is striving for, Prince said.

Jackie Anaya is a new resident. She is also the manager of Joe's Steak House & Grill across the street. Her family has owned the restaurant for years. The restaurant expanded its hours to serve CityView residents, she said. It will now open for dinner six days a week. It previously only served dinner on weekends.

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