



P. O. Box 151240
San Diego, CA 92175-1240
Phone: (619) 278-2400
Fax: (619) 294-9405

survivors@notorture.org
www.notorture.org

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City Council of Escondido
City of Escondido
201 N. Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025

Dear Ms. Diaz, Mr. Gallo, Mr. Masson and Mr. Morasco,

I am pleased to hear that Southwest Key Programs, a non-profit, community based organization, is seeking a location at 1817 Avenida del Diablo Road. Southwest Key has been a partner of Survivors of Torture, International, a local nonprofit agency, for more than 10 years. We have provided services to some of the children and offered trainings for some of the staff. We support their expansion of shelter services as their work with the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement/ Division of Children's Services (ORR/DCS) is one to be commended.

We have had the pleasure of observing Southwest Key's work in the delivery of these services first hand as they have provided an excellent, full range of residential services for unaccompanied alien children who enter the United States undocumented and who are currently in the custody of ORR/DCS. By providing Southwest Key Programs a use of this facility will provide additional services in this area will ensure that more unaccompanied minors will receive the highest quality of culturally competent physical and mental health, education, reunification, and residential services. I know that during their stay at a Southwest Key facility, every effort is made to achieve the goal of reunification with biological parents or other appropriate family members. This is a rewarding outcome for all parties.

Through our collaboration with Southwest Key, we have found them to be a very responsive and ethical organization. We strongly believe that Southwest Key will be an asset to the city of Escondido, and will impose little to no impact to the city in regards to noise, traffic, parking or security.

As the executive director, I would like to express my upmost support for Southwest Key's Unaccompanied Minors Shelter Care Program. We look forward to continue working in partnership with Southwest Key programs to continue providing these services to help improve the lives of these unaccompanied minors. We are confident that this collaboration will allow both organizations to stretch needed resources so that we may reach more children for the greatest and most positive impact for all parties concerned.

Without reservation, Survivors of Torture, International fully supports Southwest Key Programs in its efforts to locate a facility on Avenida del Diablo Road in Escondido.

Sincerely,

Kathi Anderson, Executive Director