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Contact: Ana Velouise

Direct: 213-213-2816

Email: AnaV@DowntownWomensCenter.org

Former CEO Lisa Watson to Return to Downtown Women's Center

Organization Is Poised for Growth Beyond Skid Row After 40 Years of Service

LOS ANGELES, April 2, 2018—Lisa Watson, who served as CEO for Downtown Women's Center (DWC) from 2000-2014, today announced plans to return to DWC as interim CEO.

Watson is a lifelong member of the DWC family. In her 14 years at DWC, she oversaw tremendous growth in programming (from 1,000 to 4,000 women served annually), budget (from \$500,000 to \$6,000,000), and staffing (from 10 to 70 staff). She spearheaded DWC's \$35-million capital campaign, resulting in the opening of a second location on San Pedro Street that doubled the Center's permanent supportive housing units, launched DWC's popular social enterprise MADE by DWC, and created the sole Women's Health Clinic in the Skid Row area.

"It's an honor and a privilege to return to serve as Downtown Women's Center's interim CEO," said Watson. "DWC has always been close to my heart. I'm thrilled to once again work with the Center's remarkable Board and staff, dedicated supporters and partners, and with the women that daily participate in our uplifting programs. Together we will meet our goal to end homelessness for women in Los Angeles through housing, wellness, and advocacy."

DWC's current CEO, Anne Miskey, has resigned from the position to pursue a new opportunity within the homelessness sector. Miskey departs after generating a robust strategic plan for 2018-2020 and building a dedicated team that is passionately committed to realizing the shared vision for DWC.

Watson returns to Downtown Women's Center as they celebrate their 40th anniversary of serving women experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles, with annual operating budget of \$10 million and 120 staff members. Their 2018-2020 Strategic Plan expands DWC's work beyond Skid Row to greater Los Angeles County in order to meet the growing need for its services and woman-centered approach to ending homelessness.

"The DWC Board of Directors is delighted to welcome Lisa back into the DWC family," said Heather Rim, DWC Board President. "Under her leadership, we will continue our mission-critical work to end homelessness for women in greater Los Angeles with the same determination, dedication, and passion we have become known for over the past 40 years."

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About Downtown Women's Center

The Downtown Women's Center (DWC) is the only organization in Los Angeles focused exclusively on serving and empowering women experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless women. DWC envisions a Los Angeles with every woman housed and on a path to personal stability. Its mission is to end homelessness for women in greater Los Angeles through housing, wellness, and advocacy. Founded in 1978, DWC was the first permanent supportive housing provider for women in the U.S. Learn more at www.DowntownWomensCenter.org.