

Feedback From Meeting With Former Lafitte Residents Living in Houston

On Saturday, December 2, 2006, the Providence and Enterprise team met with approximately 30 former Lafitte residents who are living in Houston.



Draft ideas for the Homebuilding Plan were presented, and the meeting also focused on support services that would be most helpful to former Lafitte residents living in Houston. There were five key messages from residents at the meeting:

1. Frustration with HUD and HANO, especially because people find it hard to get information about HUD and HANO's plans to demolish Lafitte (Providence and Enterprise have no part in the planned demolition).
2. Life in Houston is tough, and people are having a lot of problems finding jobs, traveling around the city, and getting health care. Kids and seniors are having a hard time.
3. Many people just want to come home.
4. Support services would be helpful—especially job search, job training, transportation, child care, paying rent, paying utilities, etc.
5. Many people like the ideas proposed in the Homebuilding Plan.

Providence and Enterprise are working to help Lafitte residents connect with service providers in Houston. If you are a Houston resident and would like to receive services, contact LaTonya Williams, Providence Community Liaison in New Orleans, at (504)821-7226 or lwilliams@providencech.org.

150 Lafitte Families Receive Support From LFRC

In late December 2006 Providence worked with Catholic Charities and the Louisiana Family Recovery Corp. (LFRC) to help identify over 150 Lafitte residents, and in some cases also their families, that will receive support services for four months starting in early 2007. These services will help people develop recovery plans, find jobs, and move toward self-sufficiency. **Note that this is one of several programs and services that the Providence team is coordinating to connect to Lafitte residents.**

Contact Information

Are you a former Lafitte resident? If you're in need of support, please contact LaTonya Williams. To date Providence has helped connect Lafitte residents to organizations that provide everything from food assistance and health care, to help covering electrical bills and utility costs and looking for housing.

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New Subsidized Housing Will Start in the Community Around Lafitte

Of the 900 new units of subsidized housing that will be built, just under 400 subsidized units are planned for the Lafitte site and just over 500 will be built in the surrounding community. We are working hard to get those new subsidized homes built as quickly as possible. To do this, Providence and Enterprise are working to acquire other properties in the community. We are doing this by working with the City to redevelop adjudicated properties; working with various churches and religious orders who have property that could be used to build housing; and by using \$20 million in private capital for property acquisition. The first subsidized housing units will be built on the site of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart church on St. Bernard Avenue near North Claiborne. This will be a model that will have the same mix and design of housing that is currently planned for the Lafitte site, and will give people an idea of what's possible and our commitment to helping make it happen. Our goal is to see people moving into the first new homes within 9 to 12 months.

If a decision is made to demolish and redevelop Lafitte, then our team thinks the best approach is to do the redevelopment in steps. Some, but not all, Lafitte residents have told us they want to come back now. Others have told us that they won't be coming home because they've rebuilt their lives in other places. Still others have said that they only want to move back when the new housing is ready. We think that enough of the Lafitte units should be opened for those people who want to move back, and the remaining units should be demolished so that new housing can be built. This allows residents to come home, while also allowing the building of a healthy, diverse, vibrant community that many residents are looking forward to.



Homebuilding Plan for Tremé/Lafitte & Tulane/Gravier

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Letter from Providence and Enterprise

Dear Lafitte Residents and Members of the Tremé and Tulane/Gravier communities,

After meeting with and talking to hundreds of former Lafitte residents about the Homebuilding Plan, the majority of whom are still not in New Orleans, we know that many people can't wait for the homes to be built before coming home. There are exceptions—some people are choosing to build their lives in other cities. Some people have told us they want to come home but they'd rather wait until the new homes are ready. **But hundreds of former Lafitte residents that we've heard from are telling us that they need to come home now.**

So what are we doing about this? Two things:

1. **We are encouraging HUD, HANO and legal advocates to come to a resolution as soon as possible regarding the future of Lafitte.** Many residents have told us that they are ready to see change at Lafitte and they're excited by the new ideas for the future. However, many want the demolition to happen in phases so that people can come home sooner. We agree with these residents. We support a phased approach, provided the units are safe, and we're telling decision makers in both New Orleans and Washington what we think. We are also ready to implement our Homebuilding Plan in phases. Now we, like others, are waiting on the outcome of the legal process.
2. **We are building new subsidized homes in the area around Lafitte.** Until discussions about the future of Lafitte are resolved, our team is focusing on developments that can begin in other areas in the same neighborhood. Our first development will be on the site of the old Our Lady of the Sacred Heart church on St. Bernard Avenue near North Claiborne. We're also exploring a number of other locations for off-site development, especially for seniors.

The rest of this newsletter provides other updates on the work we're doing, including progress on our commitment to involving residents in planning and developing the new community, and to providing support services to residents. We also have heard that more frequent communication from us would be helpful. Starting next month, we will be sending out update letters monthly to all Lafitte residents, and we will continue to send out newsletters every three months. Please contact us if you have questions, and please make sure we have your most recent contact information. Know of our prayers for you and your families.

God bless,

James R. Kelly
President & CEO
Providence Community Housing

Michelle Whetten
Director, Gulf Coast Rebuilding Initiative
Enterprise Community Partners

How New Homes and Apartments Will Compare to Former Lafitte Housing

When this project started four months ago, it was about building homes to help get people home. HUD and HANO had announced their decision to demolish Lafitte. Providence and Enterprise agreed to help redevelop it on the condition that **every unit** of subsidized housing in Lafitte would be replaced—either on the Lafitte site or in the surrounding community. HUD and HANO agreed to this condition, and we started planning for 1500 new homes—600 on the Lafitte site and 900 off site in Tremé and Tulane/Gravier. The Homebuilding Plan team has heard a lot of

feedback and advice from residents about the size and layout of the new housing, especially in response to the needs of children, families, and seniors. In response to what we've heard from residents, the 900 new units of subsidized housing will:

- Be larger, and have more bedrooms (see floor plans below that compare a Lafitte 3 bedroom unit with a new 3 bedroom unit).
- Include a number of singles and doubles with front and back yards, in addition to small apartment buildings (up to a

maximum of 4-6 units). This gives families living in subsidized housing more space, and integrates the new housing into the rest of the neighborhood.

- Be built on a re-connected street grid that was in place before Lafitte was built. This means that streets like North Tonti will be re-connected between Lafitte Street and Orleans Avenue.
- Have parking behind the houses and apartments, in an area that is slightly elevated. By making the parking areas higher, this will help improve site drainage and accessibility.

- Be built around as many existing trees as possible, and be connected through a series of green spaces.
- Be made with materials that meet or exceed energy efficiency and storm resistance requirements.
- Be raised at least 3 feet above ground level, as per FEMA guidelines.
- Be designed to look like other homes in the surrounding neighborhood.

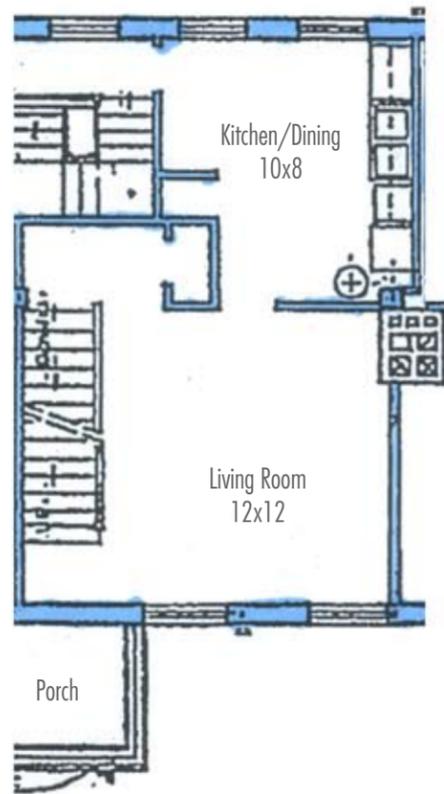
Significant Funds Received to Support Homebuilding Plan

In late December 2006, the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA) awarded tax credits to Providence and Enterprise to help pay for the 1500 new units of housing that are part of the Homebuilding Plan. Tax credit funding was created in 1986, and it's the largest funding source in the country supporting the development of

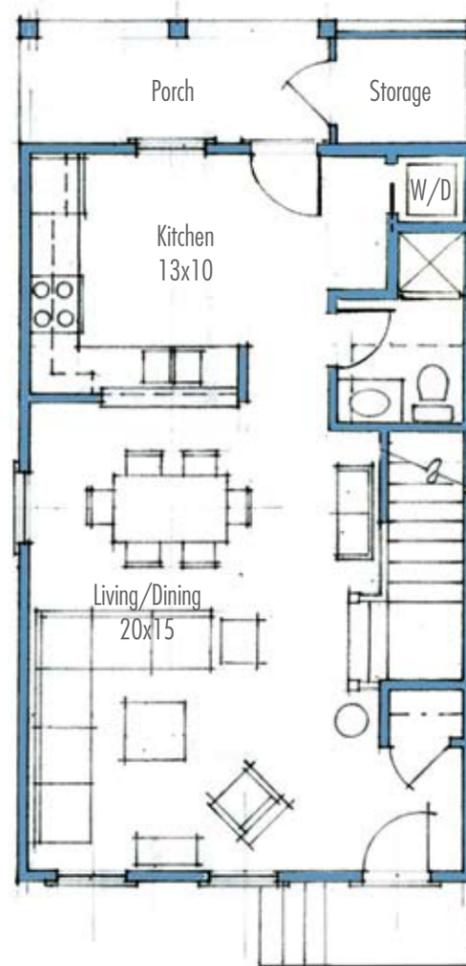
affordable rental housing. Typically tax credit funding covers about two-thirds of the total development budget. This is great news for the project. Although significant funds remain to be raised, this is a big step forward. The Louisiana Recovery Authority has also awarded significant funding for the project.

Comparing Room Layout and Size for a Subsidized 3 Bedroom Unit

Lafitte Layout
Lower Floor



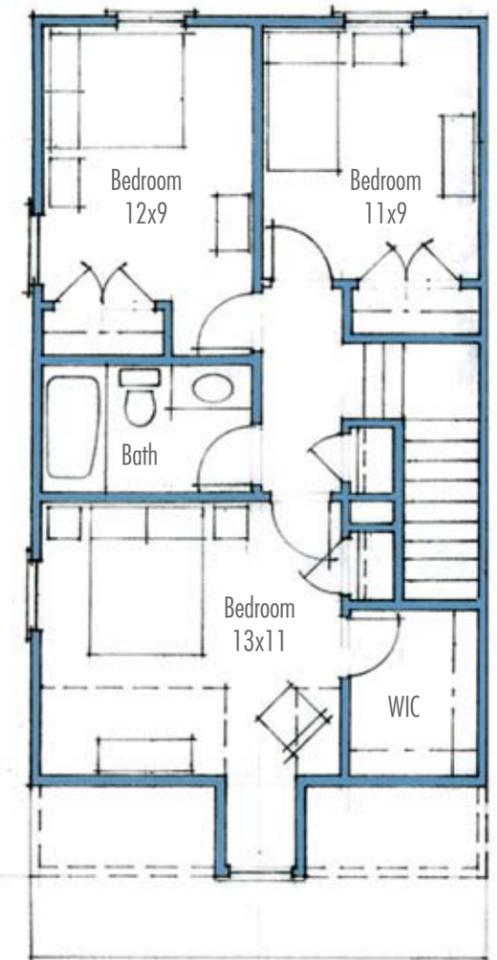
New Layout
Lower Floor



Lafitte Layout
Upper Floor



New Layout
Upper Floor



Comparing total space:

Lafitte 3 bedroom = 821 square feet

New 3 bedroom = 1242 square feet

The drawings of the Lafitte 3 bedroom unit and the new 3 bedroom unit on these pages are drawn to the same scale.