

# RECORD OF DISCUSSION

## Homebuilding Plan for Treme/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier

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**Date** Wednesday, April 11, 2007  
Ujima Building, 1019 N. Prieur

**Participants** Patricia Herbert, Travis LeBlanc, Cynthia Magraff, Emelda Paul, Sharon Pierce, David Rayford, Sylvia Redmond, Laura Tuggle and Sarah McMorris (New Orleans Legal Assistance), Daniel Mathieu (PICO/ACT), Jim Kelly, Nadine Jarmon, Tammy Crumpton (Providence Community Housing), Nicole Swerhun (Facilitator)

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### 1. Agenda

- Updates – Congress, lawsuit, development schedule
- Figuring out who comes back first – review criteria
- Building Community – residents drive it, ideas on: meeting location (ideally), food/beverages, childcare, etc.

### 2. Key Topics Raised/Discussed by Residents

#### Need for change at Lafitte

- What is the lawsuit all about? *The right to return to their units.* I can't see it because those units aren't livable. I don't agree with the lawsuit. We've been dealing with problems at Lafitte for years – it's time for a change. I've been there too long. I don't understand why old people wouldn't want to come back to something better.
- When they built Lafitte they didn't water seal the bricks – water comes through and the walls need to be patched up all the time.
- People wanted to come home because people were dying and they felt a lot of pressure and they had no family around. Everyone at Lafitte is family even if you're not family.
- It's time for a change.
- If you let people come home now, you'll have the same problems that Iberville has – rats, mould, etc.

#### Need information from HUD/HANO to help with decisions

- What happens after Sept 30<sup>th</sup>? *If you're not offered a unit, HUD/HANO will keep paying you until they are able to offer you a unit.*
- People are hearing that Lafitte will open up in August of this year and that is influencing their decision making.
- Residents are wondering whether to renew their leases, because if they renew they might be forced to break the lease to come back in August. And who will pay for the broken lease?



## Criteria to be used to prioritize return of Lafitte residents to repaired units

<p>From Laura (Feb 2007 Res Advisory Meeting)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. If it was your unit, you get 1<sup>st</sup> choice</li><li>2. If Head of Household is elderly or disabled (from any project)</li><li>3. You're from that development</li><li>4. Any displaced person from any project</li><li>5. Said you didn't want to come back, but changed mind</li></ol> <p>(Nadine) Also need to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- # bedrooms needs to match</li><li>- Seniority (# years at the development)</li></ul>	<p>Feedback from participants (additions are in ALL CAPS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. If it was your unit, you get 1<sup>st</sup> choice</li><li>2. If ANYONE IN THE HOUSE <del>Head of Household</del> is elderly or disabled (from LAFITTE ONLY <del>any project</del>).</li><li>3. You're from that development</li><li>4. <del>Any displaced person from any project</del></li><li>5. Said you didn't want to come back, but changed mind</li></ol> <p>Also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Would like to see people who already are living in New Orleans be given higher priority for housing then Lafitte residents who ARE NOT back in the city yet</li><li>- Would like to have the option to STAY IN CURRENT HOME until the new housing is ready (i.e. don't want to be penalized if they're offered and then turn down a comparable repaired unit). **Right now if turn down a comparable unit, you lose your DVP</li></ul>
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### 3. Next Meeting

Providence will be transitioning the organization of resident meetings to PICO/ACT. Daniel Mathieu will be contacting residents to discuss this transition. The room at Ujima is already booked for the second Wednesday of next month (Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>), so the next meeting will be held at that time at the Ujima Building (1019 North Prieur).

A Draft Record of Discussion from this meeting will be given to all participants for review before the notes are finalized.