

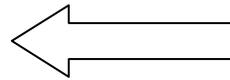
# RECORD OF DISCUSSION

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

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**Date**            Wednesday, June 13, 2007  
                      Ujima Building, 1019 N. Prieur

**Next Meeting**    Wednesday, July 11, 2007  
                      Ujima Building, 1019 N. Prieur  
                      5:30 pm Dinner  
                      6:00 – 7:30 pm Meeting



**NOTE JULY DINNER  
STARTS AT 5:30 PM**

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### 1.    **Agenda**

*Providence Updates*                      Voucher Extension Update, Heritage Preservation, Case Management Update

*Upcoming events*                         Seniors Luncheon – Thurs, July 12  
    Community Fair – Sat, August 11, 11 am – 5 pm

*Resident Questions, Feedback, Discussion*

*PICO Training, Daniel Mathieu, PICO*

### 2.    **Highlights of Information Provided by Providence**

- Voucher Extension Update – HUD/HANO have told Providence that vouchers will be extended until the end of 2007. Providence is working (along with many others) to push for a further extension to at least June of 2008.
  
- Heritage Preservation – Providence is exploring ways to preserve Lafitte's heritage. Options being considered include keeping the Sojourner Truth Community Center and the old management building. Also, many residents have told us how important it is to preserve the memories of Lafitte. Providence is looking for people interested in working with them and Enterprise to figure out how best to tell Lafitte's stories. If you are you interested in being involved, please call Krystle Gibson at Providence at (504) 821-7226.
  
- Case Management – Providence is now providing case management services in Houston and Baton Rouge, in addition to New Orleans. If you are interested in receiving these services, contact:

New Orleans:                      (504) 821-7226  
Baton Rouge:                      (225) 242-0348  
Houston:                            (713) 874-6776

### 3. Key Topics Raised/Discussed by Participants

Answers, where provided, are in *italics*.

#### VOUCHERS

- **People are having a lot of problems with their vouchers.** People don't know they have to be released before they can come home. They come to New Orleans and expect to get a voucher but they can't.
- **The voucher office is hard to access**, and even if you can access it, people are still having problems. It doesn't matter whether former Lafitte residents HAVE a place to live or DON'T HAVE a place to live – everyone's having trouble getting vouchers.
- **People are having problems with documentation.** They're wondering why, if HUD/HANO had all their documentation before Katrina, why are they required to still produce the same documentation? Isn't it just on file? *Nadine Jarmon noted that HUD/HANO have all residents go through the recertification process once a year.*
- **Will vouchers be extended?** *Yes, at a minimum through Dec 07, possibly to June 08.*

#### IBERVILLE

- **Offer for units in Iberville.** A number of former Lafitte residents received a letter from HANO on Saturday. *New Orleans Legal Assistance (NOLAC): If you were offered a unit that compares to your former unit, then you have to take it or else you are in danger of losing your assistance once DVP ends.*
- **That's a BAD IDEA. HUD/HANO shouldn't force us to take Iberville** (or force us to live anywhere we don't want too). If no one wants to go to Iberville, that should tell them something.
- **I want the option to NOT go to Iberville.**
- **Why can't they give me St. Thomas or Fischer instead of Iberville?** *We're not sure. It may be because HUD/HANO are trying to fill Iberville. Jim is going to contact HUD/HANO about this tomorrow.*
- **They already ran us out of our apartments**, ran us out of NO, can't now force us to live somewhere we don't want to.
- **They're forcing me to move to unsafe ground.** Put it on airwaves, they'll change their mind.
- **They found money to fix up city park, they should find money to fix up Lafitte.**

- **SUGGESTION** If we don't want to go back to a repaired unit at Lafitte, then why doesn't HANO give us a Section 8 voucher so we can stay where we are? HANO should consider that option.
- **We need someone from HANO here at these meetings.**
- **Tell Washington all those billions they're spending in Iraq and they're sending me into a war zone** (at Iberville).
- **Who should you call to find out if you were sent a letter?** *Providence will ask HANO.*
- **If accept Iberville, then Lafitte opens, can we move back to Lafitte?** *Providence will ask HANO.*

*During the meeting Jim Kelly (President and CEO of Providence) called HANO and told him the issues being raised by Lafitte residents. The HANO representative replied that it "doesn't seem fair that they should be penalized, but I'll confirm with Washington."*

*Providence is an advocate for residents. Sometimes we're successful, sometimes not. We'll follow-up with HANO/HUD in next 48 hrs to see what we can do to get answers to your questions and address your concerns.*

## OTHER ISSUES

- **Are free u-haul services available?** *Providence case management can help. We don't have an office in Dallas, so call the Houston office or New Orleans and we'll try and help.*
- **What do you need to do to get help?** *It depends on each individual. Every case is unique. We're not saying no to anyone, what we're doing is saying "do you have a plan?"*
- **Utility bills.** I've been asking for help with utility bills, but payment is slow. Some people getting cut off notices.
- **What's actually happening since Providence started meeting with residents?** I don't see lot stuff. Providence has raised funds to provide case management services to former Lafitte residents, we're continuously advocating for changes in law, and we're committed to: phased redevelopment so that some people can come home to repaired units while new units are being built; one-for-one replacement of subsidized units; the right to return; and resident participation in the process. We've also been pushing hard for a voucher extension.

## **TAKING ACTION**

This discussion was facilitated by Daniel Mathieu from PICO. It focused on opportunities for the residents to take action in addressing some of the concerns and questions being raised. A number of ideas were discussed, including:

- Bringing the Mayor to a meeting with former Lafitte residents
- Inviting the Governor to that same meeting
- Having a meeting between former Lafitte residents and HANO (it would take 2 hours and could be held from 6-8 pm)
- Would be good to meet HANO monthly. We would send questions to HANO ahead of time so that they would be prepared with answers at the meeting.
- We want to know the truth. If we don't feel that we're getting the truth, we could use the media (news stations) to help HANO) keep their commitments.
- If HANO can't answer question, need to give them a time limit by when they'll have answers.
- We should strategize soon about inviting HANO here to this meeting.

### **5. Next Meeting**

Providence meets with residents on the second Wednesday of every month. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 11, 2007. The next meeting will start right on time at 6:00 pm, and last until 8:00 pm. Food will be available at 5:30 pm.

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