

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Homebuilding Plan for Treme/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier

Date Wednesday, January 14, 2009
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

Next Meeting Wednesday, February 11, 2009
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.
6:00 – 8:00 pm (dinner to be provided)

Participants

Shawn Alfred
George Arcenaux
Lloyd E. Bell
Jeanette Birdstraw
Jessie M. Boyd
Dwayne Brumfield
Dariel Celestin
Angelina Daisy
Mr. Sidney Darfauchard
Mrs. Sidney Darfauchard
Warren Giles
Jennie P. Gordon
Debbie Griffin
Javonda Griffin
Regina Guichard

Linad Jackson
Vastine Jeanmarie
Mary Johnson
Valerie Johnson
Alice Jones
Claudia Jones
Norvin Jones
Brandy Julien
Bertha Lively
Donna Martin
Sonia Morgan
Tamra Muse
Emelda Paul
Anthony Pendleton
Christina Quezergue

David Rayford
Mervin Riley
Lachia Rodriguez
Cortina Smith
Beryl Thomas
Evelyn Wallace
Joni Washington
Mary T. Watson
Elizabeth Wells
Leona West
Christina Wheaton
Pauline Wilkens
Arnell Winfield

Sarah McMorris, NOLAC

Jenna Pollock, Tulane Community Health Center

HANO: Eddie Scott

Case Management: Carol Carter, Karen Hebert, Kendra Green

Providence/Enterprise: Tammy Crumpton, Jim Kelly, Matt Morrin, Andreanecia Morris, Brenda Richard-Montgomery, LaTonya Williams, Caroline Gammill, Cornelius Payne

This meeting record was drafted by Caroline Gammill, staff at Providence. Prior to being finalized, it will be provided in draft to all meeting participants for their review. It reflects the key messages and main points raised at the meeting. It is not intended to represent a verbatim transcript.

The meeting began with review of the agenda and an opening prayer offered by Emelda Paul

I. Providence / Enterprise Updates

Jim Kelly, Providence Community Housing:

- **Health Clinic Funded:** The Tulane Community Health Clinic received funding for a new clinic in the old Ruth's Chris building at Orleans Ave and Broad St.
- **New Charter School for Tremé Children:** A new school has received a charter to open up a school in Tremé. Very few charters were awarded this year and the founder of Amistad Academy in Connecticut is eager to come to New Orleans, to invest \$10 million dollars and to build a top-notch school that will be fantastic for our children.
- **Groundbreaking:** A meeting with HUD and HANO today helped to decide that we will sign documents by the second or third week of February that will allow us to start construction. Two weeks after that, we will break ground. When the work begins, the

horizontal infrastructure will be built first: the roads, the sewage, the electricity. After some of that is built, then we will start to build building.

- **Sojourner Truth is Open:** As you can see, the Sojourner Truth Community Center is open! Please visit often.

Questions and Discussion

Responses, where provided, are in italics.

1. How do you know that people will be able to come back? *We can't guarantee that everyone will be able to – but we're building 500 rental units and 250 homeownership units. We think this number will be ample for everyone who wants to return. The first people to come back will be former Lafitte residents – we think over 90% will return.*
2. How long will it take for people to move in? *The first ones will be within one year and we'll keep going on from there.*
3. If you are currently on a voucher and have a lease that won't be up when spaces here open up, what should you do if you don't want to lose the space or pay the fine associated with breaking the lease? *We should have units coming on-line at a steady rate. Our case management team here at Sojourner Truth and the folks at HANO should be able to talk about your options with you.*

Matt Morrin, Enterprise Community Partners:

- **Job Information Fair:** On Friday, January 29th we are planning to have an information session about the job opportunities with the construction team and the property managers. There will not be hiring at this meeting, but they will discuss the jobs that they will have available and the process to qualify for those jobs. Please let other folks know.

Kyra Watson, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans (CCANO)

- **Leaving Temporary Units:** For folks who are getting ready to transition out of the temporary units at Lafitte: we're working closely with HANO to assist you. If you have any questions or comments, please give me your contact information and we'll set up an appointment.

II. HANO Update

Eddie Scott, Director of Resident Services:

- **Relocation Assistance for Temporary Units:** There is relocation assistance based on bedroom size available to families who are transitioning out of temporary units at Lafitte. HANO will pay you directly and you are responsible for moving your belongings (can hire a moving company, a cousin, etc). If you are transitioning to the Section 8 program, there is a training you must participate in.

Questions and Discussion

Responses, where provided, are in italics.

1. With some of the new houses Uptown near St. Thomas the landlords say that you cannot use a voucher. Why? *They may have a limited number of vouchers that they accept for lower-income families. If I were in your position, I would pick the nicest neighborhood I could find. Use the zip code list to find out what properties are available – the voucher gives you the choice to go wherever you want. I'm not saying don't move to St. Thomas, but use the voucher to make the best choice for you.*
2. If you're using a temporary voucher, when will you find out if it will be accepted? *I'm not sure. I don't know if you can use the temporary.*

III. Building Design Update and Conversation

Matt Morrin and Cornelius Payne from Enterprise Community Partners led a discussion about the interior of the new units to solicit resident feedback.

Information was provided that the units will:

- Follow Green Design standards
- Use high-quality materials have a strong structure
- Have Central A/C, dishwashers, washers and dryers
- Have bathtub showers, will have roll-in showers
- Have six-panel interior doors
- Be disabled accessible, for a portion of the units

Resident Input:

- Prefer hardwood (or substitute) to carpet; strong objections to carpet
- Would like Venetian blinds for the windows and would prefer wood if available
- Would like the units to have screens in the windows
- Would like the units to have strong, high wood shelves in closets to store belongings
- Paint colors: Neutral colors (other than white) were recommended for the interior rooms. It is preferable for the rooms to be painted in different colors

Resident Questions (*Answers in Italics*):

1. If we already own appliance, will it be possible to bring them with us? *No.*
2. Will there be handles on the bath tubs? *Yes, there will be disabled accessible units.*
3. What is the plan for security in the area? *There will be security provisions factored into the property management budget, as well as coordination with the Police Department.*
4. Will there be efforts to clean up the street and eliminate behaviors that bring down the neighborhood? *There will be new rules, currently the Residents Council is meeting to discuss safety issues and we're looking into what else we can do, such as cameras on site or a police substation. If you are interested, we welcome your involvement in those discussions.*
5. Will there be countertops in the kitchen? What will the cabinets be like? *There will be countertops and the cabinets will be made of solid wood, painted neutral colors.*
6. Will the units have pantries? *Almost all of the units will have pantries, all will have lots of cabinet space.*
7. Will the units come with an alarm system? *No, you would have to purchase that yourself.*
8. Will there be sprinklers in the units? *Not in the single and double homes, but in the 6-unit building there will be a sprinkler system.*
9. Will the units be elevated? *Yes, the site will be graded. Units will be at least four feet off the ground.*
10. Will there be elevators? *The senior building will have an elevator, the others will have ramps if necessary.*
11. Will there be screens or burglar bars on the windows? *No, it is not in the plans now.*
12. Are there screen doors on the units? *No.*
13. Is it possible to paint the interior of the unit? *No..*
14. Will there be sliding doors in the kitchen? *No.*

IV. Information and Services Update

Karen Hebert and Kendra Green, Sojourner Truth Community Center

- **Programs at Sojourner Truth:** We're working hard to set up activities to benefit you and your children. We have papers for G.E.D. enrollment and Kendra is an employment specialist: if you are looking for a job, you can schedule an appointment with her.
- **Job Opportunities:** The Center is currently hiring for 2 – 3 positions, including a receptionist. Additionally, the census bureau is hiring people to go out and survey folks in their neighborhood. Pay ranges from \$14 - \$19 / hr and they have part and full time opportunities during the day and the evening. Jobs will last 1 – 1.5 years. More information is available. At a recent information session about jobs, we only had 5 residents! We would like to have everyone.
- **Tax Returns:** We also have information for a number to call for free tax assistance.

Andreanecia Morris, Providence Community Housing

- **Homeownership:** The first 10 houses of the 600 that Providence will build are complete! We will have information about them at every meeting until they are sold. If you are not in a position to buy a home now, there will be plenty more opportunities but it is important to think about what steps you need to take if you are interested in transitioning to homeownership. Please feel free to call me directly for more information at the number on the flyer (504 821 7227). It is possible to use your voucher to for payments on a home of your own.

Jenna Pollock, Tulane Community Health Center

- **Clinic at Orleans Ave and Broad:** Work will begin on the new building this spring.
- **Health Resources Available:** At our current location on N. Rampart St., we have a primary care doctor and social workers and are able to do health screenings. We plan to work with Sojourner Truth to offer more health and wellness information. At the next meeting I will bring our new resources guides that have information about services available in the neighborhood.
- **Monthly Health Focus:** How to quit smoking – please join us on Tuesday nights for a session to help people quit!

Sarah Marcello, New Orleans Legal Assistance Clinic (NOLAC)

- **Services Offered by NOLAC:** We are open everyday from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm and are able to assist you with evictions, voucher issues, accommodations for disabilities, and bedroom size issues. Other areas we work on include family law and consumer law.
- **Contact Sarah:** 504 529 1000 ext 243

Katie Mullin, Providence Community Housing

- **Senior Apartments Available:** We have housing for seniors available at Nazareth I, an apartment complex on Haynes Blvd. The voucher is tied to the building, so you don't need to use yours. Must be 62 or older. I will be available afterwards to discuss further if you are interested.

Questions and Discussion

Responses, where provided, are in italics.

None.

IV. Resident Council Update

Emelda Paul, Resident Council

- **Programs and Events:** The Council has been meeting to start programs for the residents, especially the seniors. We will have programs for each age group and want you all to take

advantage of them! Before Katrina, we didn't have great participation – we know you have good ideas and would like your input

- **Crime:** As a follow-up to the meeting with Leon Cannizzaro, the DA, Sr. Mary Ann met with Council members Midura, Clarkson and Carter: all of them are willing to work with us on whatever needs to be done to reduce crime in the area. We will keep you posted on how to say involved – everyone needs to be part of the solution!

V. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 11, 6 pm

Dinner and Raffle