

# RECORD OF DISCUSSION

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

---

**Date** Wednesday, May 13, 2009  
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

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

### Participant

Alvin Banks  
Maxine Burtin  
Rhondalyn Capote  
Dariel Celestin  
Kyndria Claiborne  
Patricia Claiborne  
Angelina Dorsey  
Greer Gibson  
Jennie Gorden  
Sheila Green  
Javonda Griffin

Clyde Hudson  
Bernice King  
Ola James  
Vastine Jeanmarie  
Valerie S. Johnson  
Edwina Joseph  
Sherri Lawson  
Travis LeBlanc  
Bertha Lively  
Cynthia Magraff  
Dolores Marca

Jessie McBoyd  
Roshonda Patterson  
Emelda Paul  
Sharon Pierce  
David Rayford  
Harvey Reed, Jr.  
Carl Richardson  
Lachia L. Rodriguez  
Gale Sanders  
Beryl Thomas  
Carol Thomas

Sojourner Truth Family Supportive Services: Carol Carter, Sombra Davis, Jessica Kennington, Rebekah Simon, D'Ana Smith

Providence/Enterprise: Tammy Crumpton, Jim Kelly, Matt Morrin, Andreanecia Morris, Caroline Gammill, Cornelius Payne, Nicole Swerhun

*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. Resident Council Update

### Ms. Valerie Johnson

- **New Resident Council Members:** Javonda Griffin was introduced as the newest member of the resident council. Ms. Griffin is an example of young people getting more involved and the council is excited to have her on board.

## Questions and Discussion

None.

## II. Providence Community Housing & Enterprise Update

### Andreanecia Morris, Providence Community Housing

- **Homes for sale:** The first Edmunite home has been sold! The owner is a local woman who is now paying \$826/ month for her mortgage, less than what she paid when she was

renting. All persons who have indicated an interest in homeownership will be contacted in the next few weeks by a consultant who can outline what needs to be done to buy a home.

### **Matt Morrin, Enterprise Homes**

- **Groundbreaking on New Construction:** Our team is getting closer to breaking ground. It is taking longer than we expected and that is due to the current economic situation. We're getting the approvals we need from the City, the financing is getting ironed out and we are closer to the start. The delay does not mean that our plans have changed, or that the project will not go forward. We're tired of saying 'next month,' and are sure that you're tired of hearing it, but we're doing everything we can.

### **Questions and Discussion**

1. We were told that the new Lafitte will be ready by the end of 2010. Is that still possible? *The entire project won't be done by the end of 2010. The timeline depends on when we start – if we start in the next two months, then we'll have about 200 units done by 2010. About six months after that, we'll have another 100 units complete.*
2. Will off-site units be completed sooner? *Possibly so. The units that will be complete by 2010 are the on-site units and we've already started planning for the off-site construction.*
3. I have four children and I'd like space for them so my preference is not to be next to anyone else. *There will be a number of different housing styles. Most will be singles and doubles.*
4. Why are the buildings on the other side of Galvez still standing? *There was a lot of concern that some of the buildings should be preserved permanently. The three buildings near the intersection of Galvez and Lafitte will stay. They will not be apartments, but will house the management office, maybe a head start center – we don't have detailed plans yet. We have to make sure that what goes into those buildings is consistent with what you'd like to see. In the past, we've heard things like 'exercise equipment' or a 'small gym.' The buildings by Claiborne will come down.*

### **III. Sojourner Truth Update**

**Sombra Davis:** Events and activities at Sojourner Truth. Call the center with any questions.

- **Monthly Calendar:** The yellow flyer has all of the events for this month. GoodWork Network will have a 7-week class to help folks develop a small business or start a new one. There is still room in the class.
- **Employment Services:** 10 am tomorrow will be an information session. We want to incorporate your knowledge and experience. Please let us know if we're giving you the information you want.
- **Kids Fair:** This Saturday! Phoenix of New Orleans is hosting a Kids' Fair here. Bring your family!
- **Money Wise and Money Smart:** This is a five week series that will be held in the afternoon. It will offer tips about how to better your financial situation.
- **Senior Day Social Club:** This event will be at the end of the month. More details to come alter.

### **Questions and Discussion**

*None.*

## IV. Community Partners Update

### Kurt Amacker, Hurricane Season Update

- **Plan for Hurricane Evacuations:** The job of my office is to get everyone out of the city and back in. Our advice is for you to make a plan in advance – if you have other options, we strongly suggest that you use them and evacuate the city on your own. This plan is for citizens who can't remove themselves for physical reasons or otherwise.
- **Official Plan:**
  - **Register:** Register early. The earlier you register, the better. It is especially important to register early if you have any medical problems.
  - **Call 311:** They will conduct a short interview - all of the questions are on the form I passed out. You can also mail in the form. They cannot keep track of your medical information. If you have a medical condition, the information will go into a database and you will be contacted by the Health Department. The Health Department will determine if you need special transportation, and if so, you will be placed on a list.
  - **Pick-up for those with Medical Issues:** If a hurricane is coming, you will get a call and be told to pack one bag and be told to wait at home. A vehicle will come to pick up your family and your pets.
  - **Pick-up points for those without Medical Issues:** The closest pick-up point to where we are now is Warren Easton High School. RTA Buses will be picking up people during the day and into the night to take you to the terminal.
  - **From the terminal:** The state decides where you go and if you get on a bus, train, or plane and will transport you to a shelter. The shelters are not ideal. If you have your own transportation, I suggest you use it.
  - **Pets:** If you have pets, you will go to a pet-friendly shelter. Pets will be transported separately.
  - **Re-entry:** We will bring everyone back in tiers. Firefighters, police and other essential workers will come back first. After the water and power are turned on, we will bring evacuees back.
  - **Registration System:** We will use a paper registration system this year that will work better than the system we had in place during Gustav.

### Questions and Discussion

1. What category hurricanes will this system be used for? *We will use this for Category 3 Hurricanes, possibly high category 2. If it is a manageable Cat 2, the Red Cross may open shelters. If it is a Cat 3 and you stay, you must stay on your property – there will be a curfew and the NOPD will talk to you if you are on the street.*
2. In the event of an accident, who is liable? *If it happens during the evacuation, the state is liable. If you trip and fall, we'll have to call an ambulance.*
3. During Gustav, we lost power. One block over, they never lost power. In that situation, will it be possible to get assistance? *The power is on a different grid. During the storm, the first responders (police, fire) don't go out because we don't want to put them in further danger.*

### Jenna Pollock, Tulane Community Health Center

- **Clinic at Ruth's Chris Building:** The clinic will be moving to the old Ruth's Chris steakhouse. Renovations will start this summer.

- **Monthly Health Fair:** This month's topic is reproductive health and next month will be Diabetes. We have contacts with doctors who are available to make presentations to church groups, or any other groups who are interested.
- **Movie Screening, *Unnatural Causes*:** We're hosting an event with the Community Book Center and showing a movie that focuses on health problems in different cities around the country. All are welcome.

## Questions and Discussion

1. I've had a lot of trouble booking an appointment. *We're hiring new staff and trying to accommodate everyone. We do have some walk-ins available at 1125 N. Tonti. Hopefully we can fix the problem soon.*

## V. Capturing the History of Lafitte

Residents broke into small groups for discussions about a future Lafitte Oral History Project. Discussion topics included many different aspects of Lafitte over its 40 year history, including changes throughout the years, things that should be commemorated, famous residents, and other parts of life at Lafitte.

## VI. Adjournment

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, July 8, 6 pm  
Sojourner Truth Community Center

Dinner and Raffle