

January 30, 2007

Dear Residents of Lafitte:

A number of things have been happening over the last month following City Council's decision to support the demolition and redevelopment of Lafitte.

Here are a few key updates:

1. **Update on Demolition:** Mayor Nagin has been working with HANO to confirm final details before demolition goes ahead at Lafitte, C.J. Peete, B.W. Cooper, and St. Bernard. Demolition is expected to begin within the next month.
2. **Draft Plans for Lafitte Redevelopment:** The latest draft redevelopment plans from Providence-Enterprise are posted on the Providence Community Housing website at <http://www.providencecommunityhousing.org/Designs.html>. These plans were created with the input and advice of Lafitte residents and other community stakeholders in October and December, 2006*. Any comments on the Draft Lafitte Redevelopment Plans can be directed to Providence-Enterprise (through Matt Morrin at mmorrin@enterprisehomes.com) and/or to HANO at LafitteMasterPlan@hano.org.

**Note that reports summarizing the results of all Providence-Enterprise meetings with residents and stakeholders, since the beginning of the redevelopment process, are also available on the Providence website under "Community Info".*

3. **Update on Repairs:** HANO has started repairs on the 94 units at Lafitte that will be open for *temporary* re-occupancy while the redevelopment takes place. This represents all of the units in the eight buildings closest to Claiborne (from Claiborne to Derbigny) on the Lafitte site. HANO has indicated that the repairs are expected to be complete by April 2008. Repaired units will be offered, by HANO, first to the families that were living in those units pre-Katrina. More detailed information describing HANO's re-occupancy criteria will be part of our February newsletter.
4. **Employment and Training Update:** As part of the demolition and redevelopment process, there will be jobs available to interested and qualified former Lafitte residents. Providence-Enterprise is putting together a list of residents interested in applying for these jobs. Training is also being offered by HANO and other organizations. If you would like to learn more about these training and/or employment programs, please contact LaTonya Williams in the Providence office (504-821-7226) as soon as possible.

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5. **Tenant Protection Vouchers Update from HANO:** The DVP Vouchers will expire in 2008 and HANO is working to transfer everyone with a DVP Voucher to a Tenant Protection Vouchers (TPV). All former Lafitte residents are eligible to receive a TPV. As many of you know, all voucher programs (including DVP and TPV) now require a minimum rent contribution of \$50 per month. This applies even for those residents with \$0 income (although hardship waivers are available for special circumstances). In some cases the rent contribution may be higher, if you are living in a unit where the rent is more than the amount on your voucher. If you have questions about the TPV program, contact Charlotte Patrick at HANO at (504) 827-9618. New Orleans Legal Assistance (NOLAC) is also available to help residents, and their phone number is (504) 529-1000 ext. 223 or 243.

For those of you in New Orleans, we continue our monthly meetings with residents on the second Wednesday of every month. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 13th at 6:00 pm at 1019 North Prieur. As always, we hope you'll stay for dinner following the meeting. For more information contact LaTonya Williams (phone 504-821-7226 or email at lwilliams@providencech.org).

All the best,



James R. Kelly
President & CEO
Providence Community Housing



Michelle Whetten
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