

**Jacquelyn Tarpy  
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**I am here to express my concern about the direction that the Galveston Housing Authority is headed. Is the GHA's mandate to provide housing and assistance for those in need or to become Galveston's largest Residential Real Estate Developer?**

**On June 22<sup>nd</sup> my husband and I attended the Housing Meeting at the McGuire Dent Community center. Mr. Krishnarao presented a list of regulations pertaining to the conduct and behavior of the residents, living in the four Public Housing Projects. This piqued my interest, since if those regulations were enforced, the situation at the housing units, prior to the storm, should have been much different then they appeared.**

**Through an open record request I obtained several policy documents from GHA. I have spent quite a bit of time reading through the documents and would like to share with you a section from two of the documents:**

- 1. Housing Authority of the City of Galveston, Texas  
Admission and Continued Occupancy Policy  
Page 18**

***H. Denial of Admission for Drug-Related and/or Other Criminal Activity***

***PURPOSE***

***All federally assisted housing is intended to provide a place to live and raise families, not a place to commit crime, to use or sell drugs or terrorize neighbors. It is the intention of the Galveston Housing Authority to fully endorse and implement a policy which is designed to:***

***Help create and maintain a safe and drug-free community;***

***Keep our program participants free from threats to their personal and family safety;***

***Support parental efforts to instill values of personal responsibility and hard work;***

***Help maintain an environment where children can live safely, learn and grow up to be productive citizens; and***

***Assist families in their vocational educational goals in the pursuit of self-sufficiency.***

**2. The Housing Choice Voucher Program, Page 80 –  
Under Termination –  
Criminal Activity**

*The GHA will immediately and permanently terminate tenancy of persons convicted of manufacturing or producing methamphetamine on the premises of the assisted housing project in violation of any Federal or State law. "Premises" is defined as the building or complex in which the dwelling unit is located, including common area and grounds*

*The GHA will terminate assistance of participants in cases where the GHA determines there is reasonable cause to believe that the person is illegally using a controlled substance or engages in drug related or other criminal activity. The same will apply if it is determined that the person abuses alcohol in a way that interferes with the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.*

**So now, the question that needs to be answered is – does the GHA effectively enforce their own policies? Before encouraging GHA to expand their empire, the decent and ethical approach to take is to investigate how well GHA managed the four public housing properties & section 8 housing prior to the storm and how well they are presently enforcing their policies and regulation with the current Section 8 Housing.**

**So, I ask you Mayor Thomas, the GHA Commissioners and Mr. Krishnarao, before undertaking any additional projects, housing developments or, soliciting non-residents to come and take advantage of our Section 8 housing – to please just stop and take the time necessary to prove to all residents of Galveston that we can trust the GHA with the rebuilding and managements of the four Public Housing Projects and the Section 8 housing presently on the approved list. Prove to us that you truly are dedicated to improving the lives of those you profess to serve and that you are equally dedicated to working with everyone in the community to make Galveston a healthy and safe place, where all of us can live peacefully and enjoy our Island.**