

Galveston County African American Coalition

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Marvin Walters - President

Secretary Shaun Donovan
US Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC **20410**

September 16, 2011

Mister Secretary:

My name is Marvin Walters: The Galveston County African American Coalition represents Galveston County Minorities of all races. The reason I am writing to you is; there is a rumor going around in our County that HUD is in support of rebuilding in the City of Galveston, Texas 569 units of completely Government-Subsidized Public Housing. Many minorities in Galveston County are opposed to this project. There are several reasons we object to this project. I will list a few of the reasons in this email and a hard copy will follow in the mail with all of the reasons at your request. I was born in a ghetto and understand what it takes to get out of one!

1. I came to Galveston, Texas in 1989 as a Second Unit Director and Stunt Coordinator; I was making \$13,000.00 per week. I stayed in Galveston because I felt I could make a difference since I had come from an environment like this in 1952 in Detroit, Michigan. I was able to escape because of a 'Mentor' and I became a mentor to several young people in Galveston and La Marque, TX. The results were exceptional.
2. The United States Coast Guard moved its Marine Division off of Galveston Island because they would not be able to respond to help people on Galveston Island in the event of a hurricane.
3. The plans are to build 569 Public Units immediately and a planned 1,000 units in the future. The question is why?
4. The Galveston Housing Authority Plan is: No public housing to be built on the Mainland i.e., Texas City, La Marque, Friendswood, League City or Dickinson, the more affluent neighborhoods in the County. All of the public housing for the entire County is to be built in the City of Galveston, Texas.
5. Galveston currently has all of the Existing Public Housing for the entire County (450 Units).

6. No public housing to be built in the affluent neighborhood on the west end of Galveston Island. Most of the public housing is to be built in its prior locations in the worst neighborhoods in the city. But most importantly, it will offer Public Housing Residents no opportunity to escape from a life of intergenerational dependency and poverty: In short the plan will be to incarcerate minorities in a place where there is no employment. And no Master Plan for employment in the city of Galveston, Texas.

7. The Employment Growth for the following cities from 2001-2011: Galveston -8.7%, Texas City -2.6%, Friendswood +8.3%, League City +44.8%, Santa Fe ?, Dickinson ?, and La Marque, TX ?

8. The Population Growth 2000-2010 Galveston -16.60%, La Marque +6.04%, Texas City +8.62%, Dickinson +9.28%, Friendswood +23.31%, Santa Fe +28.01%, League City +83.87%.

Now let us look at the Galveston County ISDs Disadvantaged Students (2010 TEA):

Galveston 66% , La Marque 64%, Texas City 58%, Dickinson 57%, Santa Fe 27%, League City 18%, Friendswood 4%.

After looking at these statistics, why would HUD want to build slums? True, there may be employment for lower scale workers during the building of the units, But what happens to the inhabitants when the building is over?

We must take into consideration the condition our youth will be in after the rebuilding of what amounts to another ghetto! I came from a ghetto in Detroit, Michigan and understand what it takes to get out of a ghetto.

I don't believe that our young people are a hopeless generation. I feel if given a positive direction, with a well-planned approach to ensure the success of that direction; opened doors and a connection with committed adults; they will succeed. Organizations must open their minds and hearts to these youths offering them a chance to have hope .

The time has come for government programs and other organizations to provide programs for our youths that will accomplish the following.

- Hands-on experience with their chosen career
- Realizing that there are caring and committed adults available
- Be exposed to alternative choices
- Learn cross-cultural cooperation with peers
- Learn networking skills for potential employment
- Develop skills to work effectively with others to achieve a common goal

The overall goal of this effort would not only be to introduce youths to various employment possibilities in the job market, but to also introduce them to alternative career choices. I contend that youths being given the exposure to a broader view of life will choose to expand their goals and dreams.

I believe strongly in the strength of our youths, realizing that when given the ability to capture Dreams and mold them into reality; they can be successful in making positive changes in their lives. I also believe that drawing strength from their pastors and others, and asking for help, will result in many advantages in school, work and other areas of daily life where others who receive support are more likely to succeed.

SUMATION OF THIS EMAIL IS:

The Units should be located in Friendswood, League City and Santa Fe, Texas where opportunities exist for improvement in all areas of life for the disadvantaged. We have copies of emails between certain HUD Officials and the City of Galveston Leaders, which suggest to me that there are a few politicians who would like to keep Galveston Island as it was before the Ike Hurricane. I am a simple uneducated person with an 8th grade education, which allows me to make this statement based on the information available to me at this time. I will forward that same information to your office at your request.

Example:

From: Joe Jaworski

To: Marquez, Mercedes

Cc: Herbstman, Judith Z

Sent: Tue Aug 31 14:36:062010

Subject: Thanks from Jaworski

Madame Assistant Secretary: Thank you for such a good visit In Galveston last week. I know the Downtown Partnership appreciated, as did I, your guidance on the Downtown vision, I am emailing you to say thanks and to request a moment to discuss with you my Impression of what is going on in Galveston with our brand new Housing Authority Board's plans. I am proud of our board, and I am looking forward to seeing our public housing needs addressed in a modern, progressive and successful fashion. That is one of the reasons why I ran to be Galveston's Mayor, and I have appointed a hard-working, thoughtful Board who will achieve that vision I need to relate to you this: There IS a renewed effort by some Citizens to question the need for public housing at all I believe the Community is due a direct answer, and I need to be the one to give it. I wish to set the record straight - by writing a guest column in our local newspaper, and I need some information from you and others to do so effectively. This is why I was speaking with Michael Allen the day before you visited In Galveston last week I need your help in answering definitively two questions that are' routinely posed by interested Citizens and public housing opponents. I've answered them time and again, but the opponents (Who are constituents nevertheless, so they are due 100% respect despite their increasingly partisan tone) now say only HUD can answer their question definitively. Here are the two questions: (1; Does HUD consider Galveston legally bound to replace

public housing one for one under the Conciliation agreement and any other laws or agreements? (2) How much money (like HUD-disaster funding and otherwise) does Galveston stand to lose If It does not rebuild one on one public housing?

I have answered these questions In informal emails and numerous discussions face to face "yes we are bound, as is the State of Texas, under the Conciliation Agreement and under federal civil rights laws and our routine certifications that we affirmatively further fair housing" and "If we breach the Conciliation Agreement, we will lose not only all lke funding (housing and non housing) but we will put at risk all future funding and even put ourselves at risk all for refunding what we have already received over the years.

At any rate, I am asking from you a written statement so I can share it with the community If you believe It IS best to get a Council resolution directing me to ask you in a formal letter I would be happy to do so

Thank you for your service, your leadership and for your deep interest in Galveston's well-being and recovery

Respectfully, Mayor Joe Jaworski

Joe Jaworski

From: Rodriguez, Dan [mailto:dan.rodriguez@hud.gov]

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2009 1:52 PM

To: Warren, Sandra H; 'Jacquelyn Tarpy'

Subject: RE: Question about HUD's Position about rebuilding Galveston Public Housing Units

Dear Ms. Tarpy:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development does not currently have a one for one replacement mandate for Housing Authorities to replace units that were destroyed, demolished, and/or being redeveloped. Decisions regarding the number of units and their location is a local decision to be made by the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

It was a pleasure talking to you and I encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with the Housing Authority representatives as they are currently in the process of formulating a Plan for continued assistance of the low income families in the City of Galveston who were displaced by the storm.

Have a Great Day!

ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS GREAT SCHOOLS DISTRICT RANKING (2010 GS)

CITY

GALVESTON	66%	4
LA MARQUE	64%	3
TEXAS CITY	58%	5
DICKINSON	57%	6
SANTA FE	27%	6
LEAGUE CITY	18%	9
FRIENDSWOOD	4%	10

POPULATION GROWTH 2010-2010 (2010 CENSUS)

CITY	
GALVESTON	-16.60%
LA MARQUE	+6.40%
TEXAS CITY	+8.62%
DICKINSON	+9.28%
FRIENDSWOOD	+23.31%
SANTA FE	+28.01%
LEAGUE CITY	+83.87%

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

CITY	
GALVESTON	-8.7%
TEXAS CITY	-2.6%
FRIENDSWOOD	+8.3%
SANTA FE	?
DICKINSON	?
LA MARQUE	?

We must ask ourselves with statistics like these; why would we be a party to further an injustice to minorities? They deserve an opportunity to better themselves with the help of government and other organizations. If we allow this to happen, then we are the ones who should be incarcerated on Galveston Island. We are setting them up for failure and their only option is to be in a better situation in a different area.

The high-cost of keeping a person in prison in the Texas Prison System is an astounding \$47,508.40 per year. We should better use this money on children prior to them going to prison by creating new programs designed for them by people who were them!

Sincerely,

Marvin Walters

Cc: The Honorable Mary Landrieu
United States Senate
C/O Jane Campbell *Chief of Staff*
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1803