

For Immediate Release:

Dateline: Galveston, TX: December 03, 2013

It's Been a Long Time Coming!

No one has been more anxious than the GOGP to see this day finally arrive! We are very pleased to announce that our lawsuit was filed in Galveston federal court, today!

The GOGP has spent more than four years trying to inform the residents of this city about Public Housing, and in a failed effort to persuade a parade of members of the Galveston City Council and the GHA Board to dismantle the City's segregated Public Housing system. It has been deeply disappointing to watch so many members of these two local government institutions fail to find the common sense and courage to make this change that would be so beneficial to everyone in the City; especially the Public Housing residents.

Their failure to do their duty and act appropriately meant that this lawsuit was the only hope left to stop the practice of government-sponsored segregation in the City.

We believe that this lawsuit will be the defining moment in the City's history for many years to come. We remain very hopeful of a favorable ruling from the court, because this is the only case that we know of that includes both the blatant and deliberate intent to segregate poor people racially, ethnically, and economically, AND the forced placement of impoverished minorities in locations that expose them to the maximum risk from hurricane-force winds and flooding as well as industrial contamination, AND these sites are also surrounded by commercial and industrial uses and blight.

In short, this City's Public Housing rebuilding plan violates every conceivable law and regulation dealing with Public Housing.

A favorable decision from the court has an excellent chance of allowing the City to regain its sovereignty and to end the control, that those who benefit from segregated Public Housing, have on the City; which could even halt our 50-year population decline.

Regardless of the record earnings of the Galveston Hotel Industry, and growth in City sales tax revenues, on balance, people still do not want to actually live in this city, as confirmed by the fact that the City's population is not growing, even in the face of booming population growth in the State. Lack of population growth is a reflection of the lack of confidence in City leadership, because people have a very difficult time imagining a brighter future for a city that can't find the money to pave its streets, but plans to spend \$275,842 per unit on Public Housing, so it can pretend that these shiny new projects are not segregated.

The GOP wishes to thank each and every person who so generously gave us their moral and financial support. This milestone could not have been reached without your unwavering faith and confidence! Councilmembers Beeton and Pappous were inspirational in their unflagging efforts to get the City Council to end government sponsored segregation in this city, in the face of withering fire from the opposition. With a few more like them, the City would have a much brighter future.

We have done what we could to save this city, that we all love so much, from the corrupting elements that seek to control it, but now it is up to the court.

Please note that the petition that we filed today does not include several of our arguments, or our supporting exhibits. These will be part of our application for a preliminary injunction that will be filed at a later date as part of the overall process.