

Joseph Jaworski

From: Marquez, Mercedes M [Mercedes.M.Marquez@hud.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2010 7:54 PM
To: 'joejaws@jaworskilawfirm.com'; Herbstman, Judith Z; Chavez, Yolanda
Subject: Re: Thanks from Jaworski

Appreciate your comments and the straight forward manner in which you want to proceed. We will work on your questions and get back to you.

Thanks
Mercedes

From: Joe Jaworski
To: Marquez, Mercedes M
Cc: Herbstman, Judith Z
Sent: Tue Aug 31 14:36:06 2010
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 (Ike HUD-disaster funding and otherwise) does Galveston stand to lose if it does not rebuild one for 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 Ike funding (housing and non housing) but we will put at risk all future funding and even put ourselves at risk 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

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