

15 April 2013

Sent via email to: LewisRosen@cityofgalveston.org

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Lewis Rosen
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Mayor:

The GOP would like to thank you and the City Council for recognizing our group as one of the designated "local Public Housing advocates". Unfortunately, no one representing the GOP will be able to attend the special meeting on Wednesday 17 April, so we are sending the following written comments in lieu of making oral remarks at that time.

The majority on this Council made very clear promises to "fight the Conciliation Agreement" during the campaign. Once elected, the majority has made no effort to actually fulfill that promise, but events have given you a second chance to do so.

Regardless of the personal opinions of each Councilmember regarding building additional Public Housing in this City, in general, every one of you now knows that it cannot be rebuilt at Cedar Terrace and Magnolia without violating the Fair Housing Act. The fact that the City Council has finally hired a fair-housing expert gives you the opportunity to at least begin moving in the right direction towards "fighting the Conciliation Agreement".

Since you have pledged to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing (AFFH), at each step in this process, you now have the perfect chance to tell the GLO that you cannot lawfully proceed until your expert completes his analysis and agrees that rebuilding at Cedar Terrace and Magnolia will AFFH. Furthermore, the GLO should have no right to withhold funding while the City's expert completes his work.

In conclusion, the GOGP strongly urges this Council to inform the GLO that you cannot proceed any further until the expert report is complete and that you see no valid reason under the Conciliation Agreement to withhold funding since the Agreement requires the City to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing. How can you possibly know if it does until the report is complete?

Best regards,

David Stanowski
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