

06 December 2009

Sent via certified mail, return receipt requested

Sent via email to: lydaannthomas@cityofgalveston.org

Sent via email to: lydaannthomas@aol.com

Lyda Ann Thomas
Mayor
City of Galveston
823 Rosenberg
P.O. Box 779
Galveston, TX 77553

Mayor Thomas:

As you know, the Galveston Housing Authority has spent many months presenting a variety of rebuilding plans to the citizens of Galveston. On 20 November, the Galveston Open Government Project delivered an article to City Council via email entitled [“Galveston: the End of the Road?”](#) which outlined the case that none of the GHA plans conform to current court-directed HUD policy. On 03 December, I covered the same issues during public comment at the Council meeting. On 04 December, the GOGP sent the City Attorney a [brief summary of our research](#).

To ensure that the City Council has a more detailed explanation on how these legal cases effect their current deliberations, on Public Housing, the GOGP is requesting that the primary investigator on this subject, Chris Toombs, be allowed to give his presentation, [“A Bold New Approach to Subsidized Housing”](#), to Council, at the 10 December meeting.

This would allow Council to be fully informed, to ask questions, and to have the City Attorney comment and question our conclusions in the presentation. Since you have clearly indicated

that you feel a sense of urgency with regard to this matter, we ask that you put this presentation on the 10 December agenda, in order to facilitate this critical interchange as quickly as possible.

To view the presentation, go to:

<http://www.galvestonogp.org/GHA/GalvestonHousingAuthority.ppt>

Thank you for your consideration,

Best regards,

David Stanowski
Galveston Open Government Project
gogp@att.net
409-356-6553

Re: GOPG Presentation to City Council

● LydaAnnThomas@aol.com

You replied on 12/7/2009 4:54 PM.

To: gogp@att.net

Cc: lindacolbert@cityof.galveston.org; weber59@comcast.net; ElizabethBeeton@cityofgalveston.org; KarenMahoney@cityofgalveston.org; tarriswoods@cityofgalveston.org; SUSANFENNEWALD@CITYOFGALVESTON.ORG; GreenSus@cityofgalveston.org; LeblancSte@cityofgalveston.org

Mr. Stanowski ... I have not had time to inquire into the legal ramifications of your request to have Mr. Toombs make a presentation to Council. Mr. Toombs is..as are all citizens...welcome to address the Council during the public comment part of the agenda .

Lyda Ann Thomas

David Stanowski

From: Galveston Open Government Project [gogp@att.net]

Sent: Monday, December 07, 2009 5:15 PM

To: 'LydaAnnThomas@aol.com'

Cc: 'lindacolbert@cityof.galveston.org'; 'weber59@comcast.net'; 'ElizabethBeeton@cityofgalveston.org'; 'KarenMahoney@cityofgalveston.org'; 'tarriswoods@cityofgalveston.org'; 'SUSANFENNEWALD@CITYOFGALVESTON.ORG'; 'GreenSus@cityofgalveston.org'; 'LeblancSte@cityofgalveston.org'

Subject: RE: GOPG Presentation to City Council

Mayor,

Mr. Toombs and I are aware that we can speak to Council during our 3 minute allotments. The reason that we are requesting at least 15 minutes to give a presentation is that 3 minutes is insufficient time to present any meaningful information, and does not allow the use of a Powerpoint. In addition, we assume that with an issue as critical as this is that the Council would like to ask questions, which requires it be on the agenda.

The so-called public comment period that GHA has orchestrated has also been limited to 3 minute comments without any opportunity for anyone to have sufficient time to actually make a case that disagrees with their agenda. Now that we have discovered federal lawsuits that set down new requirements on how to accomplish de-segregation, and provide authentic opportunities for low-income minorities, we feel that a reasonably detailed briefing on the subject, not just a 3 minute comment, is urgently needed. Therefore, we renew our request to have Mr. Toombs' research put on the agenda with sufficient time for a presentation and Q&A.

We are unsure what legal ramifications that there could be for Council to allow a presentation, since this is routinely done at nearly every meeting.

David Stanowski