

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

“We Need to Bring These People Home!”

GALVESTON, Texas – 07 June 2011

This is the primary emotional appeal that has been repeatedly employed by the Poverty Industry in an attempt to get all the Public Housing destroyed by Hurricane Ike rebuilt in this city. Any attempts to demonstrate that rebuilding them on the Island will simply re-establish the segregation of low-income minorities in the worst neighborhoods in this city, offering little or no opportunity to escape from a life of intergenerational dependency and poverty, and violating several federal laws and regulations; including the Fair Housing Act, are dismissed with the argument that the former residents of Galveston’s Public Housing “want to come home”.

During Council meetings, Councilmember Greenberg has asked more than once for surveys of the former residents to be done to see if they really want to come home, because they might be happier where they have relocated, but City Council has never discussed the findings.

How many former residents actually want to “come home”?

The GHA’s 14 October 2009 “Master Planning Study for Replacement Housing” said “Currently, **about 36% of the former residents would like to return. Some of those would take a housing choice voucher in lieu of a Public Housing unit.” See Page III-7**

The GHA’s 31 March 2011 “Rebuilding Plan for Public Housing” includes a table listing 186 households out of the original 569 who wish to return. $186/569 = 33\%$. See Page Numbered 5

<http://www.galvestonogp.org/GHA/GHAREbuildingPlan.pdf>

A 25 March 2009 article in the GCDN “Housing Authority Wants \$60 Million” stated, “A consultant has warned the housing authority to expect only **15 percent to return.”**

<http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=66adddb76a27d13d>

So, if only 36%, or possibly as little as 15% of the families displaced by Hurricane Ike “want to return home”; why is there a need to build 569 Public Housing units in this city to “bring them home”, when only 186, or as few as 85 units are actually needed?

There is no need to build 569 units to “bring people home”, and never has been! This drama has never been about who will live in the new Public Housing units; its just about getting them rebuilt in this city! If 569 units were ever to be re-built in this city, there is a good chance very few of the original families would end up living in them; and those who want it all rebuilt in this city know that!

Contact:

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