

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

GHA critics do Not agree on the solution to the public housing controversy!

GALVESTON, Texas – 20 August 2010

Events of the last few weeks plus inquiries from the public make it apparent that a statement of clarification is long past due.

The Galveston Open Government Project operates on the basis of the Libertarian philosophy of small government and maximum individual freedom. The more that we can keep government out of our lives, especially the federal government, the better off we all will be.

We regard public housing as a failed social experiment that has ruined countless lives, and wasted billions of dollars of hard-earned money extracted from the taxpayers. It is a program that has never worked, and will never work simply because it ignores our basic understanding of human nature.

It is the product of the convoluted thinking of the Elites of academia, politics, the media, and other liberal salons. This is a group who are very good at dreaming up theories about how to control and manipulate people for their own purposes, but who are not blessed with common sense, and have little familiarity with reality.

For more than 70 years, these designers of PH programs have made one excuse after another as their projects turned into the local slums, and they constantly re-invented their social experiment. Each re-incarnation of PH cost more than the previous version, but still did not deliver on the promised results.

Therefore, nothing would make the GOGP happier than elimination of HUD and all PH programs in this country. Studies clearly show that the private sector was supplying the housing that low-income people needed before the inception of PH, and there is no doubt that if we are ever

blesSED with the abolition of PH, it would do so in a much more efficient manner than HUD has been doing.

Since the GOGP can do little to effect the fate of HUD, we have focused our efforts on limiting its footprint and intrusion into the City of Galveston. For this reason, we are TOTALLY OPPOSED to the addition of any more PH units in this city! We do NOT want to see more PH units created by any method, including: building concentrated housing projects as existed in 2008, building less dense configurations, building scattered sites, building mixed-income developments, or by rehabilitating existing housing stock.

The method of adding units makes little or no difference; no matter how it's done, PH units are still being added to a very fragile city that can not deal with the increased liability that this creates.

It is our understanding that some of our fellow critics of the proposed GHA redevelopment plan are not opposed to adding more PH units to this city's already burdensome 410 existing units, as long as they can redesign the plans to fit their own vision. The latest incarnation of this thinking has incorporated HUD's newest theory on how to create Utopia in a PH project using something called the "Purpose Built Communities" that is being showcased in Atlanta. A careful read of the material published about the "Atlanta Miracle" reveals that it bares little or no resemblance to a successful neighborhood found developing "organically" in cities across the country, because it requires a long list of expensive support services to keep this latest experiment from the Mad Scientists at HUD from unraveling in a cloud of social meltdown.

Wasting time and resources trying to redesign or reengineer a program that has proven to be a failed social experiment for more than 70 years is something that is a folly for those attempting to do so, and will only lead to more problems and heartache for this city.

In conclusion, the GOGP will attempt to act as a spokesman for those residents who DO NOT want to see the PH footprint expand in the City of Galveston IN ANY MANNER, whether it is through building concentrated housing projects, building less dense configurations, building scattered sites, building mixed-income developments (including

the “Purpose Built Communities”), or by rehabilitating existing housing stock.

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