

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HUD Houston Says: Galveston Does NOT Have to Rebuild Its Housing Projects!

GALVESTON, Texas – 16 October 2009

A group from GAIN met with Daniel Rodriguez and Edward Pringle at HUD's Houston office earlier this week. The key take away was that the GHA does NOT have to rebuild any or all of the 569 public housing units destroyed during Hurricane Ike.

However, the Galveston Open Government Project wanted to make sure that there was no misunderstanding about what was said at the meeting, so we contacted Mr. Rodriguez and asked him to send us a written statement to confirm HUD's position.

From: Rodriguez, Dan [mailto:dan.rodriguez@hud.gov]

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2009 1:52 PM

To: Warren, Sandra H; 'Jacquelyn Tarpy'

Subject: RE: Question about HUD's Position about rebuilding Galveston Public Housing Units

Dear Ms. Tarpy:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development does not currently have a one for one replacement mandate for Housing Authorities to replace units that were destroyed, demolished, and/or being redeveloped. Decisions regarding the number of units and their location is a local decision to be made by the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

It was a pleasure talking to you and I encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with the Housing Authority representatives as they are currently in the process of formulating a Plan for continued assistance of the low income families in the City of Galveston who were displaced by the storm.

Have a Great Day!

Regardless of the misinformation being spread all over the City about the requirements that these units be rebuilt, HUD makes it very clear that this is "a local decision to be made by the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners".

Contact:

Jacquelyn Tarpy

409-621-2092

MissJacquelyn@att.net

END