

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Crime Statistics on Galveston Housing Projects Released!

GALVESTON, Texas – 19 October 2009

Several weeks ago, the Galveston Open Government Project began a study of the impact of GHA's Housing Projects on the City of Galveston. Data was ordered from GPD requesting the number and types of "calls for service" for the grids containing Cedar Terrace, Palm Terrace, Magnolia Homes, and Oleander Homes from 01 September 2007 to 01 September 2008, i.e. the year before Hurricane Ike. The data was just received, but, unfortunately, some portions were not included, and will have to be reordered.

It would be preferable to wait until a complete analysis is possible, but due to the GHA's rush to rebuild, before a thorough review is possible, we are releasing what we have. Our full analysis will be published when all the data has been received.

Cedar Terrace, 2914 Ball, 139 units, 1, 425 calls for service: **10.25 calls/unit**
Palm Terrace, 4400 Sealy, 104 units, Data Not Received
Magnolia Homes, 1601 Strand, 133 units, 1,061 calls for service: **7.98 calls/unit**
Oleander Homes, 5228 Broadway, 206 units, 3,425 calls for service: **16.63 calls/unit**

This is a total of **5,911 calls for service** for just three of GHA's Housing Projects! Based on the calls/unit to these three, when the calls for Palm Terrace are added in, the Grand Total will probably meet or exceed **7,000** for the one-year period before Hurricane Ike!

How many calls for service were made, during this period, for the entire city? What percentage of the total calls for service was directed to these four Housing Projects? These questions will be answered when the balance of the data is received from GPD. However, it seems reasonable to conclude, at this point, that a large percentage of Galveston's police resources were tied up with servicing the Housing Projects, the year before the Hurricane!

The people of Galveston should not be in the position of trying to convince the GHA not to rebuild the Housing Projects; the GHA should be required to make the case why they should be allowed to do so when they are the agency responsible for managing these projects in such a way that they exclude problem tenants, provide a safe environment for their residents, and minimize the negative impact on the City as a whole! The data listed above show GHA's complete failure to manage the Housing Projects according to their own guidelines and regulations!

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