

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

More than half of all police “calls for service” were for the Housing Projects!

GALVESTON, Texas – 27 October 2009

The Galveston Open Government Project has received the data that was unavailable last week. Data was ordered from GPD requesting the number 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.

Cedar Terrace, police grids 43 and 48, 1,425 calls for service

Palm Terrace, police grid 60, 569 calls for service

Magnolia Homes, police grids 15 and 17, 1,061 calls for service

Oleander Homes, police grids 47 and 75, 3,425 calls for service

Total for the areas containing the four Housing Projects, 6,480 calls for service

Total for the City of Galveston, 12,018 calls for service

54% of all calls for service in the City of Galveston were for the areas containing the four Housing Projects!!

This completes one preliminary study on the effects of the Housing Projects on the surrounding neighborhoods, and the City as a whole, but it does suggest many future lines of inquiry.

Crime and its effect on the City budget:

- 1. Did GPD devote 54% of its resources and manpower to the four Project areas?**
- 2. Did GPD spend 54% of its budget on the four Project areas?**
- 3. Did the citizens of Galveston receive substandard police services, due to the disproportionate demand from the four Project areas?**
- 4. Did the citizens of Galveston receive satisfactory police services, but pay far more than necessary, due to the disproportionate demand from the four Project areas?**
- 5. What percentage of the City’s general fund was spent on policing the four Project areas?**

Note: Property tax is not collected on the four Housing Projects to help pay for police services.

Legal liability:

- 1. Could the four Housing Projects be considered a “hazard” in the legal sense?**
- 2. If the GHA brings a known hazard back into the City; what is their liability?**
- 3. Could the GHA have liability for a “Takings Action” due to the reduction in property values, and decreased business revenues near the four Projects?**

Economic:

- 1. What is the total economic impact of Public Housing on the Galveston economy?**
- 2. What is the likely increase in economic activity if the four Housing Projects are not rebuilt?**

If anyone would like to help us perform these or similar studies, please contact the GOGP.

Contact:

Galveston Open Government Project

<http://www.galvestonogp.org/>

David Stanowski

409-356-6553

gogp@att.net

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