

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

State believes the GHA rebuilding plan will Fail to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing!

GALVESTON, Texas – 16 May 2011

At the 05 May 2011 Board meeting of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), TDHCA Senior Counsel, Kevin Hamby, apparently referring to GHA’s plans to rebuild on the former Housing-Project footprints, said:

“They have made a couple of requests to rebuild in place, which we don't believe will meet the affirmatively furthering fair housing requirements of Round Two.”

<http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/pdf/transcripts/110505-board.pdf>

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Of course, no one can know for sure, at this time, if the GHA’s rebuilding plans will fail to meet AFFH requirements, and/or violate CFR 941.202, because the GHA FAILED to submit detailed site plans by the required 26 April 2011 deadline.

However, based on what is known from statements at public meetings, and newspaper reports and columns, the Galveston Open Government Project (GOGP) believes that the GHA will likely violate the rebuilding-on-former-housing-site requirements outlined in CFR 941.202, and will also likely violate the Fair Housing Act, for a variety of reasons, whether they build on the old footprints or in new locations.

What does the Galveston City Council plan to do now that they have been put on notice that TDHCA’s Senior Counsel has raised serious concerns about the rebuilding plan’s conformity to federal law?

Could the City be forced to REPAY FEDERAL FUNDING if it does not alter its rebuilding plans?

Council should request more details from Mr. Hamby, ASAP.

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