

05 December 2011

Sent via email to: [pio@ghatx.org](mailto:pio@ghatx.org)

Justin Herter  
Public Information Officer  
Galveston Housing Authority  
4700 Broadway Boulevard  
Galveston, TX 77551

Mr. Herter:

Re: Public Comment on CDBG Round 2.2 Application

It is always a tough decision whether or not to take the time to submit public comment to the GHA when it is so clearly ignored by the Board. They are on a mission from the Mayor and have no concern for the opinions of anyone who dares to question his vision of a city based on a dependency on federal funding. It is clear that such a city is doomed to perpetual decline and possibly even failure, but they are on a far more important mission and can't be bothered with such mundane considerations!

Chris Toombs has just submitted a very thorough and insightful analysis filling seven pages with objections to your application, so I will not duplicate his effort. There is only one issue that we must focus on from now on: **segregation**.

All of the hundreds of pages that we have already written showing the many problems with the GHA rebuilding plan boil down to one thing: it is a **Cold-War-Era segregation plan**. Much effort has been put forth attempting to use a mixed-income plan to disguise the fact that it will continue to segregate low-income minorities in the worst neighborhoods in this city, and some of

the worst census tracts in the County; but that is the simple fact of what it will do!

The simplest way to demonstrate how obvious this is when you step back and look at it can be found in the use of the old Cedar Terrace footprint which sits in the worst census tract in the entire County.

This is a place where **64% of the residents live below the poverty level**, and where **60% of the residents are Black and 34% are Hispanic**. In other words, it is the very definition of the kind of place where housing authorities are not supposed to build Public Housing. The plan to try to hide this segregation with a mixed-income development is simply deceptive and does little or nothing to change the demographics of the neighborhood where they will be located!

Housing authorities are not supposed to build Public Housing in places like this, because it segregates people by income, race, and ethnicity; something that was outlawed by the Fair Housing Act in 1968. You don't need a legal opinion to see that this plan will violate the Fair Housing Act; all that it takes is some common sense and a passing acquaintance with reality.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

David Stanowski, President  
Galveston Open Government Project, Inc.  
2211 Avenue P  
[gogp@att.net](mailto:gogp@att.net)  
409-621-2099