

David Stanowski, President of the Galveston Open Government Project.

We agree that scattered sites are the least objectionable form of Public Housing. They are better than mixed-income developments and they are certainly better than the traditional Public Housing that has been a dismal failure for the last 75 years; but they must be planted in fertile soil!

This city has the highest percentage of people in the County living below the poverty level!

In 1995, there were 30,387 jobs in the City of Galveston, there are now 24,373; a decline of 20%!

66% of the children in GISD are economically disadvantaged, the highest percentage in the County, and the district as a whole is rated 4 out of 10 by GreatSchools.com.

Galveston is the only city in the County to lose population since the 2000 census.

The local crime rate was the highest in the County before Hurricane Ike, and it is now the second highest and still higher than the national average.

Galveston has the highest percentage of vacant property in the County, and possibly the entire country.

This is NOT the description of a fertile soil for Public Housing! This is NOT the demographic profile of a city where Public Housing should be built!

This is why building in this city will violate the Fair Housing Act.

The GHA claims that it is going to get a waiver to allow it to violate the Fair Housing Act, and force all Public Housing residents in the County to live in Galveston. Why doesn't the GHA re-direct all of that counter-productive effort into getting HUD to help it get permission to build scattered sites, or any other kind of Public Housing, in League City, Friendswood, and Santa Fe where it will not violate the Fair Housing Act, and it will offer GHA clients the opportunity to escape from a life of intergenerational dependency and poverty; or forget all about building anything and just get permission to substitute Moving-To-Opportunity vouchers for the 529 remaining units!