

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

GOGP Offers Council Candidates a Private Briefing!

GALVESTON, Texas – 20 January 2012

Attention candidates for Galveston Mayor and City Council:

“Many vocal opponents of public housing in Galveston are misinformed and as a result pass on incorrect information to the public as fact.”

Betty Massey, GHA Board Chair, 18 January 2012

<http://galvestondailynews.com/story/286602>

It is very unlikely that the “Housing 101” seminar being offered by the GHA next week will include their Public-Housing-rebuilding plan’s well-documented violations of the Fair Housing Act published by the GOGP, or the regional Public Housing plan proposed by the GOGP.

Therefore, the response to Chairman Massey’s comments on “vocal opponents” is very simple:

Many vocal supporters of Public Housing in Galveston are trying to convince the public that segregating low-income minorities in low-opportunity neighborhoods will not violate the Fair Housing Act.

Candidates for Mayor and City Council need to be informed about how dangerous the GHA rebuilding plan really is to the City!

Therefore, the GOGP is offering the following:

Liability 101: a private briefing for each candidate outlining how blatantly the GHA’s rebuilding plan will violate the Fair Housing Act, and the liability this creates for the City. This briefing will include:

- How the decisions in *Thompson v HUD*, *Walker v HUD*, and *Westchester* apply
- HUD's record of violating the Fair Housing Act, and becoming a defendant in numerous cases
- The false promise of mixed-income development
- Detailed economic data
- Detailed city and neighborhood demographics
- Detailed data on the school systems and student performance
- Detailed environmental data

Opportunity-Based Housing 101: a private briefing for each candidate outlining the GOP's alternative countywide plan that will give Public Housing residents their best chance to escape from a life of inter-generational dependency and poverty. This briefing will include:

- How to select the proper locations for Public Housing
- Why these locations will not violate the Fair Housing Act
- Why this plan will be much better for Public Housing residents and the host cities

Candidates, don't be fooled by a lot of hand waving and self-righteous proclamations about how the GHA rebuilding plan will "bring an end to poverty", or claims that their mixed-income scheme has been blessed by HUD Assistant Secretary Mercedes Marquez, and that waivers excusing all of these violations are "in the mail". You need to know the full extent of the liability that the GHA is creating for the City!

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