



The Providence-Enterprise Plan for the Tremé/Lafitte Community & Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Providence Community Housing (Providence) and Enterprise Community Partners (Enterprise), two non-profits, have been selected to plan and develop a new community on and around the site of the Lafitte public housing development, a 27.5 acre parcel containing 900 apartments in the historic Tremé/Lafitte neighbourhood of New Orleans.

The Providence-Enterprise team is working closely with Lafitte and Tremé residents to plan a vibrant community that is equitable, affordable and sustainable and includes 900 subsidized rental homes/apartments and 600 for-sale homes both on the site of the Lafitte development and in the surrounding neighborhoods. In developing this new community, Providence and Enterprise have formally committed to:

- Phased redevelopment so that residents who wish to return in the short-term to temporary units may do so while new housing is being built;
- Absolute opportunity for former Lafitte residents to return;
- One for one replacement of each pre-Katrina subsidized unit with a suitable and comparable unit in the same community;
- Active and meaningful participation of residents in the redevelopment planning process; and
- Community supportive services for all residents, both in New Orleans and in other cities.

The Providence-Enterprise plan is in accordance with Mayor Nagin's priorities for public housing redevelopment and accomplishes every requirement for public housing redevelopment included in HB 1227, the Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act of 2007, co-sponsored by Representatives Waters and Frank, and SB 1668: the Gulf Coast Housing Recovery Act of 2007, co-sponsored by Senators Landrieu and Dodd.

The Providence-Enterprise team has been awarded \$12.8 million in Gulf Opportunity Zone Low Income Housing Tax Credits from the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency and \$27 million in Community Development Block Grant funds from the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development. These awards are contingent on meeting the State's objective of creating a mixed-income community and the Congressional mandate of placing all phase one units in service by the end of December 2010.

Providence-Enterprise has committed \$2,500,000 in private funds to provide case management, counseling, and direct assistance to Lafitte families living locally, as well as in Houston and Baton Rouge.

Based on input from residents, redevelopment will include:

- A community of choice for New Orleans residents with a mix of incomes
- Services for families, including health care, youth programs and formal job training
- Better school and educational options for neighborhood families and children
- Walkable access to shops, community centers and recreational opportunities
- Sustainable development that is safer, healthier and more resource efficient

The Providence-Enterprise plan is supported by the City of New Orleans Office of Recovery Management and Office of the Mayor, Louisiana Housing Finance Agency, State of Louisiana Office of Community Development, Louisiana Recovery Authority, and many neighborhood groups and collaborators.

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Tremé/Lafitte Redevelopment FAQ

1. What is Providence-Enterprise doing?

We are developing 1500 units in Tremé and Tulane/Gravier neighborhoods: 900 subsidized rental units (to replace Lafitte), and 600 new affordable homes for working families and first-time homeowners. We have already acquired 200 homes and apartments for offsite development.

2. Will there be a loss of subsidized units?

No, we will replace all 900 pre-Katrina subsidized units.

3. What is being done for those residents who want to come home now?

Based on the advice of many residents, redevelopment is taking place in phases. HUD/HANO is currently repairing 94 units. Residents will be able to live in these repaired, temporary units as redevelopment occurs on the rest of the site.

4. Was Providence-Enterprise part of HUD/HANO's decision to demolish?

No. We were not involved in the decision to demolish Lafitte. We got involved to ensure that residents have a voice in the rebuilding of their community.

5. Is Providence-Enterprise committed to redevelopment? Can we be sure this will happen?

Yes. We have been before Congress three times with these commitments. We've publicly reaffirmed these commitments in several media, and the commitments are in our contract with HUD/HANO.

6. How is Providence-Enterprise involving residents in the process?

We started talking to residents, neighbors, and different stakeholder groups immediately after receiving the redevelopment contract from HUD/HANO. We have contacted at least 650 Lafitte families by phone, and have met with residents regularly over the last 15 months. Minutes from all of our meetings (which are ongoing), along with our monthly correspondence with residents, are available on our website www.providencech.org.

7. Is Providence-Enterprise providing any other support to residents?

Yes. We offer care management, counseling, and direct assistance to Lafitte families living in Houston, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans. Over 260 families are currently participating, in addition to those served to date.

8. What have residents told Providence-Enterprise about wanting to come home?

Residents have different opinions. There are some who want to come back to the existing buildings now. Many have told us they want to return when the new units are ready. Still others have said they're not coming back at all; they have settled permanently elsewhere.

9. Are there going to be home ownership opportunities?

Yes, for first-time home owners and working families. This is a critical component of our plan.

10. Is Providence-Enterprise doing anything to improve community services?

Yes. We are working with many different organizations to bring better schools, better health care, and more job opportunities to the Tremé and Tulane/Gravier communities.

