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HOUSING AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS
DEMOLITION AND DISPOSITION
RESIDENT CONSULTATION MEETING
ON
PROPOSED DEMOLITION/DISPOSITION ACTIVITY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2006
JOHN MCDONOGH HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
2462 ESPLANADE AVENUE

BEGINNING AT APPROXIMATELY 6:00 P.m.
ENDING AT APPROXIMATELY 9:00 p.m.

REPORTED BY:

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1 MR. BABERS:

2 Good evening. Could I get
3 everyone's attention, please? Before we get
4 started, I'm going to ask Reverend Galatis if
5 she would come up and lead us in a brief word of
6 prayer, please.

7 (PRAYER)

8 MR. BABERS:

9 Thank you, so much. Good evening.
10 My name is Donald Babers. And I serve as
11 president chairman of the board of commissioners
12 for the Housing Authority of New Orleans. Thank
13 you for taking time this evening to attend this
14 meeting. I welcome you here to discuss the
15 proposal HANO and HUD have for redeveloping
16 HANO's public housing inventory.

17 Let me make it clear, we want our
18 families back home. I am sure you are aware,
19 after reviewing the conditions of residents of
20 HANO's public housing developments both before
21 and after Hurricane pre-Katrina, HANO has
22 proposed to demolish four of its major public
23 housing developments and replace them with
24 contemporary mixed-income housing.

25

1 We have met with the resident
2 leadership on several occasions and recognize
3 the importance of sharing information with all
4 of our customers and community stakeholders,
5 which is the purpose for our presence this
6 evening. Tonight, we have several members who
7 will briefly describe the current proposal for
8 C.J. Peete, B.W. Cooper, St. Bernard, and
9 Lafitte, as well as proposal for the next phases
10 of Fischer, Guste and some of our Scattered Site
11 properties.

12 We also have staff that will
13 address return and relocation payments, the
14 opportunity to retrieve your belongings from
15 your former housing unit, the opportunity to
16 return to your housing development once it is
17 rebuilt, and housing assistance that is
18 available to you while we are rebuilding your
19 site. This is very important information about
20 opportunities and assistance that exist in order
21 to remove some barriers that may be preventing
22 you from returning home.

23 Additionally, we have been
24 authorized to work with landlords to resolve
25

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1 lease issues that may be an obstacle to your
2 return home. We have increased the market rate
3 of our voucher program by 35 percent. In order
4 to ensure program participants can compete with
5 every person seeking housing, again, let's me
6 say we do want our families back home as soon as
7 possible.

8 Following these presentations by
9 staff, we will open up the floor to hear your
10 comments. Your opinion does matter to us. At
11 this point our job is to listen. In order to
12 give everyone an opportunity to speak, we will
13 forego a question-and-answer format, but instead
14 record all your comments for review after this
15 meeting. Let me assure you that every
16 consideration will be given to suggestions that
17 can be incorporated into our agency's plan.
18 Therefore, please be sure you have completed and
19 turned in a comment card if you wish to speak.

20 I thank you for your coming, and
21 look forward to our continued meetings in the
22 next several months. And at this time I want to
23 turn the meeting over to Darren Martin, who will
24 be discussing tonight's agenda and our meeting
25

1 format.

2 MR. MARTIN:

3 Thank you, Mr. Babers. Good
4 evening everybody. Good evening everybody.
5 There you go.

6 I'm a New Orleans resident. It's
7 a great -- it's an honor and a privilege to be
8 before you guys. Before we get started, let's
9 get the RSD and Principal Jackson a round of
10 applause for allowing us to be at the John
11 McDonogh High school.

12 There's a lot of people criticized
13 RSD and, et cetera, and I won't go into that.
14 But this is something that they stepped up to
15 the plate that they know we needed a centralized
16 location. And, also, the Housing Authority has
17 adopted John McDonogh High School. We would
18 love to have the media here when we come to
19 mentor to the kids talking about positive
20 choices, several esteem, and et cetera. Guess
21 what? Our kids have a future, and that's what
22 it's about here today.

23 Let me share this with you. I
24 vacated to Houston, Texas. And upon us coming
25

1 back with our plans to rehash and develop our
2 housing, we opened up Iberville first. If you
3 would have saw some of the looks when I told
4 people in those meetings that we're opening up
5 Iberville, if looks could kill, I would be dead.
6 Plain and simple. There was sentiment in this
7 city that didn't want us to come back.

8 And I guess you say, "Why you
9 talking about us? You got on a HANO shirt."
10 The residents know who works with them. The
11 residents know who cares about them. HANO staff
12 has been there in Houston, Atlanta, Baton Rouge,
13 et cetera. We were there. We represented the
14 city in the DRV and everywhere else.

15 I'm a bit emotional, so I don't
16 know why they got me here. All right. I'm here
17 for a purpose. We care about the residents.
18 HANO is the face of affordable housing.

19 Let me tell you something about
20 Mr. Babers. All right? Because I wrote some
21 thing down. Mr. Babers committed housing for
22 our residents. And not just housing, jobs.
23 Jobs for the residents. As we speak, we're
24 employing our residents. So we're giving them
25

1 housing and we're giving them jobs to make a
2 better living for them selves. And the key
3 point about this, we've got to agree to
4 disagree.

5 HANO and HUD doesn't have all the
6 answer. We're not perfect. The major crux of
7 this meeting is to listen to you guys. Your
8 input counts. Trust us in that. I trust
9 Mr. Babers. He has a direct line to Washington,
10 D.C.

11 So with that being said, the
12 ground rules for tonight. Any person who
13 desires to speak at the microphone must sign the
14 list. We will go from the list. Our first
15 priority is the HANO residents. Please don't
16 get discouraged by that. We will call a HANO
17 resident and a concerned citizen. All right?

18 Approximately about 8:30, if we're
19 running out of time, we're going to basically
20 limit it to HANO residents. That's our first
21 priority. Now, trust me. HANO wants to hear
22 from everyone. But our first priority is taking
23 care of our residents. But you must sign the
24 comment card regardless.

25

1 Okay. This is the agenda. Now,
2 we just will introduction by Mr. Donald
3 Babers. My name is Darren Martin. I'm the
4 governmental liaison. Planned and redevelopment
5 and proposed demolition and disposition
6 activity, that would be Judy Moran, director of
7 development. Frequently asked questions, that
8 will be Mr. Dorian Rawles our deputy director.
9 Resident consult -- resident comment period,
10 that would be HANO residents and community
11 stakeholders. And we'll close with Mr. Donald
12 Babers.

13 So without any further adieu,
14 we'll get on with the program. So Judy.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

16 I have a question.

17 MR. MARTIN:

18 We're not entertaining questions
19 at this time.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

21 But I have a question, any way. I
22 want to know this before we get into the horse
23 and pony show. Is this about hearing what the
24 residents want in lieu of doing something?

25

1 MR. MARTIN:

2 I'm glad you asked that.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

4 Or you going to demolish
5 everything any way? You just want to hear it
6 then but tell them, we listen so go tear it
7 down.

8 MR. MARTIN:

9 Okay. I understand that. I'm
10 entertain this one question, because --

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

12 You said in the newspaper that you
13 done already decided to demolish everything.
14 Why you got something on the thing about
15 demolition? You just want to come here and go
16 tell the judge in the courthouse, we had a
17 meeting, we had --

18 MR. MARTIN:

19 Okay. We understand that.
20 We understand the sentiment. Okay. And your
21 question -- your question is duly -- no. Your
22 question is duly noted. We're going to go along
23 with our agenda. And those issues we will
24 listen to each one of those issues.

25

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

2 I got a motion. I motion that you
3 change the agenda to hear the people first and
4 then y'all talk.

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

7 Instead of y'all talk first, y'all
8 listen to us, then y'all can talk.

9 MR. MARTIN:

10 Okay. That comment is duly noted.
11 But we will stick with the program and the
12 agenda as is stated.

13 Okay. Right now we're having Ms.
14 Judy Moran. Thank you all.

15 (AUDIENCE CHANTING: "PEOPLE FIRST")

16 MR. MARTIN:

17 As stated, we will be sticking
18 with the agenda as planned. So if y'all would
19 have a seat so we can get started. And you
20 definitely will be heard from.

21 (AUDIENCE CHANTING: "PEOPLE FIRST")

22 MS. MORAN:

23 Can I have your attention, please?
24 We would like to present our vision to you so
25

1 that you would have something to comment on.

2 MR. MARTIN:

3 Okay. At this point, we will --

4 residents, we understand your sentiments. We

5 would love for you to have a seat so we can

6 proceed with our agenda. Thank you.

7 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

8 MR. MARTIN:

9 The agenda will proceed as

10 planned. Each resident will have enough time at

11 the set time.

12 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

13 MR. BABERS.

14 Let me just say that you-all are

15 cutting into the time of the residents being

16 able to have that time to speak. We have a set

17 agenda. And we're going follow the agenda.

18 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

19 MR. BABERS:

20 I think you need to know what the

21 plan is, primarily, before you can speak on the

22 plan.

23 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

24 MR. BABERS:

25

1 You know the meeting -- at nine
2 o'clock -- we have the auditorium until nine
3 o'clock; so if you-all want to be disruptive,

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

5 Have you ever lived in the housing
6 project? Have you ever lived in a housing
7 development? The Mayor said he seen one unit
8 and that's it. Have you seen him anymore?

9 AUDIENCE:

10 No.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

12 Anybody heard from him?

13 AUDIENCE:

14 No.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

16 We have a predetermined solution.
17 Get rid of him.

18 MR. BABERS:

19 At this time, Judith Moran will be
20 our next speaker.

21 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

22 MS. MORAN:

23 I would like to present to you the
24 vision that HANO has for redevelopment of this.

25

1 HANO is proposing to transform its housing sites
2 into mixed-income communities. That leaves
3 5,000 units, 3,000 being public housing units.
4 We would like to show you evidence of what we've
5 done with other sites: Fischer redevelopment,
6 the New Desire, and New River Garden.

7 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

8 MS. MORAN:

9 We have proposed to redevelop some
10 additional sites; that being C.J. Peete, B.W.
11 Cooper, St. Bernard, Lafitte, Tchopitoulas,
12 Maisant Royal.

13 PASTOR GALATIS:

14 Excuse me everyone. Would you-all
15 please just listen. Listen to me one minute.
16 No. Just listen one minute. I'm not against
17 you.

18 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

19 MR. BABERS:

20 Could we please get your
21 attention, please? May we get your attention,
22 please? It is very important that we move the
23 agenda forward. There are many individuals that
24 are here that would like to hear what we have to
25

1 say.

2 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

3 MR. BABERS:

4 Okay. We're going to move forward
5 with our agenda. I would appreciate if you-all
6 would give us your attention so we can move our
7 agenda forward.

8 Sir, please sit down. Thank you
9 very much for your attention.

10 MS. MORAN:

11 I will go quickly. In order to
12 move forward with any proposed plan, our
13 visions. We are required and desire to have
14 resident meetings. We anticipate holding
15 charretts. We have a design and a financing
16 process to go through. We have to discuss a
17 relocation plan. We have demolition and
18 disposition activities to discuss, which are the
19 major subject for tonight's meeting. We have
20 infrastructure construction, housing
21 construction, and, ultimately, new occupancy, as
22 a part of the vision that we have planned for
23 the new site.

24 At this time, it is upon us to

25

1 receive HUD approval of certain activities that
2 we have outlined in the vision. The first and
3 foremost being that of demolition and
4 disposition applications, which, again, is the
5 primary subject for tonight's meeting. We
6 welcome and are required to have resident
7 comments and resident involvement in any
8 relocation and demolition plan. As a part of
9 this plan, you are also required to do
10 environmental assessments, which we're in the
11 middle of doing. And because certain sites are
12 either historical in nature or have the
13 potential to be historical or maybe adjacent to
14 historical properties, we have to do an extra
15 step of a 106 consultation with historic
16 preservation officers.

17 The demolition disposition
18 process, which is what we're here to talk about,
19 requires resident consultation, which is
20 tonight's meeting. It requires that we would
21 consider your comments. You will be given
22 further instructions tonight on your comment
23 period. It requires board action. At this time
24 we're scheduled to take the approval process of
25

1 the demolition disposition application to our
2 HANO board on December 7. It requires
3 completing an environmental review record, which
4 also happens for the cases of C.J. Peete, B.W.
5 Cooper, St. Bernard, and Lafitte. It requires
6 consultation with the historic preservation
7 community on those buildings. And, finally, the
8 demolition disposition application process
9 requires HUD approval.

10 The plans for C.J. Peete, that are
11 proposed to you tonight includes developing 50
12 units. That has already been funded for the
13 portion of the site and the demolition of the
14 balance of the site.

15 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

16 MS. MORAN:

17 The plan for St. Bernard includes
18 the proposed demolition of the units that are on
19 the site as well as the redevelopment of 465
20 units.

21 The plan for B.W. Cooper includes
22 the development of 410 units, proposed
23 demolition and proposed disposition.

24 The plan for Lafitte includes the
25

1 development of 812 units that have been included
2 in the 2007 application for funding. The
3 demolition of units and disposition of the site.

4 Imperial Drive a Scattered Site,
5 for which we've already received funding for 50
6 units, the disposition approval is required for
7 that site.

8 There are scattered sites that are
9 also in our proposed plan that includes General
10 Ogden, Maisant Royal, and Tchopitoulas.

11 Demolition approval is required for Tchopitoulas
12 and General Ogden. Disposition is required at
13 all sites.

14 (AUDIENCE CHANTING: "NO DEMOLITION")

15 MS. MORAN:

16 There's also a number of scattered
17 sites. And the list has been provided to you
18 that we are requesting approval for demolition
19 and disposition in the event that we transfer
20 those properties to private developers.

21 We see visions in our benefits.
22 We see having the opportunity to provide decent,
23 safe, and affordable housing in viable
24 communities. We see the opportunity to

25

1 construct durable units. And we see the
2 opportunity to provide new housing for you in
3 holistic communities.

4 Thank you. That concludes my
5 presentation.

6 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

7 (AUDIENCE CHANTING: "NO DEMOLITION")

8 MR. RAWLES:

9 Good evening. My name is Dorian
10 Rawles. I'm the deputy director for
11 operations. It's my task to discuss the
12 frequently asked questions that have been
13 offered to our office. These answers will be
14 given verbally by me out loud. But they will
15 also be included in handouts to take home, and
16 will be posted on the HANO website,
17 www.hano.org.

18 Primarily, persons have asked what
19 is our reoccupancy strategy for our housing
20 units that we are reviewing. The pecking order
21 for the reoccupancy is pre-Katrina residents,
22 elderly/disabled residents, and a unit match
23 lottery for other residents.

24 This return policy brings to our
25

1 plate some questions. The questions are:

2 I am currently leasing in another
3 state. What are my options?

4 As Mr. Babers said, HUD has
5 authorized HANO to work with other public
6 housing agencies and out of state landlords to
7 assist residents in amicably ending their lease
8 if they wish to return to New Orleans. Former
9 HANO tenants who are in this situation are
10 encouraged to call HANO to obtain this
11 assistance. However, a resident should not walk
12 away from an active lease without authorization
13 from his or her Public Housing Agency.

14 Another question: I am a former
15 HANO tenant but I am not currently receiving
16 any type of rental assistance. What options
17 are available to me?

18 All HANO participates whether they
19 were public housing client or Section 8 voucher
20 holders are eligible for rental assistance under
21 the Disaster Voucher Program. To receive this
22 assistance, former HANO clients must qualify
23 through the Public Housing Agency in the
24 jurisdiction that they are currently residing.

25

1 This is also HANO's way of maintaining a
2 client's contact information for ongoing
3 communication.

4 I have heard that the DVP program
5 ends in September of 2007. What happens to me
6 at that time?

7 The answer to that question is:
8 The DVP Program does end in September 2007,
9 however HUD and HANO have made provisions for
10 continuing assistance for all pre-katrina HANO
11 clients. Those persons who were participants
12 with the Section 8 Voucher Program will continue
13 to receive assistance through the Section 8
14 program. Those persons who were public housing
15 residents will either return to their pre-storm
16 unit or be issued a Tenant Protection Voucher to
17 ensure continued rental assistance.

18 The next question that is
19 frequently asked: What do I have to do to
20 qualify for a HANO Relocation Assistance?

21 And the answer to that question
22 is: The HANO Relocation Assistance is for
23 qualified pre-katrina public housing tenants
24 only. The completion of a short relocation
25

1 assistance application is required to receive
2 these benefits. Persons interested in receiving
3 applications for those benefits should call HANO
4 at its toll-free number (888) 361-3093.

5 The next question is: I have
6 heard that rents have drastically increased
7 since the storm. Will my Section 8 Vouchers
8 cover these new rents?

9 HUD has authorized HANO to
10 increase its Fair Market Rents by 35%. This
11 increased rate has allowed HANO clients to
12 attain rental units in a highly competitive
13 housing market.

14 (AUDIENCE CHANTING: "BRING PEOPLE HOME")

15 For example, a three-bedroom unit
16 that rented for \$987 prior to the storm, now
17 qualifies for rental assistance up to \$1, 447.

18 And, finally, the question is:
19 Will HANO allow me to retrieve my belongings
20 from my pre-storm unit?

21 And the answer is: Yes, HANO has
22 allowed residents to retrieve personal
23 belongings. HANO clients should call
24 1-888-361-3093 to schedule an appointment. Your
25

1 appointments should be made 24 hours in advance.

2 Thank you very much.

3 MR. MARTIN:

4 You might want to hear this. This
5 is the section of the meeting -- this is the
6 section of the meeting in where we hear from the
7 residents. All right. Now, if you have not
8 signed in, HANO residents, if you have not
9 signed this list, you need to see staff.

10 (CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM JEFFERSON ENTERS)

11 (APPLAUSE)

12 MR. MARTIN:

13 Okay. If you have not signed in
14 with HANO staff, please see a HANO staff
15 representatives in the back. And right now
16 we're about to proceed with the comment period.

17 Okay. The first person is Terry
18 Richards. 2211 Conti. That's a good idea. The
19 speakers will be in this order, Terry Richards,

20 Debra Williams is 1458 N. Robertson, Alvin Noah,

21 Sharon Gatlin, then Tanya Davis, Linda Brooks.

22 Can we have those speakers to approach the mic,
23 please.

24 Each speaker will be allowed three

25

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1 minutes. Before we get started, let me state
2 this because some residents have a concern.
3 Some residents signed on the sheets that were
4 earmarked for HANO residents. So, basically,
5 we're going to go from the sheet that the staff
6 gave me. So, hopefully, our HANO residents will
7 not be ignored. We will address them. We're
8 going to go from this particular sheet. And I
9 have yours.

10 Could you state your name for the
11 record, please?

12 MS. DAVIS:

13 Tanya Davis. I just want to say,
14 This is the HANO residents, and they have
15 returned.

16 MR. MARTIN:

17 Ms. Richards, Ms. Williams, Alvin
18 Noah, Sherry Gatlin, Linda Brooks.

19 Okay, moving on. Leah Poree.
20 Please come up as I call your name. Leah Poree,
21 Donnetta Benjamin, Barry Kaufman, Tomora
22 Jourdan, Colleen Carter.

23 Please State your name for the
24 record.

25

1 MS. BROOKS:

2 I'm Linda Brooks. My question is:
3 If you tearing down everything, where is people
4 going to stay if you tearing down everything?

5 MR. MARTIN:

6 Okay. We're taking your comments
7 and we will address those at a later date.

8 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

9 MS. BROOKS:

10 How long will it take for them to
11 get back to me to answer my question? Because
12 where I'm staying at now, I'm catching hell.
13 They sent me a light bill to pay from 3515
14 Thalia Street in the project. I never paid a
15 light bill before. So how can you send me a
16 light bill from a project? I'm catching hell.

17 MR. MARTIN:

18 Thank you. State your name for
19 the record.

20 MS. CARTER:

21 My name is Colleen Carter. I came
22 here in November. We came back here in
23 November. And they want us to come back. I
24 came back here and lost everything in Houston.

25

1 They moved out all my stuff out in Houston,
2 y'all going pay me back for that? Huh? That's
3 all I want to know.

4 MR. MARTIN:

5 It's duly noted, ma'am.

6 MS. CARTER:

7 Yeah. Right I know. We want our
8 people back here. Y'all are playing games with
9 people. Y'all want our rent, but y'all don't
10 want to do nothing for us.

11 MR. MARTIN:

12 Okay. Danel White, Darrelyn
13 Allen, Gloria Porter and Metra Hayes. Could you
14 please come to the mic? Please state your name.

15 MS. DIXON:

16 My name is Natasha Dixon. And my
17 question is this: The money that y'all paying
18 these landlords out here for those houses, it
19 ain't worth. First of all, I lived in a flooded
20 development. My development that I lived in
21 looked better than the house that I rent that
22 they're paying Section 8.

23 Second of all, if they talking
24 about redevelopment, I'm for it. But why can't

25

1 y'all not do it in phases. When y'all fixed the
2 Florida project, we're living in the bricks.
3 Y'all took and tore one side down. Developed
4 that side, then removed us to the other side.
5 Why that can't happen now to get the people
6 home.

7 I have parents out in Texas. My
8 kids out there in Texas. I'm living in New
9 Orleans because I work for the city. And I
10 cannot afford to pay rent or be back and forth
11 from Texas to New Orleans. I need a permanent
12 home. I want to live in New Orleans. I will
13 not let nobody move me. I want to be home. My
14 family and my people want to be home. We've
15 never lived apart before. And that's all I need
16 to know. And when are they going to come back
17 with the comments that are answered for the
18 questions that I asked?

19 MR. MARTIN:

20 Okay. Keep in mind, the
21 proceedings are being recorded as we speak. And
22 all these issues will be addressed. Okay. Your
23 comments are in the record as we speak.

24 MS. DIXON:

25

1 We hear what y'all saying. And we
2 just getting -- but about answers for what are
3 we asking and what's going on with us? Are we
4 the people?

5 MR. MARTIN:

6 I understand. But we have to
7 adhere to the time limits.

8 MS. DIXON:

9 When it's dealing with y'all
10 there's no time limits. But to us, whatever
11 y'all are saying that's just it. But us there's
12 a time limit. Y'all want the people here?
13 Y'all claim y'all want us back. Do What y'all
14 have to do. We're working. Everybody in here
15 -- everybody not causing problems in New
16 Orleans. Everybody working. I've been paying
17 my taxes. Since I was 16 years old I had a job
18 and been working.

19 MR. MARTIN:

20 I understand. I understand. We
21 have to move on. Thank you.

22 Next person, please come to the
23 microphone. Ernestine Campbell, Regina Banks.
24 What's your name, ma'am?

25

1 MS. POREE:

2 My name is Jill Poree. I'm a
3 resident at Lafitte development. I would like
4 to know why all those livable units in Lafitte
5 -- all the units in Lafitte that are livable,
6 and you're talking about not bringing people
7 back home. Why can't y'all open Lafitte and let
8 those people come home?

9 (APPLAUSE)

10 MR. MARTIN:

11 Okay. Thank you for your
12 comments. Okay. Right now we also have the
13 sheet with citizens. Kathy Marie Galatis.
14 Reverend Douglas Dusan, last name H-S-U, then
15 Elias Sed, Mary Summers, Danny Shapiro, and G.J.
16 Hodge. Could you please come up here in that
17 order, please?

18 REV. GALATIS:

19 Thank you kindly. The first thing
20 that I want to know is why is it since the
21 housing developments are the strongest buildings
22 in this city --

23 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

24 I know y'all. Just let me finish.

25

1 Since the buildings are the strongest ones in
2 the city, and when there are hurricanes most of
3 us leave our homes and go to the project.

4 The next thing is: Why can't
5 you-all cut out the middle of some of the
6 developments, spread them out, make some patios
7 and some yards that people can have a place for
8 their children, since we're not going to have
9 that many people coming back as before.

10 The next thing is: Who's getting
11 the money for the --

12 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

13 Wait. Hold on. Be quiet until I
14 finish.

15 -- for the steel that's coming out
16 of those buildings, and the iron? Who's
17 getting all this extra money? And the reason
18 why I believe they want to build buildings is to
19 get contracts so that people can make money off
20 these contracts. Why are the places that's on
21 the list is Tchopitoulas. Tchopitoulas is a
22 wonderful building. I went in some of the
23 residents' building there to assist them. I
24 could live in one those buildings even though I
25

1 live in the Garden District. I could live in
2 that building, it is a strong, solid building.

3 I believe that part of this is
4 ethnic cleansing. And I believe that a lot of
5 people -- and I believe that a lot of people
6 that are empowered, you are not really being
7 told what this really is all about. You're
8 being used. I am saying now that those housing
9 developments do not need to be torn down
10 anymore. They just need to be divided and
11 opened up and give the people some space. That
12 is the strongest buildings in the south.

13 (APPLAUSE)

14 And I thank you-all. And want to
15 close -- just want to close and say this: May
16 our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be on our side.
17 In Jesus' name.

18 MR. MARTIN:

19 Thank you. Please state your name
20 for the record.

21 MS. CAMPBELL:

22 My name is Ernestine Campbell. I
23 stay in the St. Bernard projects. I'm on a
24 moderate income. I get SSI. My light bill is
25

1 still \$400 and \$500. So how I'm supposed to pay
2 my light bill and live too? How can we pay and
3 live, and we don't have nothing but an income
4 come in? And we have the light bill is \$400 and
5 \$500 a month, so can I bring my light bill to
6 HANO to help me on it?

7 MR. MARTIN:

8 It's in the record. I know I'm
9 telling you that. But every comment is being
10 duly noted.

11 MS. CAMPBELL:

12 Everything is in the record. When
13 y'all plan on letting out the record so you can
14 let us know what's going on? Will you answer my
15 question?

16 MR. MARTIN:

17 We will address each question.
18 Moving on, Dorian Hastings. Dorian Hastings.
19 Okay. Let's move onto some HANO residents. In
20 this order please come Paula Taylor, Sharon
21 Jasper, Edith Lawrence, Marilyn Hall. Henderson
22 is the last name, 2501, and Alvin Richardson.

23 Okay. State your name. Did we
24 call your name?

25

1 MS. HASTINGS:

2 My name is Dorian Hastings. I'm a
3 resident of Central city. I live on M.L.K.
4 Boulevard. And I would like to yield my time to
5 Millie Charles who has been working in public
6 housing. She's the Dean of SUNO School of
7 Social Work. Come on Millie. She's been a
8 public housing advocate for 60 years.

9 MR. MARTIN:

10 You got two minutes left.

11 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

12 (APPLAUSE)

13 MR. MARTIN:

14 Excuse me, ma'am, my mother taught
15 me to respect elders. You have three minutes.
16 I'm sorry for saying you have two minutes left.
17 You have a full three minutes. Please proceed.

18 MS. CHARLES:

19 In 1978 --

20 MR. MARTIN:

21 Just one second. Please state
22 your name for the record.

23 MS. CHARLES:

24 Millie Charles. In 1978, I put
25

1 forth tenants in Calliope, that is now named
2 Cooper, and in St. Bernard. And I want to tell
3 you the people who lived in the those projects
4 did better than people who lived outside. They
5 had pride in their -- they worked hard to keep
6 those apartments. Why would they want to tear
7 down those apartments and our people who had no
8 money to go in private housing? Why would they
9 take those projects from those people and not
10 permit them to come back.

11 (APPLAUSE)

12 They were not -- they didn't leave
13 on their own volition. They were evacuated. So
14 they have a right to return. And HANO and HUD
15 have a right to see to it that they get here.

16 MR. MARTIN:

17 Thank you.

18 Please state your name for the
19 record.

20 MS. TAYLOR:

21 Paula Taylor. My question is
22 this: Why can't you bring as many displaced
23 residents home as possible and do the sites in
24 phases? Why they all have to come down at one
25

1 time? That's my question.

2 MS. JASPER:

3 My name is Sharon Jasper. I was
4 born and raised in New Orleans. I'm from
5 St. Bernard Housing Development. That's where I
6 was born and my family was born. I've been here
7 -- right now, I'm back in New Orleans. I'm
8 residing in Texas. My family has been
9 scattered. I want to know why you want to
10 demolish livable apartment complexes. Tell me
11 that. why? My family, we were here.

12 They have people here from HANO
13 living on fixed incomes. People that lost their
14 jobs paying zero rent. Now they're living in
15 places where they have to pay utilities. If
16 they don't have a job, how they going to pay
17 utilities? How they going to live? Y'all are
18 making it very hard for us.

19 You talk about the crime. You
20 have created the crime. And the crime is going
21 to get worse.

22 (APPLAUSE)

23 The Mayor, the Governor,
24 everybody, the council members, they going to
25

1 have crime until you bring us back and put us
2 back in our apartments. Put us back in our
3 apartments. Clean it up. Clean y'all act
4 up. You know what you're doing. You been
5 wanting the public housing -- don't use
6 pre-Katrina Let us back home.

7 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

8 Don't use pre-Katrina to do what
9 you been wanting to do. Answer me. We coming
10 home. We're tired of this bullshit.

11 (APPLAUSE)

12 MR. MARTIN:

13 Ms. Edith Lawrence. Okay.

14 MS. HAWTHORNE:

15 Good evening. My name a Sharla
16 Hawthorne. I want to know how all of y'all
17 sleep at night knowing you put people out that
18 don't have nowhere to go. First of all, the
19 vouchers y'all giving us don't cover the rent
20 that they done raised up so high. They price
21 gouging. But you want to tear down the projects
22 when you got people that want to go back home.
23 Clean them up. Let them go back home.

24 How y'all sleep at night? How you

25

1 sleep at night? What you doing is not right.
2 It's not right. Them vouchers are not going to
3 cover for nowhere to go. And half the houses in
4 the city are not going to go. And most of the
5 people don't even take the vouchers. Y'all know
6 what y'all doing.

7 MR. MARTIN:

8 State your name for the record.

9 MS. RICHARDSON:

10 Good evening. My name is Alvin
11 Richardson. My name is Alvin Richardson. I'm
12 going to turn around so everybody can see my
13 face, because I'm a young man who grew up in the
14 projects. I grew up in the I Iberville Project,
15 the Desire, the Calliope, the St. Thomas, St.
16 Bernard, and I survived them all. I'm here to
17 represent everybody like me. All these my
18 people.

19 I'm also a contractor. I'm could
20 to be making a hundred and something to a
21 million dollars a year with a contract, because
22 I know somebody personally who want me to work.
23 And I refuse to do it, period. Because why
24 should I tear down what raised me.

25

1 (APPLAUSE)

2 You say that we can ask questions.
3 But when I listen to this gentleman before me
4 speak, everybody that asks you a question you
5 sound like a robot. If I was born in '57, I
6 would call you Uncle Tom or a house nigger.
7 Because you're repeating the same old thing over
8 and over and over.

9 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

10 When I look at the jobs that's
11 being done -- and I would also like to say this.
12 You can't do nothing to me because I survived
13 the ghetto. I've been to Angola. I'm a
14 registered voter. You see. So when you look at
15 them black men in the streets killing each
16 other, think sometimes that maybe it's the
17 police sometimes that's doing it. Maybe it's
18 the Mexican or a foreigner, or it's the Ku Klux
19 Klan. It's a not always another black man
20 killing another black man.

21 We will come home, period, if it
22 takes five years, ten year, 15 years, we will
23 come home. All I want these ladies who have
24 children and elderly people to know that every
25

1 young black man is not against you. I got this
2 suit on right now, just like I might have to put
3 on camouflaged, if they try to kill any one of
4 us.

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 MR. MARTIN:

7 Please proceed.

8 MS. MARSHAL:

9 Excuse me. Please listen to these
10 comments. My name is it Jocquelyn Marshal. I'm
11 a C.J. Peete resident, council board member. My
12 question is: We received a letter in the mail.
13 And I was very appalled at the letter that we
14 received. On the back of that letter they had
15 all of the sites that were being proposed for
16 demolition. I looked at that letter, and I
17 said, "These people who are running the Housing
18 Authority, who are running HUD, Congress, they
19 must be crazy. They have to be losing their
20 mind."

21 It's unrealistic to think that
22 right now housing is what's needed in the city
23 of New Orleans. But yet they're going to tear
24 down all of this property. And I it's
25

1 unrealistic to think that once the DVP Vouchers
2 expire residents are going to rollover to
3 Section 8. Do you-all honestly think all the
4 landlords are going to put their property on
5 Section 8? Even if they do, somebody is going
6 to suffer. The people in the private sector,
7 they're not going to be able to find housing; so
8 somebody is going to suffer in the city of New
9 Orleans.

10 And I yield this question to you
11 Congressman Jefferson. I voted for you, sir,
12 because I have faith in your feelings.

13 (APPLAUSE)

14 Let me ask you this question:
15 Listen. Right now, sir, HUD's mission is to
16 supply what's in demand. At this very moment
17 housing is in demand. So, Congressman
18 Jefferson, we're asking you to ask your
19 constituents in Washington why are they
20 proposing to diminish the supply? Ask them that
21 question, sir.

22 (APPLAUSE)

23 CONGRESSMAN JEFFERSON:

24 Let me turn around and talk to
25

1 y'all. And I won't take long and get your
2 program off-track. This is not a political
3 speech. Don't worry about that. I have not
4 come here to talk about politics. My -- some
5 months ago -- let me ask you this: How many
6 folks in here before the storm had a job?
7 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY).

8 Now, here's the point. Here's the
9 point. We've got a lot of great people here
10 who, like anybody else, love this city and just
11 want to come back home. Being poor is not a
12 crime. Not making money is not a crime. These
13 are good decent people.

14 Now, I have written to the
15 secretary of HUD, to HANO, to everybody. And
16 I've said this: When we first got started with
17 recovery here I went to the Tulane Hospital.
18 And there's no place that needs to be more
19 sanitized, more sanitary, than a hospital.
20 Below on the lower levels where it flooded, they
21 had run this thing down to the studs. They go
22 in and used the strongest chemicals they could
23 to clean it out. And they told me there was no
24 place that was not subject to remediation. They
25

1 could clean it all out. And they did on those
2 bottom floors.

3 There was nothing there but studs.
4 They then took patients upstairs and treated
5 them. If you can treat a patient who is ill and
6 sick under this duress, there is no way that
7 people cannot then walk through a ground floor
8 and go upstairs and live in a place that's
9 perfectly well and was not flooded.

10 (APPLAUSE)

11 So I say to HANO tonight, let's
12 get our people back home. Stop making excuses.
13 It's time to get the people back home and back
14 in their houses. There's no reason why we can't
15 do that. Questions need to be answered. It's
16 almost impulsive to have questions raised by
17 people who are in great distress, and to say
18 your concern is noted, and they walk away
19 without an answer.

20 It would be really important to
21 just give them a word of an answer so they can
22 feel better about their circumstances. I travel
23 all over the place. People are suffering. It's
24 very tough to be away from home this long. It's
25

1 very hard to be away from home this long. Bring
2 our people back home. All of our people back
3 home. And we need the housing. We want the
4 housing. And all the time right now in public
5 housing units, we can cleanup on the bottom
6 floors. Let our folks live up top and bring
7 them back home.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 MR. MARTIN:

10 Okay. We're going to go back to
11 the residents list. There are several elected
12 officials here.

13 MS. WALKER-WOODFORK:

14 I don't think you want to know
15 about the elected officials right now. I think
16 that we need to speak right now.

17 MR. MARTIN:

18 That was my point.

19 MS. WALKER-WOODFORK:

20 And all I'm saying. I'm in here.
21 I'm not even worried about them. Other than
22 congressman Jefferson, he's folk and I'm fine.

23 All I'm saying is this. I was in
24 Baton Rouge said that.

25

1 MR. MARTIN:

2 Ms. Woodfork, could you give your
3 name for the record?

4 MS. WALKER-WOODFORK:

5 I think they know my name. My
6 name is Lily walker-Woodfork. And all I'm
7 saying is all these people here, they need to
8 come home. We can't -- I came here to ask
9 questions. But I also came here, I thought, to
10 receive answers. Because all the people that's
11 on the committee's, mostly, they're racist.
12 Nobody cares for us. Nobody cares about -- if
13 they could cleanup those warehouses out there --
14 tell me that -- charge all that money for the
15 warehouses, they could have cleaned up our
16 houses for us to move in. But it seems as
17 though nobody seems to care.

18 It's like nobody cares. We -- and
19 I'm sure all these people here need to be home.
20 And you should note, you should also note that
21 the majority of us here are registered voters.
22 We don't have anybody here, I don't think so,
23 not that I know of. All I'm asking you is what
24 do you guys intend to do about people coming
25

1 home.

2 Then you got us in here. Like,
3 that's -- what kind of state is this? Look.
4 I can't say nothing. Look how you got me here.
5 This is how you have me here. And I can't
6 appreciate it, because I'm very human. And all
7 I'm saying, we don't need all these people up
8 against the wall. I said that when I came here
9 tonight. If I go to jail it won't be for
10 killing nobody. It won't be for stealing. But
11 it will be for saying what I think needs to be
12 said.

13 And I'm not going to even stay up
14 here that long to say anything else other than
15 we need to come home. But my name is Lily
16 Walker-Woodfork, and I approve this message that
17 I'm telling you.

18 (APPLAUSE)

19 MR. MARTIN:

20 Okay. Elizabeth Blackman. Sheri
21 Hair, 9109 Frontier. And another person was 147
22 Milton. The other person, I can't distinguish
23 their name stays at 3022 Toulouse.

24 Please state your name for the

25

1 record, now.

2 MS. Hobb:

3 My name is G.J. Hobb.

4 (SINGING) I shall not, I shall not
5 be moved.

6 (AUDIENCE SINGING ALONG)

7 I shall not, I shall not be moved.

8 I shall not, I shall not be moved by the waters.

9 I shall not be moved.

10 (SPEAKING) I want you to know

11 today I'm here because it's very, very important

12 that I am here. I grew up in the magnolia

13 Housing Development. They called me back. They

14 called you back. We're not. You're valued.

15 You're very important. Keep the love that you

16 have for yourselves, your families and spread it

17 to the younger children who might not have

18 families, who might not have a home either.

19 But we are going to stay. We are

20 going to stay on the front so that we can make

21 sure that the houses are not torn down. They

22 are not supposed to be down.

23 Who gave HUD permission? Who pays

24 HUD? We do. We do. We pay for the housing.

25

1 Our taxes. You might not have jobs now. But we
2 can create jobs. We can create that. I was not
3 a bad child. Not a bad child. And I would like
4 to know who gave HUD the permission -- the
5 permission to take the houses down. They're
6 mighty strong. They're mighty strong. And so
7 are we.

8 I want you to know, also, that
9 will work for no pay. I do work for no pay now.

10 MR. MARTIN:

11 Okay. Your time has been up.

12 MS. Hobb:

13 No, it's not.

14 MR. MARTIN:

15 Yes. We have several speakers we
16 need to get to. Please, your 3 minutes is
17 passed.

18 MS. Hobb:

19 I will --

20 MR. MARTIN:

21 Okay. The next speakers will be
22 Cynthia Wiggins, Ernestine Campbell, Regina
23 Banks. And following them, regular citizens
24 Randolph Scott, Denatus King, Michael Howells.

25

1 Please come in that order --

2 MS. HOBB:

3 I want to say in conclusion -- I
4 wanted to say in conclusion, I have jobs. I
5 have jobs most of you do not know --

6 MR. MARTIN:

7 Ma'am, we understand. We have to
8 move on to the other speakers, please. Your
9 time is up. Please. Please. Let's move on.
10 Thank you.

11 MS. HOBB:

12 In conclusion -- I can speak in
13 conclusion.

14 MR. MARTIN:

15 Thank you. Okay. At this time.
16 We have Ms. Cynthia Wiggins, Ernestine Campbell,
17 Regina Banks, Randolph Scott, Denatus King, and
18 Michael Howells. After that, then we will go
19 back to the residents.

20 MS. WIGGINS:

21 I have a couple of comments I
22 would like to make. One with respect to the
23 presentation that was done on tonight.

24 Mr. Babers we want to respectfully

25

1 request that the Housing Authority of New
2 Orleans withdraw the RFQ that's out on the
3 street for the redevelopment.

4 MR. MARTIN:

5 Excuse me. Ms. Wiggins, could you
6 please state your name for the record?

7 MS. WIGGINS:

8 My name is Cynthia Wiggins. I
9 live in Guste Homes.

10 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

11 That's okay. Again, we want to
12 respectfully request that the RFQ be removed and
13 taken off the streets. Because based on what
14 you said tonight that you are seeking resident
15 input, if in fact you are seeking our input,
16 then you need to withdraw that RFQ to allow our
17 input to be in that document.

18 Secondly, I want to add that the
19 Housing Authority of New Orleans would strongly
20 consider a phased approach to the redevelopment
21 of these properties; that the renovation at
22 Lafitte for the lower units take place instead
23 of total demolition. We believe that the
24 Lafitte complex can be opened up today, not
25

1 tomorrow.

2 We also want to put in the record
3 that in according to 24CFR964, HUD is in
4 violation of resident involvement and the
5 participation and redeveloping of each one of
6 the properties.

7 Also, we want to say that the
8 Housing Authority of New Orleans have failed the
9 Louisiana Housing Finance Authorities's request
10 for resident input in community input into their
11 tax credit application that has been submitted
12 to the state.

13 We are also asking that the
14 Housing Authority of New Orleans would open up
15 all of the units at B.W. Cooper on the old side.

16 We're asking that the Housing
17 Authority of New Orleans would allow the 144
18 families that currently, or prior to
19 Pre-katrina, was living at C.J. Peete be allowed
20 to return back to their homes while you
21 redevelop the vacant lot at C.J. Peete.

22 We're asking that the Housing
23 Authority of New Orleans would reopen the
24 St. Bernard complex on the second floor up and
25

1 allow those families to return while we develop
2 a plan to redevelop that particular property.

3 I also want to go on the record to
4 say this to you. We are not opposed to the
5 redeveloping. We are opposed to this process
6 that you-all are using that does not afford us
7 the opportunity to participate in the
8 redevelopment in the thing that impact our lives
9 and the lives of our children. That's what
10 you're hearing here tonight. We have a right to
11 be involved.

12 We have a right to say how we want
13 to see our communities redeveloped. And all the
14 residents are asking is to allow us to come back
15 home. Because if the truth be told that our
16 residents are being abused up in Dallas, Texas,
17 up in Houston, Texas, in other cities. When the
18 money was flowing, they wanted us to stay. Well
19 the money has dried up, and now they want us to
20 leave.

21 And the truth be told, we want to
22 leave. These people have a right to come back
23 home. And if we want to talk about crime in the
24 city of New Orleans, then the Mayor and the City
25

1 Council need to have a real crime summit.
2 Because if the truth be told, crime is a social
3 issue in this damned city. It is not about them
4 buildings. That is women and children that live
5 in public housing. That is not black males
6 killing one another that's living up in those
7 communities. It is women that own a lease up in
8 public housing, and not the men that is out here
9 up in the city killing one another. It is drug
10 dealers killing drug dealers. They're not
11 killing innocent people.

12 And if this city wants to do
13 something about crime, then they need to do the
14 right thing about the people that live here and
15 stop playing politics with people lives, and do
16 what's right for the people of the city.

17 You want to deal with crime?
18 Let's deal with crime. Because the truth be
19 told, white people can't deal with the crime in
20 this city.

21 MR. MARTIN:

22 Ernestine Campbell. Ernestine
23 Campbell, Regina Banks. Okay. Randolph Scott,
24 Denatus King, Mike Howells. Randolph Scott,
25

1 Denatus King, Mike Howells.

2 MR. SCOTT:

3 My name is Randolph Scott. I just
4 want to say something very brief. The comments
5 that we hear are coming from the people, the
6 people of this city. The residents are.
7 Speaking. As I observed at the beginning of
8 this meeting, it appears as though an agenda has
9 already been made in which decisions were made
10 for the people on behalf of the people. This is
11 wrong. It should not be done. And you need to
12 listen to the people.

13 If the people have spoken and they
14 come out and say no demolition, then it should
15 not be any demolition. If the people say that
16 they want to come back home, it is your duty and
17 obligation to ensure that the people come home.
18 It's absolutely no excuse for that. And if you
19 do not do that, then we have some serious
20 problems here. That's all I want to say.

21 MR. KING:

22 Denatus King, president, New
23 Orleans Branch NAACP. What we have in the NAACP
24 is formally status position on this issue. This
25

1 issue is indeed a civil rights issue. No matter
2 how it's couched. No matter how it's framed,
3 when you look at the residents that have been
4 displaced, you see it's primarily almost a
5 hundred percent African-American.

6 For almost a hundred years, the
7 NAACP has Marched, has died for civil rights in
8 this country. And right now, the New Orleans
9 branch NAACP announces, reiterates, again, that
10 it is time for those types of actions to be
11 gone. The residents of public housing in the
12 city of New Orleans have a civil right to return
13 to their homes. It's nothing that's being asked
14 for. It's nothing that's being requested. It's
15 a right that they have to return home.

16 And, again, the NAACP, as it has
17 for almost a hundred years, will continue to
18 stand up for the civil rights of our people.

19 MR. MARTIN:

20 Okay. After Mr. Howells. We have
21 Merlene. I don't know her last name. She stays
22 2605 St. Bernard. Woodfork has spoken and
23 Stephanie Mingo.

24 Ms. Woodfork says she'll speak

25

1 again. Okay. Mr. Howells.

2 MR. HOWELLS:

3 I'm Mike Howells. And I'm with C3
4 Hands Off Iberville. And some of you might
5 wonder why Iberville is open? All right.

6 Because nobody who had money wanted that place
7 open, because it's very valuable real estate.

8 Well, hear's the reason Iberville
9 is open, right. It's like Lafitte or
10 St. Bernard. They want to do the same thing.
11 You just look at our flyer we're handing out
12 when we did that. The people of Iberville did
13 not wait for permission to return. They took a
14 chance, you know. They knew that they might be
15 harassed, arrested, or whatever. But they put
16 their love of home above their fear of authority
17 and power. And took their destiny in their own
18 hands and came back.

19 And say what you might about
20 Iberville, the reality is they set a motto for
21 everybody. All right. They did not allow
22 themselves to be beaten down so far that they
23 are going to allow their God-given right of
24 having a home being taken away from them.

25

1 All right.

2 I think this is something that we
3 ought to take look at with our other complexes.
4 Why isn't Lafitte open? Lafitte is in fine
5 shape. You know that. Anyone who lives in
6 Lafitte knows that. It could easily be -- if
7 there's any fungus in any ways, that could
8 easily be dealt with. It's not there because
9 they're trying to build a movie studio across
10 the street and then buy up all the property
11 there. We know that. They tried to do the same
12 thing at Iberville. All right.

13 For St. Bernard, what do they want
14 for St. Bernard? They want a golf course for
15 St. Bernard is what they want. And Tulane wants
16 to gobble up Magnolia so it can make money. All
17 right.

18 Well, from the very beginning --
19 I'm talking, I never left. I'm a holdout. I
20 brought a reporter to Iberville on September 10.
21 All right. When the police and everybody was
22 trying to run you had us out, and that place was
23 not damaged. Yet shortly afterwards -- and we
24 took pictures of it. Shortly afterwards,
25

1 Alphonso Jackson, the secretary of HUD said,
2 well, this place is damaged. It's beyond
3 repair. That was flat out lies. It's in the
4 Times Picayune. All right. We exposed that.
5 This is the same thing.

6 But the thing we got to do is
7 bring people of the community together, and,
8 most importantly the residents, and work
9 together like we did at Iberville to say, okay.
10 Sometimes we have to do things, and sometimes
11 there's a risk. But the benefit, not only for
12 ourselves but for our community, is so great
13 that we have to take that risk.

14 And believe me C3 Hands Off
15 Iberville is willing to do -- we're both
16 residents and nonresidents -- whatever we can in
17 solidarity to get all the complexes, Lafitte --

18 MR. MARTIN:

19 Your time has expired.

20 MR. HOWELLS:

21 We want the C.J. Peete, B.W.
22 Cooper, and St. Bernard. See you later.

23 MR. MARTIN:

24 Okay. The resident that lives at
25

1 2605 St. Bernard and Ms. Stephanie Mingo. The
2 first name is Merlene. Let's move on.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

4 I'll take her three.

5 MR. MARTIN:

6 No ma'am.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

8 Because I have a whole lot to say.

9 MR. MARTIN:

10 Please State your name for the
11 record.

12 MS. MINGO:

13 My name is Stephanie Mingo from
14 St. Bernard. Forty-three long years.
15 Mr. Barber, first of all, I have a lot of
16 respect for Mr. Darren. But I want to know why
17 you not standing right there in front of the --
18 you know. I can't hear you, Mr. Babers.
19 Okay. I understand you want him to get beat on.
20 I respect that decision.

21 First of all, I don't have too
22 much to say because I've been asking the same
23 question for a long time. I had a private
24 meeting with the government by myself. I be
25

1 having meetings on top of meetings. I even met
2 with Mr. Alphonse Jackson. Everybody promising
3 me that they was going to give me a call, and
4 they ain't never give me a call.

5 I had a meeting with the Governor.
6 She told me she would personally give me a
7 call. So happen that I work at Warren Easton
8 High School. He came to Warren Easton High
9 School. She got off the bus. Let the
10 president's mother come in, and she didn't even
11 much come to the door. When I tried to catch
12 her they had seeked the cops around me.

13 Some of us look healthy. I know a
14 lot of people see me every day. I'm a happy
15 person. But you don't know how bad I'm hurting
16 on the inside. I'm still in public housing
17 because I'm in Iberville. I'm happy, but I'm
18 not satisfied. The people see this smile on my
19 face, if they knew all the hurt that I have on
20 the inside of me, they'd know.

21 I even thought many days, you say,
22 you know what, hell. I have four kids. I love
23 them do death. The most disciplined mother in
24 the world. I swear to God, Jesus as Lord, one
25

1 day I even -- and y'all might be saying damn,
2 because of a project, and she been working hard
3 her whole life since she was 17. I love
4 St. Bernard so much, believe me. Take this to
5 the bank. I was going kill me and my children
6 just because HANO was doing us out.

7 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

8 You might be -- listen. Hold on.
9 I got that. Be quiet. I got that. Respect me
10 like I respect y'all. The ones that I don't
11 respect, that's the ones I want don't respect
12 me. I got a lot of respect for you. Calm down.

13 But any way. I know this seems
14 like a meeting that just was throwed together.
15 I guess because the judge say he wants to
16 resident input. Y'all listening to us, but
17 you're not really hearing us. I even offered if
18 today or tomorrow you tell me to go home -- I
19 mean, that St. Bernard will be open, I will go
20 clean up my own house. I would have money
21 coming out my own pocket to pay. Because that's
22 where I want to be.

23 As far as Lafitte, I have much
24 love for Lafitte. I rather Lafitte to be open,
25

1 than St. Bernard, even though, don't get the
2 record wrong, I want all four of them open. But
3 I rather Lafitte to be open back before
4 St. Bernard. Because I understand that Lafitte
5 ain't had nothing but a foot of water.

6 I went into my auntie's house.
7 Her house done look brand new. I don't care if
8 I got how many seconds. I want to til that last
9 three minutes. Don't interrupt me because that
10 be another minute I have.

11 But y'all need to get together and
12 stop playing these politician games and let
13 these people home. Because y'all keep
14 forgetting we all serve the same God. And I
15 know, I know it's an old saying but a true
16 saying, what you doing to me and all these other
17 people it comes right back to you. Because I
18 know you heard the old saying it ain't no fun
19 when the rabbit gets --

20 MR. MARTIN:

21 State your name.

22 MS. THOMAS:

23 Patricia Thomas. They call me
24 "Sister-Sister." First, I'm going to say, I got
25

1 about six of these news reporters that been to
2 my house. My house is nice and clean. We wiped
3 our face with the towels and everything. Why
4 y'all don't let the people back in their house I
5 don't understand.

6 And what I really want to know,
7 why y'all wait until a person's devastated
8 moment to lock them out? Y'all used a storm
9 that we was evicted from. Didn't want to go.
10 Dropped off like flies. You feel me? In San
11 Antonio, when Rita came, they put us on the
12 pavement like they had us on the Convention
13 Center. You feel that.

14 So what I want to know is why
15 would y'all want to take and build Lafitte -- I
16 know. I worked on the roof. I was the
17 supervisor for the roof. Y'all build a roof.
18 Y'all did the doors. Y'all did the cabinets.
19 Y'all did the inside. Why would you tear that
20 money up? Y'all hiding some money? Y'all got
21 something y'all want to hide.

22 Answer me. Why y'all wait til our
23 devastated moment to do this do to us? I done
24 had ten houses turned down with the Section
25

1 8. I'm living in a house right now because it
2 got turned down day before Thanksgiving, and the
3 landlord -- I started crying, the landlord said,
4 Baby, you can stay here in until your house gets
5 approved. That house ain't getting approved.
6 That house tore down to the floor down. You
7 understand? I want to go home to 2213 Lafitte
8 housing residents. Ain't nothing wrong my
9 house.

10 And Mr. Michael, you know it.
11 Ms. Betty, you know it. A lot of y'all done
12 been in my house. They got a documentary up in
13 Africa, that my girlfriend said, I saw you on
14 television. Girl, your house look so nice.
15 They still got it shut up. I don't understand
16 it.

17 Why y'all wait until a person's
18 devastated moment? Y'all know it was in y'all's
19 plan four years ago. Just like Mr. Alphonse
20 Jackson said, the president came to him and told
21 him to tear down the projects three years
22 ago. So if he told him three years ago, y'all
23 had enough time to separate these people, build
24 houses, put them in the houses, and do what
25

1 y'all had to do. You feel me.

2 Why y'all wait until a person
3 devastated moment to tear them houses down? I
4 want an answer, me. I don't know about all. I
5 just want an answer. Answer me, brother, my
6 precious baby. Answer me. I'm not playing
7 with you.

8 MR. MARTIN:

9 You've got 30 seconds.

10 MS. MINGO:

11 Why y'all wait until a person's
12 devastated moment? They had lives. People lost
13 their families, their husbands, their wives.
14 Some of them lost their children. And then when
15 they come home to salvage all your stuff, y'all
16 say we can't come home. We're tearing it down.
17 That ain't right. Y'all waited until a
18 devastated moment. God going to punish y'all.
19 If it wasn't for God we wasn't even be here.

20 MR. MARTIN:

21 Okay. The next person is Saket
22 Soni, Collette Tippy, 916 St. Andrews. And the
23 next resident is 3809 Marais; Ms. Joseph Rogers
24 8319 Panola; Shawn Brown, 2805 Bell Street. And
25

1 after Shawn Brown, Laura Tuggle, Joe Hern. Any
2 of these people here? Laura Tuggle?

3 Okay. The next resident that we
4 hear from is Dianne Connelly, Mulkina Coates,
5 another last name Coates, Shantrel Davis. Okay.

6 Okay, Ms. Connelly, please state
7 your name.

8 MS. CONNELLY:

9 My name is Dianne Connelly. I'm a
10 resident of Florida. I ain't going to say I'm
11 the president. But I'm a resident of Florida.
12 Freshly, brand new units 127 units, HUD, HANO
13 got sitting with grass growing three inches high
14 over them. And it's a damned shame that we
15 can't go back there. Residents of Florida
16 helped build Florida.

17 And I'm telling you like this.
18 May 3rd we went in those units, and we cleaned
19 out out -- residents went in there, May 3rd, me
20 on the front page, went in there cleaned out my
21 unit, trying to show HANO. I've been coming
22 ever since October, trying to tell HANO I want
23 to come home.

24 Right now, before I was staying in
25

1 Jennings, Louisiana. Now I'm way in Gulfport,
2 Mississippi an hour away. I want to come home.
3 I was born and raised in New Orleans. I want to
4 come home. I am going to tell these residents
5 of Florida, our people were displaced before the
6 storm.

7 We had 373 units at Florida. They
8 tore down one side. Moved us to the new side.
9 I had just moved in the house in May. I lost
10 everything I had in that unit. But I'm going to
11 tell you like this. There's 127 residents stay
12 on the Florida site. I need those 127 tenants
13 come home, because we going to cut the grass.
14 We doing our own damned cleaning up and we going
15 home.

16 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

17 If y'all can come down here for
18 other damned things, y'all better come down here
19 and take your damned houses back.

20 MR. MARTIN:

21 Still looking for Ms. Coates.

22 Last name Coates. Are you Ms. Coates?

23 Ms. Tuggle.

24 State your name for the record,

25

1 please.

2 MS. SELLERS-VIRGIL:

3 I'm Michelle Sellers-Virgil. I
4 lived in the St. Bernard for 18 years. And I
5 want to know why I had to come down here. I
6 came down here and got \$900 so I could escape
7 from Houston. But you should have gave me \$900,
8 to tell you the truth. Why I had to give up my
9 house in Houston only to be homeless again, to
10 come here to make an appointment to get a
11 voucher? That don't make no sense.

12 You should have just transferred
13 my voucher back to New Orleans. That didn't
14 make no senses. Now you got they homeless all
15 again. I need a stable environment. I done
16 lost everything I own in the St. Bernard. You
17 let hem in there and stole everything I worked
18 for. You understand? Everything.

19 Now I done lost my job, because
20 I'm displaced. What y'all going to do? Why I
21 got to go through that? That's what I got to
22 say.

23 MR. MARTIN:

24 Thank you. Ms. Laura Tuggle,

25

1 please. State your name for the record, please.

2 MS. TUGGLE:

3 Hi. My name is Laura Tuggle. I
4 work with New Orleans Legal Assistance in the
5 housing law unit there. And I just want to say
6 that, first of all, that the same people that
7 were left behind in front of the Superdome and
8 in front of Convention Center are now getting
9 left behind all over the country.

10 And at our office, we get, I don't
11 know how many calls a day, from folks that are
12 displaced from public housing or were former
13 voucher holders, or are suffering with all
14 various kind of problems and are having such
15 difficulty getting home because of a variety of
16 issues.

17 And many those families, as
18 another speak said earlier, I can tell you that
19 many of the clients that we talk to are actually
20 suicidal, at the point that we are now. Since
21 June of this year, I've had four clients either
22 try to kill themselves or commit suicide.
23 All of them former HANO residents in various
24 types of programs. And so the suffering that
25

1 folks are going through is real. And I know
2 that you guys have a monumental task. But the
3 pace of recovery is too slow.

4 One thing I want to mention -- and
5 I know that Congressman Jefferson is here
6 tonight. But I was, in all my free time, I was
7 -- I pulled the language from the supplemental
8 -- all the money, the billions of dollars that
9 we got from Congress to help us with our
10 recovery. And one of the things it says is that
11 approximately 19.33% of our state's allocation
12 shall be used for repair, rehabilitation, and
13 reconstruction of the affordable rental housing
14 stock including public and other HUD assisted
15 housing in the impacted areas. So I think what
16 we'd like to know is what's up with that.

17 And one other thing that I want to
18 say is I know that early on after the disaster
19 there was some talk of the possibility of
20 trailers being on some of these sites that are
21 -- they were already cleared because of all the
22 prior redevelopment plans that were going on.
23 And nothing ever happened with that. Folks
24 haven't been brought back.

25

1 And then the last thing I want to
2 say, for now, although there are many other
3 things I would like to say, is that whenever we
4 bring people home that we not be coming up with
5 policy --

6 MR. MARTIN:

7 Ms. Tuggle, your time is up.

8 Thank you.

9 Okay. It's a C.J. Peete resident,
10 2818 Frert. It looks like the last name is
11 Palmer. Next Dianne Jackson, 1823 North Galvez.
12 Then Ursula Thomas, 1827 North Galvez. Those
13 following speakers could come up, please.

14 Okay are those speakers here? I
15 see one getting up.

16 Okay. Next, Lafitte resident
17 Josey Willis, Darryl Smith, Dana Jones, Judy
18 Pilot.

19 MS. WILLIS:

20 Good afternoon my name is Josey
21 Willis. I lived at 714 Johnson in Lafitte
22 Housing Project. Y'all taken away the home from
23 a lot of other people. Not just from me, just
24 other people. But you building up these houses.

25

1 But y'all forget about -- y'all start with two
2 bedrooms, not one but two; so where do that
3 leave me? You know what I'm saying? Where does
4 that leave me.

5 For once, I would like for us to
6 live in y'all houses and let y'all live in
7 ours. Let us change places and see what we
8 feeling, then you can feel what we feeling.
9 Just change places with us for about a month,
10 just about a month. Let me be able to eat the
11 fine steaks that you eat. Let me be able -- you
12 understand what I'm saying -- to sit back and
13 say, "Maid, could you please go take my daughter
14 to school?" Or "Excuse me, butler, can you
15 please clean my house?" Let us just change
16 places. That's all I want to do is change
17 places with us and let you see how we really
18 feel.

19 See, I lost my husband three
20 months prior to Pre-katrina, which was my better
21 half. You understand what I'm saying? See
22 y'all don't understand what we going through.
23 You don't understand. We was forced out here.
24 If they wouldn't have it will blew the levees,
25

1 we would still be here if they wouldn't have
2 blew the levees.

3 That Lafitte housing project,
4 guess what? I'll go in there and clean my own
5 unit up. My unit messed up and I went in
6 there. The water came up to here on the first
7 floor. My across -- my neighbor house didn't
8 get no water. Her house just as nice and neat.
9 And she was in a one bedroom. You understand
10 what I'm saying.

11 Should we go and get the keys like
12 Iberville did and go back to our unit? Because
13 we can do that. But I tell you one thing,
14 that's going start a war. That's what you
15 want? We can give you that.

16 MR. MARTIN:

17 Thank you. Darryl Smith, then
18 Dana Jones, then Judy Pilot.

19 MR. SMITH:

20 I'm Darryl Smith, from B.W. Cooper
21 -- from Lafitte projects. I evacuated during
22 the Hurricane. I stayed out in Arkansas for two
23 months. I came back to New Orleans November.
24 And I tried to make it to my apartment, but I
25

1 got to New Orleans and all the doors -- security
2 doors on them. I couldn't get in my apartment.
3 So I figured out I stayed in New Orleans. So I
4 been -- I stayed in a hotel for about three
5 months, then I moved on to my apartment. But I
6 will -- talking about hope, whatever it was.
7 Because I know y'all said y'all be happy to be
8 in y'all own apartment. I would be glad to be
9 home. Well, right back to y'all. You here.

10 MR. MARTIN:

11 Dana Jones, Judy Pilot, Willie
12 Benjamin, B.W. Cooper resident. Patricia
13 Thomas, lafitte. And someone that stays at 3721
14 Gibson, Salon. Okay.

15 Let's move on. Ann Simmons L.A.
16 Times; Ruth Hayes, B.W. Cooper; Mille Charles,
17 2119 St. Bernard; Jerome Nathan 2326 Esplanade.

18 MS. STEVENS:

19 My name is Salona Stevens. I've
20 been living in St. Bernard Housing since I was
21 five years old. pre-Katrina came along, me, my
22 mother, we lost everything on the first floor.
23 We rode -- we sit on the bridge for two nights
24 and two days. They drove us around. We didn't
25

1 know where we was going. When we did get to our
2 destiny, it was Houston. My niece's
3 sister-in-law was in Houston. She told me, "I'm
4 going to find you an apartment." She called us.
5 We moved in Houston. We paid our own rent
6 before we got the assistance.

7 The whole year I was in Houston I
8 couldn't see a doctor. I hadn't had a pressure
9 pill. Still haven't got no pill to get to a
10 doctor. I've been back three weeks. With my
11 prayers, praying to the Master up above, he kept
12 me going. Kept me strong. I almost lost my
13 mother. She was in Houston. They give her the
14 wrong pressure pill. Almost killed my mother.

15 I was running back and forth every
16 time they said we was going to New Orleans to
17 fight to come back home. I looked for a house.
18 Me and my sister, we found a house. Moved my
19 mother back. Brought my mother to a doctor. It
20 was the wrong pressure pill. Almost took my
21 mother.

22 And I praise God I'm back. I made
23 it back with all my grandchildren, my children,
24 my grandson, he's back. He's getting ready to
25

1 graduate out of law school in January. And
2 praise the Lord for that, that I made it back
3 safe.

4 I have pictures I can show you my
5 house on the first floor. I went in. All I
6 could do is sit there, cry. Look down. But I
7 thank Jesus. he got us out of the water. Those
8 guys fought and got us to the bridge.

9 My great -- my grandson girlfriend
10 she was very pregnant. When we got to Houston,
11 wasn't in her apartment but a week. Rita came
12 along. We had to rent a van. Hit the Highway
13 and start running again. Then the Lord kept us
14 safe. God is good.

15 MR. MARTIN:

16 Thank you. Thank you. Okay.
17 Lucille Blackshire. Kalima Rose, Connie
18 Rodriguez.

19 Okay. Cooper resident, Ali
20 Tilman, Denise Felix, Vangie Banks, Precious
21 Matthews. Okay.

22 MS. RODRIGUEZ:

23 Good evening. My name is Connie
24 Rodriguez. I live at 5901 St. Roch in

25

1 Gentilly. pre-Katrina put three feet of water
2 on my property. And Congressman Jefferson,
3 please tell President brush that the Army Corps
4 of Engineers put nine feet of water in my house.

5 I'm not sure if that qualifies me
6 to say that I feel the pain of the residents of
7 the housing project of the New Orleans. I think
8 it does. I hope it does. I'm standing here
9 tonight representing the Louisiana Landmark
10 Society. I'm the president of that
11 organization. And we are a preservation
12 advocacy group translated into two words that
13 means "no demolition."

14 I hope that our organization will
15 be one of those preservation groups that will be
16 at the table with HANO and HUD during the
17 Section 106 discussions. I will tell you this,
18 that what you are proposing to do to construct
19 these new buildings and tear down what is solid
20 construction and put up in its place is going to
21 be inferior, absolutely, totally inferior.

22 Iberville lost, what, three or
23 four roof tiles to Pre-katrina. I'm glad the
24 residents are back there. And I want to see the
25

1 residents back in these other projects as well.

2 This list that I picked up this
3 evening has six columns of property to be
4 demolished does not look like a demolition. It.
5 looks like a jihad.

6 Now, preservation has been taking
7 some black eyes here lately, I know, with
8 Cabrini Church. But I want people here tonight
9 to know that preservation is not the hobby of
10 the idle rich. I teach Ancient Greek at Loyola
11 University. Trust me when I say I'm not idle
12 nor am I rich. And I will tell you this that
13 preservation is not my hobby. It is my
14 advocacy.

15 The people in this room, the
16 people of Lafitte, of Cooper, of St. Bernard,
17 Iberville, C.J. Peete, and all the other
18 projects that are here in New Orleans, these
19 people are the backbone of our city. They are
20 the backbone of our city. And they deserve to
21 be home in their houses. You can -- these
22 houses could be fixed up. These areas could be
23 fixed up and they could be revitalized into what
24 they were when they were first built 60, 70, 80
25

1 years ago. Thank you.

2 MR. MARTIN:

3 Thank you. Please state your
4 name.

5 MS. FELIX:

6 My name is Denise Felix. And I'm
7 from the C.J. Peete. I must look like a fucking
8 joke to y'all because of the simple fact --

9 MR. MARTIN:

10 Please --

11 MS. FELIX:

12 I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

13 MR. MARTIN:

14 Thank you. Thank you. Please
15 proceed.

16 MS. FELIX:

17 You tell me when I call, Oh, I
18 don't know what's going on. You know. Don't
19 play me for a joke. Did you tell me you are
20 going to notify me to come back and see what I
21 want out my house when I don't have no doors?
22 You took them down. And I have two little kids.
23 Tell me what I'm supposed to give them for
24 Christmas if I can't give them a home. And I
25

1 worked all my life. Whether I sit on the sofa
2 and watch soap operas or not, you got your rent
3 one way or another.

4 So do not insult me like that.
5 Because you gave me a unit but you didn't give
6 me what I put into it. And I grew up from one
7 project, which was the Florida project. And my
8 mama raised 13 of us by herself. And I think I
9 turned out good. So don't think everyone from
10 the project is bad.

11 I want my house back. And if I
12 could have cleaned it, fine. I clean for a
13 living and I'm proud of it. But you can't clean
14 what you cannot open, because it don't have no
15 doors. Or what you left behind.

16 MS. BANKS:

17 My name is Vangie Banks. I've
18 been a resident of Guste -- or at least two
19 projects for at least 29 years. I lived in St.
20 Thomas and now I currently live in Guste. I was
21 so thankful that Guste let us come home.

22 But the thing is with the
23 relocation they're telling me that I'm
24 ineligible. But you're telling me you're about
25

1 mixed-income communities, and I don't fit in.

2 January 15th I have a notice that
3 tells me I need to move. But where? I have no
4 options. I need to say that buildings don't
5 raise people. People raise people.

6 MR. MARTIN:

7 Precious Meredith, Glenda Goins,
8 Shawanda Miller, Jeanette Birdstraw. Okay.

9 MS. GOINS:

10 First of all, my name is Glenda
11 Goins. I stay in the Iberville Development, not
12 project, development. I've considered it home
13 for me. Okay. You keep saying you opened up
14 the Iberville. No you did not. You did it in
15 phrases. What is a phrase? What is it? Who
16 you know? Or who the next person know.

17 I didn't get any water in my
18 house. I stay on the second floor. Sometimes I
19 have to work two jobs, HANO get its money. You
20 say if I do not violate your rules, you will not
21 put me out. I didn't violate your rules. A
22 storm came; so think I should have the right to
23 return to my house just like the rest of them.
24 Understand.

25

1 And for you to sit here and put on
2 this serious face like you care for what we're
3 saying, you don't. You don't. I'm a single
4 mother raising a daughter. My mother raised her
5 grandchildren in there. One played professional
6 football, never been in trouble. I know most
7 kids in the project is not trouble. Okay.

8 But I think I have the right to be
9 home and these people should be welcomed home
10 too. You should let us back home and let us
11 know what we have to do. Just like I said, I'm
12 a housekeeper. I know how to keep house. I
13 know how to clean house. A little girl is
14 taught how to clean, cook, and everything else.
15 So the only thing we need is a home to come home
16 to clean and cook and raise our kids. Thank
17 you.

18 MR. MARTIN:

19 Thank you. Shawanda Miller.

20 MS. NATHAN:

21 Excuse me. You had called me
22 before.

23 MR. MARTIN:

24 Your name is?

25

1 MS. NATHAN:

2 Jean Nathan.

3 MR. MARTIN:

4 Yes, we did.

5 MS. NATHAN:

6 Do you mind?

7 MR. MARTIN:

8 Please.

9 MS. NATHAN:

10 I just want to make a small point
11 because I don't want to repeat what tenants of
12 housing have said. I'm a neighbor. I live in
13 Tremé'. I just want to say that the bizarre and
14 cynical policy of HANO in talking about tearing
15 down perfectly viable buildings that look just
16 like the buildings nationally you are saying you
17 want, and keeping people out of their houses for
18 five years, makes no sense. Therefore, you have
19 to conclude that the reason you are doing this
20 is to keep people from coming home. It makes no
21 sense at all.

22 Nationally, you talk about
23 dedensifying. You're talking about those big
24 old things in Chicago and New York and other
25

1 cities. That's not what we have here. We have
2 houses that are garden apartments with porches
3 with balconies. As I've walked planners from
4 around the city and around the country --
5 around the city, and I've shown them St. Bernard
6 and Lafitte, their jaws drop when I say that
7 they're planning to tear them down. It makes no
8 sense. Therefore, it must be that you just
9 don't want your residents back.

10 If you put me out of my apartment
11 that I had a lease on and my possessions were
12 inside and told me I could not come back, I
13 would do a lot more than has been done by these
14 very civilized tenants so far to get my property
15 and to get back in.

16 MS. BIRDSTRAW:

17 My name is Jeanette Birdstraw.
18 I'm from the Lafitte project. How long did it
19 take y'all to make those doors and windows that
20 covered Lafitte? It wasn't did in a day. It
21 looked like it was a plan, and y'all had a good
22 plan. Y'all just thought y'all had somebody
23 that gave us money. We wasn't coming back. But
24 we home.

25

1 I don't think FEMA gave them money
2 so of a lot of people didn't get money. Well,
3 whatever. With -- it's hard to give me a
4 voucher. The voucher covers the two bedroom
5 \$1,128. Do you know most landlords want \$1,128
6 deposit. Some of them want and \$1,128 up front
7 and \$1,128 in the back. Most of the houses are
8 -- had at least two feet of water in them and
9 they are water damaged.

10 Most of the houses with the --
11 under water for -- the houses are rotten. So
12 how they going to qualify for Section 8? And
13 then our voucher, where we supposed to go?
14 How you supposed to pay a light bill? I'm under
15 55, so I don't fit into the senior citizens.
16 And I'm disabled. So what I'm supposed to do?
17 Where you supposed to go.

18 And like I say, how long did it
19 take for you to build those doors and windows
20 not to come in Lafitte. 'Cause it looks like we
21 was an embarrassment coming down off the
22 Claiborne bridge when the white folks going into
23 it the French Quarter, when y'all tourists come.

24 Because if the oil business run
25

1 out, why y'all didn't create other jobs? So all
2 the projects was not damaged. I live in
3 Lafitte. I don't have any water damage. I
4 cleaned up the blood myself after y'all stole my
5 refrigerator. My deep freezer did have meat in
6 it. And when the rest of y'all come in and
7 picked up what I had left and y'all put it in
8 y'all pockets and walked out.

9 So why should we have to have a
10 meeting to come home? Come back to our
11 residence? This is a lot of bull. A bull
12 period. Because a lot of people don't know
13 about these meetings.

14 My friend in Houston, y'all sent
15 her notes that y'all tearing it down, so she's
16 under the impression that y'all tearing it down.
17 So why you got to have a meeting and we got to
18 go before a judge for y'all to open the project
19 up for us to go where we was evacuated from?
20 Because I stayed here through the storm. I
21 didn't evacuate. I stayed here through the
22 water. I didn't evacuate. You took me from my
23 residence in an airboat. And nobody could tell
24 me where I was going.

25

1 So I took it on myself and came
2 back. And you gave me a voucher to find me a
3 house. Somehow it's going to have windows in
4 it.

5 And last -- at the Convention
6 Center, this was the most real estate people
7 flew into New Orleans that they ever had. So
8 somebody coming to buy property. So why would
9 y'all have a real estate convention and have all
10 these people? Like we live on valuable property
11 that somebody want.

12 MR. MARTIN:

13 Thank you for your comments.

14 MS. BIRDSTRAW.

15 Thank you very much.

16 MS. MERIDAY:

17 Hi. My name is Precious
18 Merriday. I'm a resident at Guste. I just want
19 to know -- you said it's three minutes for to us
20 stand up here and talk. Every time somebody
21 asks a question, you looking at the time. It's
22 three minutes. Y'all got to go. I want to know
23 if it's going to take you three minutes to tell
24 us if we can get keep our projects? If it's
25

1 going to be three minutes for you to tell us the
2 people can come home? See, I'm not going to use
3 all my three minutes because I done said what I
4 had to say.

5 REV. THOMPSON:

6 I'm Reverend Norman Thompson, Jr.,
7 a native of New Orleans, national voting member
8 of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference,
9 local president of SCLC, which was founded here
10 in the city of New Orleans by the late leader
11 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is time now for
12 us to get our people home. The line has been
13 drawn in the sand.

14 Dr. King went to jail. He bled,
15 died on behalf of folks and their human rights.
16 We don't come here just to feel good, now. I
17 came all the way from Baton Rouge where I had to
18 go to have eye surgery today. But I thought it
19 was necessary to be here with my people. It is
20 time, folks, for us to go to jail. It's no more
21 time for us to have a feel-good session here.

22 As President Bush said, you've
23 done a good job, and we know he messed it up.
24 It is time for us to go to jail. If we're
25

1 serious about it, we will call a press
2 conference along with all the other
3 organizations here and pick our date and
4 time. I want grandmothers. I want children. I
5 want a day off where we can go to jail.

6 As I sit here and listen to my
7 people testifying, as Jesus wept over Jerusalem,
8 I wept over what I'm hearing here. Most of you
9 here, my brothers, you look like me. You should
10 have compassion on our people. It's 15 months.
11 folks are trying to come home all over the
12 nation they're treating our people like they're
13 it. They don't care about the New Orleanian. I
14 do. The Southern Leadership Conference do.

15 Sheriff Gussman, get your jail
16 ready. Chief Riley, get your prisons ready. We
17 are ready now to make our stand in the city. We
18 have talked too long, too long.

19 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

20 MR. MARTIN:

21 Okay. Your time is up.

22 REV. THOMPSON.

23 Too long. We really love New
24 Orleans. You listen to time for us to call our
25

1 meeting together and all of us are going to fill
2 up this jail. And we want the nation to know
3 about it. That we have folks who sit in seats
4 of authority who care less about New Orleanians.

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 MR. MARTIN:

7 Next speaker, Rose Guy
8 St. Bernard, 1539 Milton, first name Rose. Next
9 speaker will be Rev. Marshal Truhill, then Eric
10 Jackson.

11 MS. GUY:

12 Have you have been somewhere and
13 couldn't go home? My name is Rose Guy. Have
14 you ever been somewhere and couldn't go home?
15 Just answer my question. You lied and told me
16 that you wasn't coming back. I ran into you in
17 Houston, Texas.

18 MR. MARTIN:

19 Ma'am, I'm not going to take this
20 on a personal level. But I will say this, I'm
21 homeless. My house is not rebuilt. I'm from
22 this city. I lived in New Orleans East.

23 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

24 All right. But it's not on a

25

1 personal level. But you asked it I answered it.

2 MS. GUY:

3 You go home every day.

4 MR. MARTIN:

5 Please proceed.

6 MS. GUY:

7 I'm going finish saying what I
8 have to say. I'm going to leave you alone.
9 Let's tell the truth. Why did y'all spend
10 \$270,000 to put up a brick around the project?
11 This wasn't decided from pre-Katrina This was
12 decide when Mike Kelley was in the seat seven to
13 ten years ago. This wasn't just decided
14 overnight.

15 You know, all you did -- and
16 where's the Mayor? He didn't know we was going
17 to have a meeting here tonight? They don't
18 care. We voted these people and put them in.
19 Where's the resident counsel.

20 I never lived no where but in St.
21 Bernard housing. I don't even know how it feels
22 on the outside. I'm not from no where. I've
23 been places and could go home. But I've never
24 been in the position where I couldn't go back
25

1 home. That's all I want to tell you. But don't
2 lie about it.

3 REV. TRUHILL:

4 I'm Reverend Marshal Truhill. And
5 I'm pastor of First United Baptist Church in New
6 Orleans. I grew up in public housing in B.W.
7 Cooper. And I have spent all of my adult life
8 working with you to help improve the quality of
9 life for residents in public housing. I rose
10 tonight to say how hurt I am and how
11 disappointed I am at what I see as a travesty of
12 justice and a disgrace before God.

13 What's happening here tonight is
14 only happening because a judge said it needed to
15 happen. You did not follow due process. This,
16 to me, is an attempt to prostitute due process
17 and pimp. the residents of public housing.
18 There is no end to the sun. That people should
19 be left out of the their homes, 15 and 16 months
20 after a disaster that forced them out. When
21 those homes are livable and able to be
22 inhabited.

23 They offer to clean them up
24 themselves. You should open them. I think
25

1 there are three questions tonight that need to
2 be answered to settle this issue:

3 1) Did residents have legal leases at
4 the time pre-Katrina hit? 2) Were residents'
5 rents paid up when pre-Katrina hit? And, 3) Is
6 there any stipulation in that lease that says a
7 resident can be evicted when they're forced out
8 of their homes for a natural disaster.

9 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

10 So in answer to those three
11 questions, everything else is a moot issue. And
12 as someone has said tonight, they're not
13 necessarily against improving the condition of
14 the developments, not necessarily against
15 redeveloping some portions of it. But let that
16 process continue after people are at home in
17 their houses.

18 I rose tonight as one of the
19 prophetic voices in the city of New Orleans to
20 serve you notice that God holds those people
21 responsible and accountable that he allows to
22 have authority over his people.

23 I want to serve you notice that
24 your feet are on the necks of the poor, and
25

1 you're not going to get away with it.

2 I want to serve you notice tonight
3 that you're in these positions because the Lord
4 allowed you to be in these positions, and you're
5 not governing justly nor rightly. I say let
6 justice run down like water and righteousness
7 like a mighty stream.

8 The housing developments need to
9 be open. And whatever process needs to occur
10 after that then we deal with it then. The
11 people need to come home. Open the doors and
12 let them come home.

13 MR. JACKSON:

14 Yes, my name is Eric Jackson.
15 What's happening to New Orleans is not new.
16 Since the 1990s, San Francisco has lost 4% of
17 its black population. Now it's New Orleans'
18 turn to lose 455 or more of its population. So
19 it's not new.

20 You will need to call HANO each
21 and every day. You need to fax them to until
22 the fax machines break down to let them know
23 we're not going to be like San Francisco. We're
24 not going to be moved out to LaPlace, and Ohio,
25

1 and Idaho, or wherever they want us to be. You
2 are going to fight to stay here. You are going
3 to be strong. You deserve to be here. These
4 buildings are strong. And you're going to be
5 just as strong if not stronger than these
6 buildings. Thank you.

7 MR. MOHAMMAD:

8 Yeah. I just wanted to ask --

9 MR. MARTIN:

10 Excuse me. What's your name?

11 MR. MOHAMMAD:

12 Ishmael Mohammad.

13 MR. MARTIN:

14 Okay. Well, we haven't called you
15 yet. We're about to go to the residents and
16 we'll get to you.

17 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

18 No. No. We have to get to the
19 residents at this time. Thank you.

20 The next resident that we'll hear
21 from is Antoinette Curtis, Joanne Bray, Sister
22 Lory, 1814 Bayou Road. The next address is 2423
23 Broadway. The person after that is a Lafitte
24 resident, Ann Lee; Gina Herbert, 3331 Thalia.
25

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1 Are they here?

2 Jonquil Groomes, 2636 O'Reilly,
3 another B.W. Cooper resident; Leo McQueen,
4 Scattered Sights, 8283; Lloyd Bell, Lafitte
5 resident 1813.

6 Okay. The next people will be
7 Rebecca Mintz, Connie Rodriguez has spoken.
8 Dorothy Smith. Okay.

9 Your name was called?

10 SISTER LORY:

11 I'm Sister Lory Chaff, and I was a
12 resident of St. Thomas housing development
13 between 1969 and 1983. That's 14 years. And
14 the day I came back and looked across that
15 property and saw nothing but the new river
16 bridge, my heart ached. There were 1,510 units
17 in St. Thomas housing development, and I saw
18 zero units.

19 And so I followed carefully the
20 development. And I understand that River
21 Gardens was touted as a HOPE VI project of the
22 federal government, not the local people, the
23 federal government. And the plan was to develop
24 1,200 units. Remember St. Thomas had 1,510.

25

1 But the plan been within the plan was to have 29
2 out of a hundred for subsidized units.
3 Twenty-nine percent, folks.

4 Actually, what happened when 348
5 units should have been made available before
6 pre-Katrina there were only 296 ready to occupy.
7 Out of the 1,200 that were planned, about 300
8 were ready for occupation. And, actually, 32
9 units only were subsidized units. I want to say
10 to all of you, I've been a teacher all my life.
11 And I'm trying to teach something here to
12 everybody, behind me and before me. It's a
13 false process that's going on.

14 Times-Picayune stated a Grand,
15 G-R-A-N-D, scheme for reinventing public
16 housing. What a lie. Public housing, when 29
17 percent of it is really public housing. What in
18 the world is this all about.

19 I suffered through these storms in
20 Baton Rouge. I've been away from home 23 years,
21 and pre-Katrina called me back. And here I am
22 to be with you. What is it we -- I just so
23 believed -- I'm a woman of faith and I so
24 believe that God said something to the people of
25

1 this City in Pre-katrina. He wanted a new city
2 where his people could be one, black and white
3 and any other color, rich and poor and everybody
4 in between. One --

5 MR. MARTIN:

6 Okay. Your time is up.

7 SISTER LORY:

8 This will never make it.

9 MR. MARTIN:

10 Your time has expired. Thank you.

11 SISTER LORY:

12 Thank you for listening. I am so
13 grateful to have the chance to be with you.

14 MR. MARTIN:

15 Leo McQueen, Lloyd Bell, Linda
16 Gabriel, Debbie Holmes, and Donna Johnigan.

17 Leo McQueen of Scattered Sites;
18 Lloyd Bell, Lafitte; Linda Gabriel, St. Bernard;
19 Debbie Holmes, C.J. Peete; and Donna
20 Johnigan. Could those speakers please come
21 up?

22 MS. JOHNNIGAN:

23 My name is Donna Johnigan. I'm
24 vice-president at B.W. Cooper RMC. We've heard
25

1 a lot of people talk. We've talked with the
2 Housing Authority. We work with them.

3 Let me tell you the story of B.W.
4 Cooper. When we first came back to B. W. Cooper
5 -- Sister, chill out.

6 When we first came back to B.W.
7 Cooper it was not the Housing Authority. It was
8 the maintenance supervisors, two of his people
9 and 13 residents that worked in maintenance that
10 pulled B.W. Cooper together, who came there
11 through sweat and tears and started putting
12 Cooper together. Everybody here about 300
13 families.

14 Three hundred families is not a
15 leverage. Three hundred families does not build
16 a community. It does not open schools. It does
17 not bring buses back on line. It does not open
18 stores. So when you here about just 300
19 families, of course, we want three but we need
20 more. We have families living on top of
21 families.

22 We have talked. We sit with
23 Mr. Babers and them. We respect them. We
24 respect the Housing Authority. But we respect
25

1 our residents. Those are who we work for. And
2 we know what the Housing Authority -- what they
3 are looking for.

4 We know what people in this city
5 are looking for. They're looking for us to
6 bring all of y'all back who don't want to work.
7 They're looking for your children not to be in
8 school. They're looking for us to have a
9 killing or a drug bust. So when do we, as
10 residents and people, take that back.

11 We can't blame the Housing
12 Authority or nobody else for what goes on on our
13 property. We have to take it back. We have to
14 decide what's best for ourselves and our
15 families. And in order to do it, it's not going
16 to take a whole lot of whooping and hollering.
17 It takes us to sit at the table and talk like we
18 were raised.

19 We know what we want. We know the
20 values. We know what the city is looking for.
21 And, yes, racism is still alive. It is. But
22 guess what? It took a handful of us to bring
23 back 311 units. It's going to take a handful of
24 us to bring back the rest of it.

25

1 So don't worry about what nobody
2 say where you from. It's what you bring to the
3 table. So all I want to say, don't blame
4 everybody for everything that's happening.
5 Let's get together. We know what we need to do
6 about the drugs, about the violence, about us
7 getting better schools for our children. We
8 need to do that. We know what they are. And if
9 we don't start doing it now then everything
10 you're hearing, everything you're seeing, we
11 going to wind up back again in another week or
12 so doing the exact same thing you're doing now.

13 MR. MARTIN:

14 Thank you. Thank you.

15 MS. JOHNNIGAN:

16 So if you're going to come
17 together, come together as a people not on the
18 Housing Authority. Again, where's your mayor?
19 Where's the rest of your City Council? Where's
20 your school board?

21 MR. MARTIN:

22 Ms. Johnnigan, your time has
23 expired.

24 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

25

1 MS. JOHNIGAN:

2 If they're not listening now,
3 these are the people we need to call to the
4 table.

5 MR. MARTIN:

6 Just as a point of clarification.
7 This meeting is for the residents. We are
8 working collectively with our elected officials,
9 but they were not invited. The elected
10 officials that are standing here took it upon
11 themselves to be here. But, again, we don't
12 want to bash any level of government, because
13 this was mainly about the residents.

14 As we move on. As we move on. I
15 understand. Dorothy Smith. I understand.

16 As I stated, this meeting was for
17 HANO residents. Okay?

18 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

19 The congressman was called and he
20 answered a question. That's why we gave him the
21 latitude to address the issue. No, I'm not
22 saying that you are. Okay. Let's move on,
23 please. Thank you.

24 Dorothy Smith, Ernest Jones, David

25

1 Rubenstein, Brenda Chapital, Patricia Hills from
2 Lafitte, Margo Wallace.

3 MS. HILL:

4 First of all, I'm say praise to
5 God. Patricia Hill is my name. (INAUDIBLE)
6 Doing their little business. You, for number
7 one, no disrespect, but you're just a program
8 token standing there. That's all he is, a
9 program token.

10 Let me tell you what I really want
11 to say. I really want to give my time to him.
12 First of all, the city is always crying broke.
13 They don't have this or that. I went through
14 Lafitte the other day. How can you tear down
15 perfectly good bricks to put up your paper walls
16 that the wind is going blow down? But they
17 don't have money to pay for anything.

18 Millions of dollars are being
19 spent on what? You displace everybody. But
20 while we being displaced, y'all in there looting
21 everything and stealing. But none of y'all
22 didn't go to jail. Huh? People go in there, do
23 their own cleanup and get in their home. They
24 don't need y'all. Y'all clean up that office.

25

1 You talk about CONGRESSMAN
2 JEFFERSON: He was here tonight because he care
3 for us. You know what I really want know, when
4 will you reply to our questions? When they go
5 back and reprogram you to let you know what to
6 say or what not to say.

7 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

8 Twenty-one years I was a
9 volunteer. You know this. Twenty-one years a
10 volunteer. Didn't give me one penny for all the
11 projects. I took kids and raised them on my
12 own. Raised didn't get a penny because they
13 wasn't kin to me. Seventeen kids I raised in
14 and out project. And a lot of them done
15 graduated. Where you come from?

16 I know your mama must be sick as
17 hell looking at you. You a token. Okay. You
18 can speak.

19 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

20 MR. MOHAMMAD:

21 I'm Ishmael, 2226 Ursuline. All I
22 want -- a couple of things. One, you know we've
23 been out here a long time. Y'all done
24 protested. Y'all done wrote petitions. Y'all
25

1 done met with the mayor. Y'all done met with
2 everybody. The only thing you haven't done -- I
3 ain't going to talk about that -- but I am going
4 to say this: All the work you have been doing
5 is important. This meeting ain't your meeting.
6 You need the space to make your decisions and
7 carry them out. You need the space to make your
8 decisions and carry them out. Because whatever
9 y'all decide to do, can't nobody really stop
10 you. It's too many of y'all to be stopped.

11 So there's food and there's a need
12 of space for to you sit down together and work
13 your plan. The folks who want to move it, the
14 folk who want to petitions, whatever, y'all need
15 to do it together, and y'all need to be serious
16 about it. So across the street, right now,
17 whenever you ready, let this process to be
18 whatever it is. Come on across the street to
19 the Musicians --

20 MR. MARTIN:

21 All right. That's time.

22 MR. REVERARD:

23 My name is Don Reverard (spelled
24 phonetically). I work at a place called Hope
25

1 House near the old St. Thomas development. And
2 I was a resident of St. Thomas for 13 years.
3 I've watched the whole public housing scene
4 during all of that time. And before pre-Katrina
5 ever hit, the Housing Authority's plan was to
6 tear down a lot of public housing, knowing all
7 that time that there was a severe crisis of
8 affordable housing in this city. Go figure that
9 out.

10 Then we come to pre-Katrina the
11 crisis worsens. There is hardly any housing for
12 anybody in the city and HANO and HUD continue
13 their plan to demolish housing. Figure that
14 out. Does that have anything to do with the
15 needs of people? No.

16 There is a little quote that I
17 would like to read you from a former top
18 executive of HUD named Bruce Katz. Bruce said
19 back in 2001, in London, Cities have to
20 gentrify, especially bottom of the barrel cities
21 like New Orleans. If they don't gentrify,
22 they're going to die. Because nobody is going
23 to bail them out this time. The federal
24 government is not going to bail them out this
25

1 time.

2 Do you figure what's really going
3 on now? Okay. We understand each other? This
4 is not about things that are valuable and
5 important to real people. This is about making
6 money for developers, privatizing housing, and
7 changing the demographics of this city. Don't
8 let it happen. Examine your conscience and
9 figure out whether you are willing to be a part
10 of that yourself.

11 MR. MARTIN:

12 Okay. St. Bernard resident, Daisy
13 Davis, Lois Collins, Gwendolyn Williams, Odessa
14 Louise, Lafitte.

15 MS. LOUIS:

16 No, All only one thing I want to
17 know. My name is Odessa Louis. I'm from the
18 Lafitte project, 619 N. Claiborne Avenue. My
19 house is ready to go in. All I need you-all to
20 do, open that door, and let me go. All right?
21 Because nothing even wrong with my house. I
22 didn't get no water. Okay? All right. When I
23 went in there, all I had was mold and mildew.
24 When I came back they had put the remnants in
25

1 there, the little stuff to let the air to go
2 through. When I went back, there was no mold,
3 no mildew.

4 Although I know my own self, I
5 have to buy my own furniture, which I'm looking
6 forward to doing. All I'm saying right now.
7 I'm going to look at you right now. All I'm
8 saying right now. Open the doors. Let me go in
9 my apartment. Okay? That's all I'm asking you
10 to do. When you wait for pre-Katrina to come.
11 When we had a meeting at the Lafitte center, all
12 right, in August, we had a meeting. All right?

13 And they asked how can we make our project
14 better? Okay.

15 What they did at the St. Peter
16 place right there in the front, they made a nice
17 garden. And it was beautiful. It was
18 beautiful. Okay? And really, really, that
19 really beautified that project. Now,
20 pre-Katrina came. pre-Katrina came, now, what's
21 wrong with that now? We can't even much get in
22 there. But I can go to my house, though. And I
23 can walk right on in there. And nothing is
24 wrong with it. So I'm ready to go home, and I'm
25

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1 asking you-all open the door. Open the door.

2 MS. HOLMES.

3 Yes. Good evening. My name is
4 Debbie Holmes. I'm a resident OF C.J. Peete.
5 Okay. I'm a resident of C.J. Peete. My name is
6 Debbie Holmes. Here on this paper, they have
7 people that ask questions. Will HANO allow me
8 to retrieve my belongings from my pre-storm
9 unit? On here you say, yes. That's a lie.

10 I came home last year in October.
11 They was throwing any furniture out the window.
12 When I asked the guy why was they throwing my
13 furniture out window, him, with his illiterate
14 self, tells me, You call that furniture? That's
15 not furniture. That's junk.

16 Before the hurricane I worked two
17 jobs, full-time and part-time; so everybody that
18 live in public housing is not on welfare.
19 Secondly, I need to come home. I'm tired of
20 moving. I moved four times. I never moved that
21 much before. I need to know when can I return
22 to my unit?

23 MR. MARTIN:

24 Cynthia Louise, Gloria Williams,
25

1 Bobbie Hammond.

2 MS. WILLIAMS:

3 Number one, HANO move out the way,
4 because the bottom fell. Y'all think y'all got
5 something. Let me tell y'all something over
6 there, HANO lawyers. I know who you is,

7 MR. MARTIN:

8 Please state your name for the
9 record.

10 MS. WILLIAMS:

11 My name is Gloria Williams. You
12 just called me.

13 MR. MARTIN:

14 Yes, ma'am.

15 MS. WILLIAMS:

16 Them Lawyers over there, where
17 y'all was when they took all our stuff? Had no
18 police. Y'all helped y'all self. Y'all helped
19 y'all self good. When we went over there to
20 clean up our house, y'all didn't ask us nothing.
21 Y'all didn't know whether we was looters or
22 what. Wasn't no water in our house. I'm going
23 home. I'm 60 years old. And I stayed there 27
24 years. Don't you say nothing.

25

1 MR. MARTIN:

2 I wasn't talking to you.

3 MS. WILLIAMS:

4 Because I'm mad. And those
5 lawyers and HANO, Y'all can do what you want.
6 Here I am, because I'm going home.

7 MS. JENNINGS:

8 Good evening. My name is Bobbie
9 Jennings. I'm a resident of C.J. Peete. I was
10 there 34 years. I'm going to talk on this side.
11 They look better. You don't say nothing. I
12 don't talk to dummies. My mama always told me
13 don't talk to a dummies because they won't
14 answer back.

15 One thing I want to know, do y'all
16 stand behind me if I go home? Will the
17 residents of C.J. Peete stand behind me if I go
18 home? Will the NAACP stand behind me if I go
19 home? I'm 60 years old. I can't start over. I
20 ain't worried about my furniture. HANO going to
21 buy that back one way or the other. I won't pay
22 rent until I furnish my house.

23 You put me out illegal. And I got
24 a death watch. Just like he done to me, watch
25

1 out y'all are coming.

2 MR. MARTIN:

3 Okay. Ms. Ophelia from Lafitte.
4 Then Alice Jones, Lafitte. Ms. Ophelia, then
5 Alice Jones. Sue Spilsbury, Sue Spilsbury. Is
6 she here? Malcolm Syber.

7 MR. SYBER:

8 I think it's time for us to take
9 this meeting for ourselves. We know that HANO
10 is not interested in what we have to say. But
11 we are interested in trying to organize
12 ourselves. And so we need to cut the plug on
13 HANO. Put them out and have a meeting
14 ourselves.

15 We're going to take this over.
16 And so we're saying if you are with us, don't --
17 ask HANO to please leave the auditorium. We had
18 enough of you tonight. And we are about to have
19 a meeting ourselves. Is that right? Is that
20 what you want? What we want to do, we know that
21 you have our sentiment, and so now we would like
22 to have time to meet ourselves. Is that okay,
23 sir?

24 MR. MARTIN:

25

1 No. We need to hear from some
2 more residents.

3 MR. SYBER:

4 The residents have spoken and --

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

6 Hold on. There are other people.
7 Let them speak. You going to do it legally.
8 The way y'all trying to get us -- the way you --
9 you can't do it baby. They got too many of us
10 that know the law. I for one know the law. Ask
11 Mitchell Dussett how much of the law do I know.
12 Ask any other charges person I will handle this.

13 (MR. SYBER EXITS)

14 MR. MARTIN:

15 Okay. Ma'am, please state your
16 name for the record.

17 MS. EVANS:

18 I am Ophelia Evans. I was born in
19 New Orleans 1928. Been in New Orleans all my
20 life. I have never went no where else to live
21 until now. And I am in Mesquite, Texas where
22 they don't want nobody at. And where I'm living
23 at, I'm the onliest negro in that block. And
24 believe me, they don't want me in that block
25

1 because they have set my back gate on fire. And
2 I know they don't want me in there.

3 They don't want me in there, but I
4 am there. And I am 78 years old. And I have
5 been sick and can't walk until now. And I am
6 very much home sick. I don't sleep at night. I
7 haven't slept in all these months laying down in
8 my bed, wondering when can I go back home. This
9 is my home. I don't sleep. And I want to come
10 back home because I am home sick.

11 I've been in New Orleans all my
12 life. And I have never been this stick and
13 can't hardly walk until now. And I want to come
14 back home. And I want to know why, what's the
15 reason? Give me a good reason for tearing down
16 these projects. I would like know a good
17 reason. Give me a good reason. A good reason.

18 Because now I'm just on Social
19 Security and Social Security. And Social
20 Security don't give me nothing but \$623 and my
21 rent is \$950 in Mesquite, Texas. I have to be
22 writing my daughters and my sons and even my
23 friends to send me money to help may me pay my
24 rent. My light bill is \$400 and \$500. And I'm
25

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1 just in living. And I have to come back home.
2 I was living 610 N. Prill Street.
3 And I want to come back home bad, real bad.
4 And I came down from Mesquite just to be in this
5 meeting. And I have to go back sad and I'm
6 going back sad. And I'm going home, a safe home
7 journey could give me a ride back home to Prill.
8 Because that's a long way. But I'm going to
9 find out who can help me to come back home. I
10 got to put my things on -- right now, when I
11 first come down here, I didn't want to take none
12 of my children out their beds. I slept on the
13 floor.

14 MR. MARTIN:

15 Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS:

17 And I couldn't get up. I had to
18 have two people get me off the floor.

19 MR. MARTIN:

20 Thank you, Ms. Evans. Thank you
21 for your comments.

22 Peter O'Connell, Paul Troyano,
23 Donald Vallee, Elizabeth Cook, Robert Tomen.
24 Are any of these speakers here? Excuse me, Mr.
25

1 Fred, we're going by the list. I'm sorry.

2 MR. TANNER:

3 Robert Tanner.

4 MR. MARTIN:

5 Okay. Are they hear?

6 MR. MARTIN:

7 Okay. He's deferring his time to
8 Mr. Fred. Mr. Fred, please state your name for
9 the record.

10 MR. FRED:

11 My name is Michael Fred. I have
12 to turn my back on these people because they
13 turn their backs on us. I sat down in a meeting
14 with Babers and a man Alphonso Jackson from
15 Washington. They made promises that they not
16 going to keep.

17 I'm from Lafitte. I know
18 Ms. Poree. I grew up with her son. The problem
19 is -- and I hate to pour salt on the people that
20 come from Lafitte. But the decision to tear it
21 down had been made by the mayor, the head of
22 HANO, the head of HUD, and everybody in between.
23 I can't say the {sait} whole City Council
24 because Cynthia is here.

25

1 Back to what I'm saying. Someone
2 sent me an E-mail that we are now in a New York
3 Times. That what's happening to us here is in
4 New York Times. I got the article in my hand.
5 I only got three minutes. I have a picture here
6 of the old Lafitte, like I remember it with
7 grass and benches, trees. This is a picture I
8 took since I've been back. You don't see no
9 bushes, no grass. There ain't no backyards.
10 What I'm saying Father Michael from St. Peter
11 Claiborne, that's where I took my first
12 communion, confirmation, everything.

13 Father Michael had a meeting maybe
14 a month ago, and they showed how they're going
15 to change the Lafitte, you know, what they're
16 going to do in the future. It's a beautiful
17 plan, a beautiful plan. But there's nothing
18 wrong with the Calliope, the Magnolia, the St.
19 Bernard. The people from Lafitte that want to
20 come back, if they open the Calliope and open
21 the St. Bernard and open the Magnolia, they can
22 come back and live there.

23 The bottom line with this is when
24 I was -- when I moved away for the hurricane, I
25

1 was watching TV and I thought that was movie.
2 This couldn't be real. A dead lady outside the
3 Convention Boulevard with a blanket over her. A
4 dead lady in a wheelchair. They're going to cut
5 me off in a minute.

6 The reason I came here in my
7 one-Sunday-go-to-meeting-suit is if I came here
8 in a cut-off shirt and a bandana around my head,
9 these HANO police officers probably wouldn't let
10 me speak. I thank you for allowing me the
11 chance to speak my little piece.

12 I have a key in my pocket for 715
13 N. Claiborne. In October we can go in and got
14 our jewelry and our stuff. I come out in
15 January and they got steel plates on the door.
16 They know they don't want us back. What about
17 the St. Bernard? Ain't nothing wrong with the
18 St. Bernard. It could be cleaned up. The
19 Magnolia, the Calliope.

20 There are people in -- my family's
21 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in Arkansas, Texas.
22 They keep calling me to ask a me when we're
23 coming back. You can't come back. I don't want
24 to put all on Nagan. There might be some people
25

1 from Nagan's office here tonight. We can't
2 blame it on all on Nagan. This is a concerted
3 effort to keep the black people that's the base
4 of New Orleans out.

5 MR. MARTIN:

6 Thank you Mrs. Fred. Thank you.
7 Your time has expired. Thank you, Mr. Fred.

8 MR. FRED:

9 I know they was going to cut me
10 off.

11 MS. COOK:

12 They did make up their minds. My
13 name is Elizabeth Cook. I'm C3 Hands Off
14 Iberville. When they put up the steel shutters
15 in December, they didn't consult with residents
16 then, did they, to hear your opinions about
17 that? Then when they announced the plans to
18 demolish public housing in June, I didn't
19 remember a single hearing getting resident
20 input.

21 Suddenly resident input seems very
22 important. I wonder why. When you've heard the
23 input and the answer is no to demolition, no to
24 demolition. This is criminal. This is a
25

1 criminal act taking people's home from them at a
2 time when they desperately need them is a
3 criminal act. And it is a violation of human
4 rights. And the world is watching. The world
5 is watching right now.

6 Alphonso Jackson, it's time to do
7 the right thing for the citizens of New Orleans.
8 And the Bush administration is behind this.
9 Let's be clear. The Bush administration is
10 behind demolition of public housing and the
11 closure of Charity Hospital and the closing down
12 of our public schools. We need our public
13 services back and that includes Charity
14 Hospital. That includes our public schools to
15 be fully funded.

16 Right here in this school you have
17 more security guards than you have teachers.
18 That is also criminal. That is also criminal.
19 It's all part of the same agenda and that is to
20 destroy public services in this city and
21 privatize everything so somebody can make a
22 buck.

23 And I think you've heard that loud
24 and clear from the people here tonight, we're
25

1 not going to take it. And we are going to
2 fight. We are fighting. And we meet Thursday
3 night, seven o'clock, St. Jude Community Center.
4 Keep up the fight.

5 MR. MARTIN:

6 Jacquelyn Ruth, Lanetta Dorsey,
7 Lanetta Dorsey, Regina Matthews, Julie Andrews.

8 Yes, sir.

9 MR. TROYANO:

10 Paul Troyano. Pox Christi New
11 Orleans. It's a faith-based group based on
12 Catholic social teaching and uses nonviolence as
13 its method. And I'm just here to say we are
14 behind the residents. And it is a crime here.
15 It is sad. It's very sad tonight. And I wanted
16 to add some things to the record here, the
17 Catholic social teachings of the Bishops. And
18 which is -- I just distilled it down very small,
19 because I didn't have time to print it all.
20 But, basically, I'm really -- we are with the
21 residents. And I don't want to take up y'all's
22 time. But we are just here to say I wanted to
23 add Voices to the Storm to the record, if I
24 could do that. I don't know. Any way, thank
25

1 you for letting me talk.

2 MS. DORSEY:

3 My name is Lanetter Dorsey. I
4 just came to say that due to Hurricane
5 Pre-katrina was the reason I was in Dallas. But
6 due to housing was the reason I was in the
7 Lafitte because I was relocated to Lafitte not
8 no choice of mine because I wanted to stay in
9 the Florida. I helped do the blueprint for
10 Florida when they was remodeling it. But was I
11 there, no.

12 So what that tells me the same
13 thing I'm listening to now, this housing is not
14 people of their word. I used to be on the
15 board. I was off the board because of people
16 not listening and doing what they say they're
17 going to do. I can't deal with liars.

18 MS. DORSEY:

19 I am Lanetta Dorsey. I come from
20 Florida. I was relocated to Iberville a couple
21 months before the storm. I didn't want to be in
22 Iberville. I wanted to be in Florida. Y'all
23 proposed a plan for every site but Florida.
24 When will you reopen Florida? Okay.

25

1 And another thing that I may add
2 to everyone that's in this room tonight, HANO
3 took and housed their people in public housing
4 after pre-Katrina when you got all us on the
5 streets.

6 Darren, you can stand there with
7 tears in your eyes all you want. It's sinful.
8 But guess what? Just like this lady told you
9 before, they're using you. To HANO lawyers,
10 Y'all can sit there, take notes all you want.
11 My name is spelled, L-A-N-E-T-T-A, Dorsey,
12 capital D-O-R-S-E-Y. I have three kids. My
13 kids have straight A's in school.

14 HANO with the Florida gave us
15 after-school tutoring in the community center
16 that we don't have no more, because y'all don't
17 want to do nothing with Florida. Y'all don't
18 want to give us no answers tonight. All y'all
19 want to do is hear, hear, hear. You can hear
20 what you want, but guess what? When you leave
21 out here, it's just like you ain't heard
22 nothing, because you not going to do nothing.

23 I want to go back to Florida. I
24 want to know when will Florida be remodeled? I
25

1 want to know when you going to take them chains
2 off the gate. Because chains can be cut down.
3 Y'all sitting down here. But my God is sitting
4 up there looking down.

5 HANO is nothing but a group of
6 people that y'all put together to be used. Half
7 the people running HANO come out projects, as
8 y'all call it. I don't come from a project. I
9 come from a home, because my mama raised me.
10 And she didn't raise no dummy that can't read.

11 As I stated, I finished school.
12 My children have straight As. My baby have a
13 scholarship, and he just started high school.
14 All that comes from them giving us tutoring in
15 the Florida.

16 Get it right when you say -- from
17 out of the problem, who called us soap opera
18 people. I ain't never been a soap opera person.
19 I went to school and I got a job. When I had my
20 children, I went to school from 6 to 10. I went
21 to work from 11 to 6, and I was a mama from 6
22 until 6 in the morning. Y'all don't make me.
23 You can keep cut the mic off on me. You can
24 keep looking at your watch. 'Cause I know how
25

1 to tell the time, and I know you do too. And my
2 time is up.

3 Mr. Martin:

4 Regina Hawkins.

5 MS. ANDREWS:

6 Good evening. Good evening my
7 name is Julie Andrews. I'm am a former resident
8 of Desire. I am currently still homeless. I
9 have a couple things to say tonight. And I
10 guess people say why you care Desire, they're
11 tearing it down anyway, again. But there are
12 some things we need HANO to be. We need HANO to
13 be responsible and we need them to be
14 responsive. We need them to answer the phones
15 and return phone calls. We also need -- we also
16 as residents and as tenants need realistic plans
17 for our lives and the lives of our children.
18 These are things that the Housing Authority will
19 sit down and talk about with us and put it on
20 paper but never implement.

21 As there was a guy named Clyde
22 some time back with Desire HOPE VI that said his
23 job was to rebuild houses. Well, he got -- he
24 succeeded. Still Desire is lacking their CSSP.
25

1 If the Housing Authority of New Orleans and the
2 people of HUD would have allowed the residents
3 to have those community supportive services and
4 the other upbuilding self-initiative programs
5 across the city and through the developments,
6 people would not be banging on your doors and
7 begging you to let them back into the houses
8 they have leased and have stayed into.

9 The HOPE VI revitalization plan
10 was supposed to work. But, again, it failed
11 just like St. Thomas. I don't know what my
12 family is classified as, HOPE VI relocatee,
13 Desire, Section 8, or whatever. I don't know
14 what we classified as. And I can't get housing
15 authority to answer the phone or return a call
16 so I can try to find that information.

17 Housing Authority has set
18 precedents over decades. They have proven that
19 demolition and HANO plans have never worked.
20 Nothing benefits the residents. It only
21 benefits the richer who become stronger and the
22 poor who become more defensive and more in need
23 or the things that are promised to have.

24 Really, I believe that you all are
25

1 still trying to kill us off. There's a health
2 and wellness program that was funded for Desire
3 HOPE VI that you-all have stopped funding. That
4 means I can't get my heart medicine.

5 The RFP that's out that Cynthia
6 Wiggins spoke about, I agree it needs to be
7 retracted and taken back. Because right now you
8 are only having this meeting to say that you met
9 with the residents because the plans are already
10 made. That is another -- that is another
11 precedent that Housing Authority well eloquently
12 sets. You play it very well. You use us every
13 time. And, again, you've done it again.

14 It's not that we're not trying to
15 be at the table, but it is a fact that you-all
16 are doing --

17 MR. MARTIN:

18 Thank you for your comments. Your
19 time is up.

20 MS. ANDREWS:

21 Fischer didn't work, it failed.
22 St. Thomas don't work it failed. Housing
23 Authority don't work, it will fail.

24 MR. MARTIN:

25

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1 We have time for two more
2 residents, then we will here briefly from our
3 elected officials.

4 MR. MARTIN:

5 Please state your name for the
6 record. And the last resident that will be
7 speaking is Ms. Karen White if she's here.
8 Karen White.

9 State your name.

10 MR. DUFOR:

11 Reginald Dufor. Same old
12 Politics. You would have thought pre-Katrina
13 would have brought on a new perspective after
14 all the Charity we received, God blessed those
15 who reached out in need. The politicians have
16 the same outlook on life, corruption and greed.
17 (INAUDIBLE) Three- and four-story buildings
18 still sit idle after pre-Katrina punch on the
19 chin, not to mention Camille and Betsy. The
20 Superdome took a beating when it came down
21 pre-katrina. As New Orleanians, we all know
22 what areas were hit hard, the Lower 9, the East,
23 Lakeview, and Gentilly. We all heard our mayor
24 tell Congress our biggest need was housing. Why
25

1 is public housing being demolished when areas
2 like Lakeview, Lower 9, Gentilly, and New
3 Orleans East need immediate help? Opening these
4 housing developments would be a greet economic
5 impact, plus there are job openings instead
6 wages have went up:

7 You can't blame public housing for
8 crime as they remain sealed and crime is a hot
9 topic in neighborhoods. New Orleans politics,
10 goes do Peter claver and gave Father Michael the
11 contract to demolish Lafitte. Nadine Jarman who
12 was a top CEO at HANO was hired by the same
13 company after she was fired by HANO. With
14 Father Michael and the Carrier Construction
15 Company. New Orleans politics sacrificed lives
16 of old women and kids to fatten their own
17 wallet.

18 MR. MARTIN:

19 Okay. Resident, Karen white.

20 MS. WHITE:

21 Good evening. My maim is Karen
22 right. Christopher Park Home Buyers Home
23 Association. And I'm in the opposition of the
24 demolition of Christopher property. Because we
25

1 were never informed of demolition. I just found
2 out three days ago that this project was being
3 demolished. Can you please allow us a chance to
4 at least talk about the demolition? Not like
5 it's going to hurt us, but we need that help,
6 too.

7 MR. MARTIN:

8 Okay. You can proceed.

9 MS. WHITE:

10 I would like to HANO to hold up on
11 demolishing Christopher Park until we at least
12 have a chance to discuss the plan for
13 Christopher Park.

14 MR. MARTIN:

15 Now, we will hear from our elected
16 official, Council Member Cynthia Willard-Lewis.

17 MS. WILLARD-LEWIS:

18 I want to begin by thanking and
19 praising the Lord for His mercy and grace. That
20 we have gathered, that His angels are taking
21 care of the babies, and that the spirit of the
22 Living God is moving an agenda of hope and
23 inclusion for all of us that we may not see in
24 the natural. But we are going yield our plans
25

1 to the God of impossibilities; that at the end
2 of the day New Orleans will be better than
3 before, that we will be built with the dreams
4 and with the hopes of all of those that we have
5 lost and all of those who desire to return.

6 I come -- let me just say -- I
7 really came to be a witness to the old history
8 of what pre-Katrina has done to this city; that
9 today we are a divided New Orleans and not a
10 united New Orleans, and you must be, we must be
11 united. And any agenda that brings about
12 restoration and hope; that we must -- pray first
13 and work second and strategize. Let me just say
14 that I come on behalf of all of my families from
15 Desire, to let them know how much I love them
16 and miss them. And they are so important in the
17 rebuilding of this city.

18 I come to support all of the
19 initiatives of the resident council that have
20 been longsuffering for folks who would listen
21 and who would advance an agenda of inclusion and
22 restoration. I'm just going to say that I am
23 here with you in this fight. That it was the
24 fight of the shrinking footprint from day one.
25

1 People who were not from New Orleans were saying
2 to New Orleans in this city and outside of this
3 city that we were going to be a smaller
4 footprint. And everything that has happened
5 from that point forward has been about the
6 downsizing and the out-migration of true New
7 Orleans:

8 I came to be a witness to the oral
9 history of your suffering and of your pain.
10 Hopeless -- homeless as I am but not hopeless.
11 Because I know that in unity there is strength.
12 And I serve a God of all possibility and hope.
13 And that He is with me and He is with you. And
14 so I am going to say that the greatest
15 out-migration since the Civil War, the greatest
16 mass exodus of people caused by this storm
17 should be the turning point where we rebuild
18 this city on the sure and sound foundations and
19 principles of justice and equity; that the
20 rebuilding and redevelopment should be done with
21 the hands and the heart and the eyes and the
22 vision of the people who live in the public
23 housing developments. That is what creates the
24 jobs and the opportunities and connects them to
25

1 the housing. And I thank you.

2 MR. MARTIN:

3 Okay. Your time is up. State
4 Representative Charmaine Marchand.

5 MS. MARCHAND:

6 How y'all doing? My name is
7 Charmaine Marchand. I am a resident of the
8 Lower 9th Ward. Forever they talked about not
9 letting the Lower 9th Ward come back and what
10 they going to knock down and everything else.
11 I'm days away from getting in my house. And I
12 think y'all should be in your house, too.

13 I want y'all to know I've got in
14 my hand 300 E-mails that have been accumulated
15 within the past three days of people all over
16 the United States who are watching, watching
17 what you are doing to people, not animals,
18 people. These are tax-paying people who want to
19 go home. That's Wall all we want. Everybody
20 wants to home. We don't want to be anywhere
21 else but New Orleans. And you're not going to
22 stop us from coming back:

23 I'm not -- I don't think I'm going
24 run for president, I don't mind going to jail.

25

1 I don't mind. And when you open the doors, I'm
2 coming in with my hammer and nails, too, and my
3 paint brush. So you let me know when it's
4 time. I'm coming with you. And I'm not running
5 for nothing right now.

6 MR. MARTIN:

7 Representative Cedric Richmond.

8 MR. RICHMOND:

9 I'm Cedric Richmond. And I don't
10 know why it's just assumed that I came here in
11 my role as a public official, because I didn't.
12 I came here as the product of a mother who lived
13 in public housing. And I came here because
14 Ms. Woodfork asked me to come when we were
15 protesting at the capitol:

16 Well, let me just tell you-all as
17 chairman of legislative black caucus, we are
18 with you. We weren't invited but we wanted to
19 make sure we were here. Now, I'm not going to
20 lecture you-all. Because I have questions for
21 HANO, also. Because my questions, one -- first
22 of all, I'm probably sure we'll get some answers
23 in writing, -- which if it costs two times more
24 to demolish than it costs to fix it up, then why
25

1 are we looking at the most expensive
2 alternative:

3 Two -- and I know I went to public
4 school, but I did well. If we have a bunch of
5 people that need housing and we have a bunch of
6 units that are available, why don't we take the
7 people that need housing and put them back in
8 the units that they lived in? And that is an
9 official question that I would like a response
10 to in writing.

11 And then we have the audacity to
12 blame it on the concentration of poverty in New
13 Orleans. It was always concentrated. Because
14 you can't get people to make beds and clean
15 hotels if you educate them well and they expect
16 a decent pay. So the fact that we were always
17 last in education is not a coincidence:

18 Let me just talk about the crime
19 thing. Because we looked at those kids on RV
20 after the storm that may have been taking a TV
21 or taking a steak. And we called them looters
22 and we put them on the cover of magazines. And
23 we put them on national news. But let me tell
24 you what's being looted now, our land.

25

1 And there's an old saying, and
2 I'll close with this, that talks about why the
3 poor and illiterate and uneducated continue to
4 steal, it's because the rich and the developers
5 keep showing them how to do it. So at some
6 point we have to -- and you don't have to
7 explain to me. Because lucky for you--all you
8 don't have to come to Baton Rouge and deal with
9 me. We're going to try to figure out a way for
10 you to have to come deal with me. But at the
11 end of the day, you--all have to explain --
12 you--all have to explain that at the pearly gates
13 how you come up with this decision. And I just
14 want to know whether you heard and you felt the
15 pain that we heard tonight. And if you heard
16 that pain, and I trust you--all will make the
17 right decision and open up those housing
18 developments:

19 And I was talking to the people,
20 however we decide and you decide that you want
21 to take back your housing developments, I will
22 be there.

23 (AUDIENCE MEMBERS SPEAKING SIMULTANEOUSLY)

24 (APPLAUSE)

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1 MR. MARTIN:

2 Okay. At this time we are turning
3 over to Mr. Donald Babers.

4 MR. BABERS:

5 Let me thank you. Thank you. To
6 our elected officials, let me thank you for your
7 participation. Let me thank you for your
8 comments, your caring, and your concerns. You
9 have spoken. We have listened. And we have
10 recorded everything that has been said we have
11 taken record and taken notes. Let me assure you
12 -- let me assure you that we take this very
13 seriously. We take this very seriously.

14 Our next step will be to go back
15 and transcribe the dictation that has been
16 taken. We will study the tapes. We have heard
17 a lot of good things here this evening, and,
18 certainly, it will be given due consideration:

19 Again, thank you for your caring
20 and your concerns. And good evening.

21 (WHEREUPON, THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED.)

22

23

24

25

1 R E P O R T E R ' S P A G E

2 I, ROCHELLE BILLINGS, Certified Court
3 Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, the
4 Officer, as defined in Rule 28 of the Federal
5 Rules of Civil Procedure and/or Article 1434 (B)
6 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, before
7 whom this sworn testimony was taken, do hereby
8 state on the record;

9 That, due to the interaction in the
10 spontaneous discourse of this proceeding, dashes
11 (--) have been used to indicate pauses, changes
12 in thought, interruptions by another speaker,
13 and/or talkovers; that same is the proper
14 proceeding, and that the dashes (--) do not
15 indicate that words or phrases have been left
16 out of this transcript;

17 That any words and/or names which could
18 not be verified through reference material
19 have been denoted with the phrase "(spelled
20 phonetically)."

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