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**NEWS RELEASE**

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS FAIR HOUSING ACTION CENTER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**FAIR HOUSING CENTER FILES SUIT AGAINST LANDLORD OVER BLATANT RACIAL HOUSING DISCRIMINATION**

On December 17, 2010, the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) filed suit against the Bouchon Family Limited Partnership and Betty Bouchon. The lawsuit stems from two unrelated complaints of discrimination by housing consumers. Both complained that Ms. Bouchon was using race to discriminate against renters at a sixteen (16) unit housing complex located at 4905 and 4919 Canal Street, in New Orleans, LA. Over the course of a year, GNOFHAC tested the complex for discrimination. GNOFHAC mystery shoppers attempted to rent units at the complex. During the process, the mystery shoppers documented blatant discrimination by Ms. Bouchon.

Ms. Bouchon refused to allow any black mystery shoppers the opportunity to rent units, and made numerous racially discriminatory comments. At one point, Ms. Bouchon informed a white mystery shopper that she saw a black girl who she thought was interested in seeing the apartment so she left the premises so that she would not have to show the unit to the black girl. She later informed a white mystery shopper that the rental unit is located in "a safe neighborhood, one of the only safe ones left because we don't have any blacks here" ([listen](#)). In the same meeting she advised the mystery shopper that a lot blacks were calling her about the apartment so she simply did not answer the phone ([listen](#)).

After extensively documenting alleged discrimination, GNOFHAC filed an administrative complaint on September 24, 2009 with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which was investigated by the Louisiana Department of Justice. On May 21, 2009, the Louisiana Department of Justice

found for GNOFHAC and issued a charge against Betty Bouchon and the Bouchon Family Limited Partnership, determining that there is reasonable cause to believe that discrimination took place. Subsequently, GNOFHAC filed the instant lawsuit.

GNOFHAC Executive Director James Perry comments, "Our investigation discovered that over the course of more than a year, Ms. Bouchon engaged in a pattern of illegal, intentional, racial, housing discrimination. I am saddened that in 2010, such execrable bigotry still persists. The finding in this case serves to embolden the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center as we advocate for fair housing choice for all New Orleans residents."

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*The Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) is a private non-profit organization. GNOFHAC is dedicated to eliminating housing discrimination and furthering equal housing opportunities through education, outreach, advocacy, and enforcement of fair housing laws across the metro New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas. The activities described in this release were privately funded.*