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N E W O R L E A N S



**FAIR  
HOUSING  
ACTION CENTER**

*Celebrating 10 years  
of fighting housing  
discrimination*

## NEWS RELEASE

### GREATER NEW ORLEANS FAIR HOUSING ACTION CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 6, 2007  
[www.gnofairhousing.org](http://www.gnofairhousing.org)

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#### FAIR HOUSING DIRECTOR TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS REGARDING HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IN POST-KATRINA NEW ORLEANS

On February 6, 2007, James Perry, Executive Director of the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) will testify before the House Committee on Financial Services in Washington, D.C. The subject of his testimony was the nature of housing discrimination on the Gulf Coast post-Katrina and the affordable housing shortage that the city of New Orleans is currently facing.

Specifically, Perry addressed:

- Discriminatory zoning practices recently enacted by local governments in the Greater New Orleans area. For example, Perry spoke about the status of GNOFHAC's recent case against St. Bernard Parish for its blood relative ordinance.
- The actions of the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) and the United States Department of Housing And Urban Development (HUD) regarding the proposed demolition of over 5,000 units of available affordable housing in New Orleans.
- The role of people with disabilities in the rebuilding process and the importance of accessibility to an equitable rebuilding process.
- The significance of recent judicial decisions about discriminatory internet advertising cases.

Perry also made several recommendations to the Committee on what role the federal government can play in addressing these issues. A draft of Perry's testimony will be published on [www.gnofairhousing.org](http://www.gnofairhousing.org).

Perry remarked "Our organization has a unique perspective on the difficulties citizens face as they try to rebuild their lives after last year's hurricanes and I appreciate the opportunity to testify about these challenges in front of people who have the power to remediate them."

*The Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) is a private non-profit organization. The Center was established by a group of concerned New Orleanians in 1995 with the help of the National Fair Housing Alliance and a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. 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.*

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