

GREATER
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NEWS RELEASE

GREATER NEW ORLEANS FAIR HOUSING ACTION CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FAIR HOUSING CENTER PLEASSED THAT BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED; HOPEFUL THAT ST. BERNARD PARISH OFFICIALS WON'T BLOCK FURTHER ATTEMPTS AT OPEN HOUSING

On October 1, 2009, St. Bernard Parish finally approved the building permits Provident Realty Advisors needed to start construction on four mixed income housing developments long delayed by the illegal and discriminatory actions of St. Bernard Parish officials. Parish Council members approved issuing the permits during a special meeting.

The issuance of the permits comes as the result of multi-year litigation initiated by the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) in 2006. So far, GNOFHAC has successfully challenged St. Bernard's two multi-family construction moratoria, and an ordinance that restricted the rental of single-family residences to those related by blood to the owner of the property. Provident joined as an intervenor in the case in 2008, when Parish officials took measures to block the developments, composed of affordable and market rate units, from moving forward.

James Perry, Executive Director of GNOFHAC, comments, "We are pleased that Parish officials have finally allowed much needed, quality affordable housing development to proceed by issuing permits to Provident. We remain concerned with other actions that we believe to be discriminatory on the part of the Parish, but hope that the issuance of these permits signals a commitment to open housing that will guide future decisions around housing development in St. Bernard."

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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. The activities described in this release were privately funded.

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