

Associated Neighborhood Development (AND)
A Shared Initiative, Inc.
Bayou District Foundation
Broadmoor Development Corporation
Chase
Committee for a Better New Orleans (CBNO)
Covenant House
Crescent City Community Land Trust
Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.
First NBC Bank
Foundation for Louisiana
GCR Inc.
Global Green USA
Green Coast Enterprises
Harmony Neighborhood Development
Historic Restoration, Inc.
Home Builders Association of Greater New Orleans (HBA)
Iberia Bank
Jericho Road, Episcopal Housing Initiative
Jerusalem Economic Development Corporation (JEDC)
Louisiana Appleseed
Louisiana Association of Affordable Housing Providers (LAAHP)
Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations (LANO)



Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative
Louisiana Housing Alliance (LHA)
Lower 9th Ward (NENA)
Lower 9th Ward Homeownership Association
lowernine.org
Make It Right
New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity
New Orleans Neighborhood Development Foundation (NDF)
NO/AIDS Task Force
Operation Comeback
Pontchartrain Park CDC
Preservation Resource Center (PRC)
Project Home Again
Project Homecoming, Inc.
Providence Community Housing
Puentes New Orleans
Rebuilding Together New Orleans
Redmellon
Renaissance Neighborhood Development Corporation
St. Bernard Project
UNITY of Greater New Orleans
Urban Focus, LLC
Volunteers of America (VOA)
Whitney Bank

September 22, 2014

TO: Mayor Mitch Landrieu
City Hall, 2nd Floor
1300 Perdido St
New Orleans, LA 70112

RE: Soft Second Developer Set-Aside Program/Executive Director - Office of Community Development

Dear Mayor Landrieu,

I write on behalf of the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance (GNOHA) to thank you for your continued leadership and hard work. As you are aware, the City's Soft Second Mortgage Program has been a tremendous success, and to date has assisted 751 New Orleanians in purchasing their first home. However, there is still much work to be done.

As you know, GNOHA is a coalition of forty-seven nonprofit and for-profit home builders, community development corporations, and advocates working diligently to rebuild the Greater New Orleans area. Our mission is to foster inclusive, economically viable communities by supporting member efforts to develop and preserve safe, affordable, and accessible housing for the residents of the Greater New Orleans area in an ethical and efficient manner. As such, a number of our member organizations have recently expressed to us their frustration regarding the Soft Second Developer Set-Aside Program. The issue being that they were awarded funding through the Set-Aside Program only to learn the funds were not actually set-aside but disbursed through the regular Soft Second Pool. This is a serious situation and affects thirty-two of our members' prospective homebuyers. Below is a sample of who this misfire will directly affect:

A buyer is a single mother of two who earns 72% AMI working as a billing coordinator at Tulane. She is anxiously awaiting closing on her new home at 4924 Lafaye. Her rate with Capital One expires on Sept. 29th. The home has passed HQS inspection and she is waiting on a commitment letter from the City to

move forward with the closing. As such, the family is anxiously anticipating the time they can move their family into their first home.

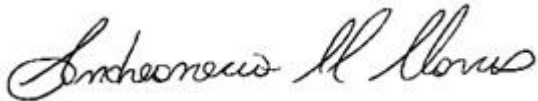
We would urge the City to work quickly and expeditiously to remedy this situation. As an organization, we are prepared to advocate on the City's behalf to the State to secure additional funding if the City has exhausted all possible funding available for this commitment.

Related to this topic, the position of Director of Housing Policy and Community Development with the City has been vacant since August 1st. This position is one that GNOHA would urge you to fill as soon as possible.

We'd also like to make you and your staff aware that GNOHA will soon be awarded the funds to begin developing a long-term Affordable Housing Plan for the City of New Orleans. We would love to do this in partnership with OCD and again would request the position of Director of Housing Policy be filled as soon as possible to ensure this project receives the assistance it requires from the City.

If you have any questions, please let us know, and thank you again for your continued commitment to your constituents and local non-profits.

Sincerely,



Andreanecia M. Morris
GNOHA Board of Governors, Chair
(504) 915-4905

cc: Brooke Smith, Chief of Staff
Cedric Grant, Deputy Mayor
Anthony Faciane, Director Neighborhood Stabilization
Jared Brossett, District D Councilmember
Jacqueline Jones, Jeremiah Project