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# No Economic Stimulus for Blacks



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# Economic Stimulus' Failure to Benefit Blacks Sparks Comparison to Days of Jim Crow



By Hazel Trice Edney  
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

WASHINGTON (NNPA) • A little more than a year ago, Feb. 17, 2009, newly inaugurated President Barack Obama took his first corrective action to quell the escalating economic crisis.

That action was to sign the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), known as the stimulus bill, a \$787 billion package to create and preserve jobs and spur economic growth.

But, one year later, a non-partisan study by the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at Ohio State University has found that despite the President's noble efforts, the economic stimulus has not only failed to boost the economy for African-Americans and other historically disadvantaged people, including women, but it has produced starkly disparate results between White workers and people of color and failed to correct long-standing racial disparities.

"I know that a lot of the programs that were developed in the 1930s and 40s were developed in such a way that didn't target people who were the most marginalized such as African-Americans, Latinos and other groups like Native-Americans. And I was concerned that unless we did that during this deep recession, you could actually end up with a set of programs that would not only not serve those communities well, but also push those communities further behind," says John Powell, executive director of the Kirwan Institute, telling why the study was done.

He compared the stimulus to those established during days of Jim Crow when racially disadvantaged groups were not even considered in economic initiatives. The report tells why his comparison is not extreme:

"While overall unemployment has started to decline (and decline for White workers), Black workers may soon reach the

2010 unemployment rate which was once projected to occur if a stimulus or recovery bill was not enacted," the report states. "This suggests that many of the employment gains from American Recovery and are not reaching workers of color."

The report continues, "White unemployment has started to decrease (from a peak of 9.4% in October 2009 to 8.7% in January 2010), while Black unemployment rates continues to rise (from 15.5% to 16.5% during the same time period). Latino unemployment rates have also decreased slightly but remain very high, decreasing from 13.1% in October 2009 to 12.6% in January 2010."

Among other disparities listed in the report:

- One in five children were living in poverty in 2008, and poverty rates for children of color are climbing above 40 percent in some states;
- While one in 10 workers are unemployed nationally, one in six Black workers and one in eight Latino workers are unemployed;
- Nearly half of all subprime loans went to African-American and Latino borrowers, even though many qualified for prime loans;
- African-American and Latino homeowners are expected to lose \$164 \$213 billion in assets due to the housing crisis;
- The percentage of children in poverty is likely to peak at 21 percent in 2010;
- Neighborhoods and communities are also being reshaped by the detrimental impacts of the housing crisis and recession;

The report, released late last month,

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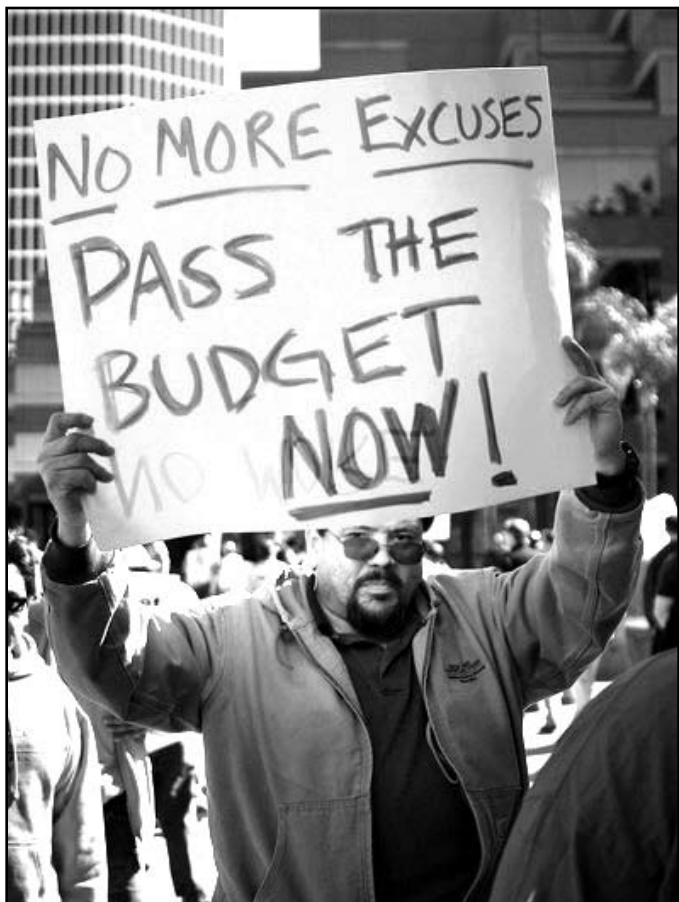
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comes just as President Obama – the nation’s first Black president • proposed 2011 budget seeks to boost programs aimed to improve the quality of life for African-Americans, according to the White House Office of Public Engagement.

The Kirwan report comes as no surprise to African-Americans who are well aware of the economic pains experienced first-hand. Many have expressed disappointment in Obama’s lack of a targeted plan in the Black community; including civil rights leaders Ben Jealous of the NAACP, Al Sharpton of the National Network and Marc Morial of the National Urban League, who two weeks ago trudged through a snow storm to a White House meeting with President Obama just to express what most American’s already know: That his “rising tide lifts all boats” theory about unemployment, expressed in a press conference, is apparently not working.

Neither is it working for Black contractors and businesses, the Kirwan Report confirms.

“Minority and disadvantaged business contracting is

ity firms to successfully compete for contracts,” states the report, titled, “ARRA and The Economic Crisis: One Year Later Has Stimulus Helped Communities in Crisis?”

It continues, “Although consistent state level data on ARRA contracting to minority firms is not widely available, figures from federal procurement indicate troubling and disparate contracting patterns. While Black, Latino, and Women owned businesses represent 5.2%, 6.8%, and 28.2% of all businesses respectively, 12 as of February 1, 2010, they had only received 1.1%, 1.6%, and 2.4% of all federally contracted ARRA funds. Of the \$45 billion in direct federal contracts allocated by February 1, 2010, less than \$2.4 billion (5% of the total) were allocated to Black, Latino, and Women owned businesses.”

Black contractors have long com-

plainted that they were not getting their fair share of state and federal dollars. That complaint continued specifically about the economic stimulus dollars. Also, Black-owned newspapers point out how they’ve been consistently shorted in allocation of advertising dollars from federal agencies such as the U. S. Census Bureau as well as private corporations that received stimulus money, including car dealerships.

White House sources have conceded that the absence of tracking economic stimulus dollars has added to the problem of assuring fair dissemination.

But, fair contracting laws, including Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibits discrimination on the basis of race by federal government agencies – either intended or unintended.

Powell, also one of the researchers, says that studying the fairness of the dissemination of the stimulus money was hindered because “the administration did not require the tracking of data based on either race nor gender...Here we’re spending almost a trillion dollars and they have all of these requirements for tracking information, but race and gender was left out. We felt that that’s a bad sign. So we decided that we would try to track it.”

Powell says the mistake that the White House has apparently made is to attempt to meet a universal goal with the same process.

Cover Story Continued page 4.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF  
TRAINING DAY

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# Last Chance Slam Competition

## Open Mic at Sweet Lorraine's Jazz Club



Dionne Character, Author  
Entertainment Editor & Columnist

Tuesday, February 23 will go down in history as one of the hottest nights of poetry at Sweet Lorraine's Jazz Club. The show, hosted by Shelton "Shakespeare" Alexander, and co-hosted by yours truly, was a night many will forever remember.

Director, Spike Lee and his camera crew were in the house enjoying the show as the

poet lineup featured, Nature Man, Marcus Page, Reality, Damani, Illpen, Yani, and Darnell Neal, just to name a few. Also on stage, comedian, Peter Bizzo, who had everybody in stitches.

If you think you got what it takes to make the New Orleans Slam Team, Sweet Lorraine's will be hosting its Last Chance Slam to make it to the finals on March 9 and March 16. The Final Slam will be held on March 30, 2010, which the top five poets from both nights will be chosen to make the New Orleans National Slam Team. This winning team will be the team to make its second appearance since Katrina.

If you would like to catch a glimpse of what you missed or participate in Open Mic, stop by any Tuesday night. The show begins at 9:30 p.m., with a \$5.00 cover charge.

For more information, contact the host and Slam Master, Shelton "Shakespeare" Alexander at Shelton\_Shake@yahoo.com.

Dionne Character can be reached at dasolediva@yahoo.com.



Poet and Host Shelton "Shakespeare" Alexander

## Our RECOVERY IN PROGRESS

### CITY OF NEW ORLEANS RELEASES BID FOR NEW ORLEANS FIRE DEPARTMENT ENGINE 10

The City of New Orleans released an Invitation to Bid for NOFD Engine 10 located at 14069 Morrison Road. As a result of Hurricane Katrina, this facility sustained approximately 2 feet of flooding. The Engine was originally built in 1976 and is located in Eastern New Orleans. This rebuilding project will include some of the following improvements:

- Removal and replacement of concrete entrance walkway
- Removal and replacement of gypsum board ceiling
- Painting of ceiling, doors, frames and doors flush
- Removal and replacement of various doors
- Removal and replacement of food storage pantries
- Replacement of ceiling tile grid
- Cleaning and resealing of terrazzo flooring
- Removal of water damaged Apparatus Bay heaters
- Removal of trees and eroded soil
- Removal and replacement of damaged concrete sidewalk
- Re-caulking of windows and CMU locker joints
- Removal and replacement of 50 feet of chainlink fencing

When a bid is submitted, carefully read all instructions and provide only the information requested. Failure to submit all information requested in an Invitation to Bid and/or adding information not requested on a Bid form may render a bid rejected and non-responsive.

To be considered for this project, interested contractors must submit a bid for NOFD Engine 10 by Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 10:00AM (CST). There will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting for this project on Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 10:00AM (CST).

For more information on how to bid competitively or general information, contact the City of New Orleans Purchasing Bureau at (504) 658-1550 or purchasing@cityofno.com. Downloaded bid documents may be printed by any local blueprint shop at bidder's expense.

For more information on  
NOFD Engine 10 or other  
Recovery Projects, visit  
[www.cityofno.com/recovery](http://www.cityofno.com/recovery)



### Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

"The way you might have dealt with it is if you say, 'We want to reduce unemployment in every community across the country.' How you would do that in the Black community, how you would do that in the Native-American community, how you would do that in the rural community, the process is different. The goal is universal, but the process is different because the people are situated differently."

Powell says he does not buy the "We have to serve all Americans" excuse for not recognizing diversity. "For some people, the escalator is fine. Some people may need to take stairs. But, some people may need an elevator. And that's not to say that the people who use the elevator are getting any special [treatment]. They're situated differently in relationship to structures. And that's significant for African-Americans."

Among the solutions suggested in the report:

- Rather than scale back job tracking efforts, add measures which consider the quality and duration of employment, as well as the race, gender, and zip code of job recipients.
- Unbundle large contracts for small businesses.

Breaking up large projects will allow for more small business participation in the recovery.

- Set and mandate specific, Minority Business Enterprise and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goals for every department.
- Use targeted reinvestment in hard-hit areas, first source hiring, apprenticeship and job training.
- Increase employment opportunities for ex offenders.
- Consider that the mandate to expend ARRA funds as quickly as possible, with special priority given to 'shovel ready' projects and projects receiving private investment, may be giving short shrift to civil rights compliance, particularly Title VI and Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- An equitable jobs bill is still required to stem the economic crisis facing marginalized communities.

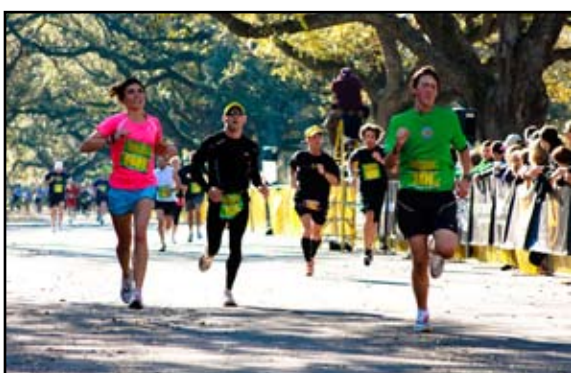
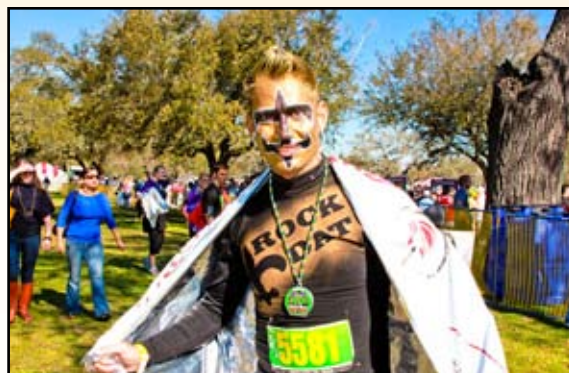
"The racial wealth gap in this country is stark and real," says Anita Sinha of the Advancement Project, in an essay included in the report, "And to think that stimulus dollars may be lining the pockets of the usual suspects while passing over low-income people of color's access to job training and placement opportunities is dismaying."



# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Rock 'n 'Roll Mardi Gras Marathon And Half Marathon Photos

Here's an assortment of images from an exciting and beautiful celebration of running in New Orleans featuring our new Mayor Elect Mitch Landrieu.



Photos by Ollie Neglerio



# Drum Roll in the White House



Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Columnist

When is the last time you have heard a rousing HBCU drum roll in the White House? According to President Barack Obama and some of his handlers, Friday, February 26 was actually the first time. The Virginia State University Trojans were “in the house”, accompanied by their Congressman Bobby Scott (D-VA), and preceding a ceremony during which President Obama signed a new Executive Order affirming the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Thank you Tom Joyner, Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Ca), Congressman James Clyburn (D-SC) and the many oth-

ers who have championed the importance of historically Black colleges and universities. In a briefing that preceded the White House ceremony, we learned that President Obama had upped the ante in his budget from the \$85 billion President Bush had set aside for HBCUs to \$98 billion in Title III and other funds. Now, the Obama budget needs to pass the Senate for the funds to be maintained. It is a leap forward, though, to have monies that were once parsed to be affirmed by this White House.

President Obama has said that he wants our nation to again lead the world in producing college graduates. We can't do it without the active and vigorous involvement of HBCUs. We do the work that no one else wants to – taking students with potential and transforming them into scholars and leaders. We embrace students with academic prowess, and also those with academic promise. It begs a rhetorical point, but if HBCUs did not exist, someone would have to invent them.

Tom Joyner is one of my heroes because he lifts up HBCUs in his show and with his philanthropy. Each month he selects a school to benefit from his largesse. More importantly, he never hesitates to acknowledge the importance of this handful of schools, we 105 that represent a tiny

fraction of our nation's 4000 colleges and universities. While our numbers might be slight, our output is not. We are fewer than 3 percent of our nation's colleges, but we produce more than 15 percent of our nation's African American college graduates. Why? Because we have to. Because it is our responsibility, our heritage, our tradition.

I am always awed at the diversity of HBCU presidents and the energy that we bring to the higher education praxis. There is the long-serving William Harvey of Hampton, who will chair the HBCU Advisory Commission, the stalwart economist David Swinton, of Benedict (my mentor and friend) who always asks hard questions, the miracle maker Billy Hawkins, the illustrious Talladega President who is turning things around there. Michelle Howard Vital leads Cheney University and always brings sage energy into our space. Beverly Tatum, the Spelman President is a gentle presence. Marvalene Hughes, the Dillard President who has managed to negotiate the ravages of Katrina to maintain her institution, is an utter sheroe. We are all joined by our determination to transform the lives of young people; our colleges differ in size and endowment, but have a shared mission and vision. The drum roll in the White

House might have been a drum roll for the camaraderie that exists among HBCUs.

The signing of the new executive order was an important and positive step forward. At the same time, it is important for black America and the rest of our nation to embrace the HBCU agenda and support historically black colleges, whether we attended them or not. I would challenge every African American who thinks that education can transform lives to adopt a historically black college and contribute to it just as if she were an alumna. I would suggest that supporting HBCUs is a way to both support President Obama's goals and to support the future of our nation.

Now that president Obama has lifted up HBCUs in his executive order, I hope that he will lift up and include HBCU graduates as he continues to staff his administration. While I am always excited and delighted to hear of the black folk who went to Harvard, Yale, Princeton and my own alma mater, MIT, I would like to hear more about the HBCU grads that are involved in the Obama administration. We bring vision, value and valor to our nation's future. And we bring the drum roll.

Julianne Malveaux is President of Bennett College for Women. She can be reached at [presbennett@bennett.edu](mailto:presbennett@bennett.edu).

## From The Publisher



Terry B. Jones  
Publisher

As publisher of Data News Weekly, I believe it is this publication's responsibility to inform our readers about discussions taking place in Washington, specifically at the Federal Communications Commission, that could negatively affect small business owners and members of the African American community.

The FCC is currently considering additional regulations for the Internet, which would hamper the ability of network pro-

viders to make additional investments in broadband. In order for more communities in Louisiana to gain greater access to broadband and high-speed Internet services, providers must have an economic incentive to invest in the local network. Our government must work with the private sector to encourage investment in broadband instead of working against it.

If Washington limits the ability of network providers to manage their business, they will potentially harm broadband access in our communities. This would be detrimental to the many small business owners who rely on the Internet to compete with larger businesses across the nation – especially in today's tough economic times.

This newspaper urges the FCC to carefully consider any new regulation that would potentially harm future investment in broadband and the ability of small businesses to access high-speed Internet services. Such investment is crucial to ensure that our communities and our small businesses – the engine of the state and the country – are not left behind.

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# Mayor-elect Landrieu announces Economic Development Task Force

Chairing the group of experts and community leaders are Leslie Jacobs, a business executive and civic advocate, and Greg St. Etienne

New Orleans, LA – New Orleans Mayor-elect Mitch Landrieu announced the creation of the Transition New Orleans Economic Development Task Force today. The group is charged with making recommendations that will guide the Landrieu administration as it prepares to take office on May 3, 2010.

In the coming weeks, the task force will identify economic development opportunities to foster business growth and retention, workforce development solutions, and best practices to assist small businesses and entrepreneurs.

I'm committed to creating the jobs of the future and getting our economy back on track, said Mayor-elect Mitch Landrieu. This task force brings together some of the best and the brightest that New Orleans has to offer to focus on the issue of jobs. We have a lot of work to do, and it's not going to happen overnight, but together we can usher in a new era of prosperity for our city.

Chairing the group of experts and community leaders are Leslie Jacobs, a business executive and civic advocate, and Greg St. Etienne, CEO of Citizens United for Economic Equity, a New Orleans



Mayor Landrieu.

based nonprofit community development loan fund.

"I am honored to serve amongst so many impressive colleagues," said Jacobs. "We have a tremendous opportunity for economic growth in this City, and with Mayor-elect Landrieu's leadership, we can create an environment that helps existing businesses grow and attracts new businesses to our city."

Economic development is an issue that affects us all; it speaks

directly to our collective quality of life. I commend Mayor-elect Landrieu's leadership and thoughtfulness in putting this group together. True to his commitment to a unified city, the Mayor-elect has charged us with helping to increase the size of the economic pie, so that everyone gets a bigger and more equitable slice, said St. Etienne.

Landrieu is also soliciting public input during the transition process. Interested parties are encouraged to share their ideas and suggestions at [www.transition-neworleans.com](http://www.transition-neworleans.com).

Formed on the heels of last week's announcement of the NOPD Task Force, the Economic Development Task force is the most recent of several task forces being created to advise the Mayor-elect on high priority issues.

The Economic Development Task Force is comprised of the following individuals:

Co-chairs: Leslie Jacobs, Executive Vice President of Strategic Comp, a division of Great American Insurance Company; and

Gregory M. St. Etienne, Chief Executive Officer, Citizens United for Economic Equity.

Members: Dwayne G. Bernal, Owner and President, Royal Engineers and Consultants; Jason Burns, Business Development Director, Quick Courier Services and Global Parking Systems; Ken Crier, President, International Longshoremen's Association Local 3000; Daniel E. Davillier, Founder, Davillier Law Group, LLC; Sen. Ann Duplessis, State Senator, District 2; Glenda English, President and Creative Director, GMc+Company Advertising, Inc.; Calvin Fayard, Fayard & Honeycutt, APC; Ashlyn Graves, Vice-President of Project Development, Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc.; Tiger Hammond, First Vice-President, AFL-CIO; Michael Hecht, President and CEO, GNO, Inc.; Bill Hines, Managing Partner, Jones Walker; Former Chair of GNO, Inc./Metrovision; Darlene Kattán, Executive Director, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana; Gary LaGrange, President and CEO, Port of New Orleans; Rita Benson LeBlanc, Owner/Executive Vice President, New Orleans Saints; Rep. Walt Leger, State Representative, District 91; Roy N. Mack, Sr., President, Consulting Services Management Group; Stephen Moret, Secretary, Economic Development, State of Louisiana; Tina

Nguyen Owen, Owner/Administrator, Lotus Community Care, LLC dba Tailored Care; Owner Lotus Capital Management, LLC Robert Packnett, Owner, R&P Grass Maintenance, L.L.C.; Margaret Montgomery-Richard, Partner, DMM & Associates, LLC; Jade Russell, Attorney, Adams & Reese; Dr. Timothy P. Ryan, Chancellor, University of New Orleans; Darrel J. Saizan, Jr., Principal, Darrel J. Saizan and Associates, Inc.; Chad Shinn, Executive Vice President of Basketball, New Orleans Hornets; José S. Suquet, Chairman of the Board, President and CEO, Pan-American Life Insurance Group Inc.; Carmelo Turillo, Owner, La Divina Gelateria; Kurt M. Weigle, President/CEO, Downtown Development District; and Tim Williamson, Co-Founder/CEO, The Idea Village.

Building on an unprecedented level of support from people in neighborhoods across the city, Mayor-elect Mitch Landrieu launched Transition New Orleans, an effort designed to engage citizens in the transition process for the new administration. Transition New Orleans will create task forces to solicit recommendations from experts and citizens. Interested parties can share ideas and apply to participate in the transition at [www.transitionneworleans.com](http://www.transitionneworleans.com).

# City Inspector General lashes out at NOPD Superintendent Warren Riley

In a letter to Mayor Nagin on Wednesday, E.R. Quatreveaux, New Orleans' Inspector General has leveled accusations against Police Superintendent Warren Riley of "repeatedly refus(ing) to comply with the law" and thus preventing the Independent Police Monitor from overseeing NOPD investigations of alleged police misconduct.

In his three-page letter Quatreveaux outlines a detailed list of complaints using the backdrop of the recent Danziger Bridge guilty plea as an example of the important of police oversight. and accuses Riley of "preventing the Office of the Independent Police

Monitor from performing its duties under the law."

"Though Superintendent Warren Riley has recently tried to assuage public outrage over the Danziger Bridge investigation, his true opinion of third-party oversight is clearly demonstrated in his continued efforts to impede the implementation of the Independent Police Monitor law," Quatreveaux writes.

"The superintendent has repeatedly refused to comply with the law. The superintendent said he is shocked by the misconduct of some of his officers, but ordered the very officers charged with investigating complaints of

misconduct to ignore the law as it applies to the NOPD.

"These actions prevent the Office of the Independent Police Monitor from performing its duties under the law. I urge you to instruct the superintendent to cooperate with the police monitor and obey the law."

Nagin's office responded with a statement saying the mayor "will have a follow-up conversation with Superintendent Riley. However, with multiple federal investigations of the Police Department currently under way, the inspector general cannot be guaranteed unfettered access until those federal investigations is completed."





## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT & INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

This Notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about March 16, 2010, the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development, (OCD), will submit to HUD on behalf of the New Orleans African American Museum for the release of CDBG funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, to undertake a project known as N. O. African American Museum 1417-19 Gov. Nicholls Acquisition, for the purpose of renovation/improvements of property located at 1418 Governor Nicholls and 1431-33 Ursulines Street, New Orleans, LA. Grant Number B-09-MC-220006 for \$1.2M.

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of New Orleans has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street, 10th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70112 and may be examined or copied weekdays (8:30) A.M. to (5:30) P.M.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Office of Community Development (OCD), 1340 Poydras Street, 10th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70112 All comments received by March 15, 2010 will be considered by the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

### RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of New Orleans certifies to HUD that C. Ray Nagin in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the Associated Neighborhood Development to use Program funds.

### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of New Orleans certification received by March 31, 2010 or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of New Orleans approved by HUD; (b) the (RE) has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at 501 Magazine Street, 9th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70130. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

[WWW.CITYOFNO.COM](http://WWW.CITYOFNO.COM)



Kenya J. H. Smith  
Director, Office of Community Development

Anthony Faciane  
Deputy Director, Neighborhood Stabilization

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Mayor, City of New Orleans

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