

G R E A T E R  
NEW ORLEANS



**FAIR  
HOUSING  
ACTION CENTER**

*Celebrating 10 years  
of fighting housing  
discrimination*

## NEWS RELEASE

### GREATER NEW ORLEANS FAIR HOUSING ACTION CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 17, 2005  
[www.gnofairhousing.org](http://www.gnofairhousing.org)

CONTACT: Lucia Blacksher or James Perry  
[lblacksher@gnofairhousing.org](mailto:lblacksher@gnofairhousing.org)  
[jperry@gnofairhousing.org](mailto:jperry@gnofairhousing.org)  
Office: 877-445-2100

#### FAIR HOUSING CENTER FILES DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT AGAINST HOUSING AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS

On November 16, 2005, the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) filed a housing discrimination complaint against the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO). The complaint, filed with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, accuses HANO of violating a 2003 enforcement agreement entered into between former St. Thomas Housing Development residents, the City of New Orleans, HANO, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development during the HOPE VI redevelopment of St. Thomas, now known as River Garden.

The current complaints allege that HANO has not provided qualified former St. Thomas residents a preference with respect to available public housing units at River Garden per the 2003 agreement. Upon return to New Orleans after the Hurricane Katrina evacuation, former residents have been informed that there are no available public housing units at River Garden because those units have been reserved for HANO employees. Therefore, public housing residents have been unable to secure the units for which they qualified prior to the storm and are left homeless, as a result.

James Perry, GNOFHAC Executive Director comments, "In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, affordable housing in New Orleans is more scarce than ever. As such, it is essential that HANO comply with 2003 enforcement agreement."

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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. GNOFHAC received great notoriety recently for its investigation into discriminatory practices by Bourbon Street nightclubs and bars.*

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