

**Minutes of Special Meeting of
The Housing Authority of the City of Galveston, Texas
Island Community Center – Community Room
4700 Broadway, Galveston, TX 77551
August 30, 2010 at 9:30 A.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Galveston, Texas, (GHA) met as stated above. Sharon Strain called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and declared a quorum was present. The following commissioners were noted present: Sharon Strain, Chairperson; Paula Neff, Vice-Chair; Tom LaRue, and James Dennis.

Commissioners Absent: Suzanne Choate

Others Present: Pete Urbani, Jr., Legal Counsel;
 Harish Krishnarao, Executive Director/Secretary

Resolutions - Approval of

- a. #2458 – Ratification and Approval of the FY10 Housing Choice Voucher Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) Certification for Submission to HUD - Commissioner LaRue moved for approval, and Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion. Mr. Krishnarao explained he had requested HUD to come down and put the program under the microscope. He stated that under normal circumstances, within sixty days after the end of the fiscal year, GHA is supposed to self-certify seven indicators. He reported that this particular report card contains fourteen indicators.

Mr. Krishnarao continued that GHA's scores from the previous year were over 95%, with only five months being less than 100%. Commissioner LaRue questioned why GHA was performing more inspections than were required by HUD. Mr. Krishnarao replied that GHA's weekly inspections are not up to HQS standards. He explained that when a unit fails, the landlord has thirty days to meet HQS standards.

Chairperson Strain asked about the waiting list. Mr. Krishnarao replied that there had been thirty-eight vouchers issued in the past twelve months.

Commissioner Dennis stated that he would like to bring to the attention of the board that the second and third floors at Holland House were very hot in the public areas. He also stated that he had spoken with some DHAP participants that are very concerned about the termination of the program in October. Mr. Krishnarao answered that it was very unlikely that DHAP would end in October 2010, but that without official word from HUD, GHA cannot state this as a fact.

Commissioner Dennis asked if there was a provision being made just in case DHAP-Ike really did end. Mr. Krishnarao replied that prior to Hurricane Ike, most of these residents had been living independently and that at the end of eighteen months they should have attained self-sufficiency again. However, HUD is still assisting Hurricane Katrina victims. GHA is not authorized to announce the extension of the DHAP-Ike.

Mr. Krishnarao continued that some families that were on Section 8 had voluntarily chosen to switch to DHAP-Ike because they were not required to pay a co-payment. He stated that since DHAP-Ike is a temporary program, those participants may lose their ability to go back on Section 8. Chairperson Strain asked if this meant they had surrendered their Section 8 vouchers. Mr. Krishnarao answered affirmatively and added that Section 8 is currently closed.

Commissioner Dennis questioned whether these particular families were made aware that they were surrendering their Section 8 vouchers at the time they switched to DHAP-Ike. Mr. Krishnarao replied affirmatively. Commissioner LaRue asked if information was available to GHA that would show if any of the 1,500 DHAP participants were currently on other waiting lists. Mr. Krishnarao replied that GHA has access to a nationwide database.

The following vote was recorded:

Ayes: Strain; Neff; Dennis; and LaRue

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absences: Suzanne Choate

The motion carried 4-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

(d:minutes083010special)