Day 1 Transcript, Civil Action No. 06-7185(C), Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, et al, v. St. Bernard Parish, et al., pg 34, line 7 – pg 36, line 15

**Q=MR. ROOSSIEN, ATTORNEY**

**A=MATT HARRIS, APARTMENT DEVELOPER**

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7. Q. With respect to the discussion after the meeting with

8. Councilman Lauga, what did he say was the reason for the moratorium

9. that he had introduced?

10. A. He said the moratorium was a necessary step that we needed to

11. put in place to buy some time because of the public outcry against

12. the apartments, the moratorium would help us buy time until we

13. could work out some design guidelines and criteria to be able to

14. lift the moratorium and move the project forward.

15. Q. Based upon what he said, did you understand whether or not this

16. moratorium would ultimately block your development?

17. A. From meeting with Mr. Lauga, it sounded like the moratorium

18. would not ultimately block it, but we would work together and he

19. needed the moratorium to help him get it sold to the public and

20. through the public process so that we could go forward. So my

21. first fears about the moratorium were not as severe after talking

22. to Lauga and understanding that we were going to use it to get

23. through the process.

24. Q. And so let me shift then to the passage of the moratorium on

25. September 16th. When you saw that, what was your reaction?

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1. I didn't like to see the moratorium in place, but again, I was
2. sort of assured that we would get through it and it would
3. ultimately be lifted and we would help the parish with design
4. guidelines and criteria to raise the standard and raise the bar for
5. multifamily development coming into their community.
6. Q. And with regard to the PUD standards, did you forward those to
7. Councilman Lauga as he had requested?
8. Yes.
9. Q. And then as far as those design standards, did you ever receive
10. during the course of any of this any criticism with respect to the
11. design standards that you proposed?
12. No.
13. Q. On October 7th there was a presentation that you made to the
14. full parish council. What initiated that presentation?
15. Well, it was at the request of Councilman Lauga.
16. Q. And what did he say as to why it was that you needed to come
17. down and present to the full parish council?
18. That it would be good to present to the full council so that,
19. and the public, so that they could see, you know, all that we had
20. explained, the quality of it, the management company, the long-term
21. ownership, the screening, the management guidelines.
22. Q. And then in advance of that meeting, did you meet with anyone?
23. I did.
24. Q. Who did you meet with?
25. Craig Taffaro

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1. MR. MULHALL: I'm sorry, I didn't hear the answer.
2. THE WITNESS: Craig Taffaro, the parish president.
3. BY MR. ROOSSIEN:
4. Q. And what was the purpose of that meeting?
5. We met before the meeting, I took him a letter that I was
6. asking him to sign that confirmed that -- we needed it for the tax
7. credit application to confirm that there was infrastructure and
8. services sufficient for the development.
9. Q. And with respect to your request for a letter confirming that
10. there was sufficient infrastructure, what did he tell you?
11. He took the letter and said he would look at it and consider
12. signing it.
13. Q. Did he make any comment as to whether or not there was
14. infrastructure in the parish?
15. He didn't say there wasn't.