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 240, line 7 – pg 241, line 21

**Q=MR. RELMAN, ATTORNEY**

**A=CRAIG TAFFARO, PARISH PRESIDENT**

*Pg. 240*

7. Q. Now, on October 7th you, in fact, met with Mr. Harris again,

8. did you not?

9. A. I met, as I said, I met with Mr. Harris on several occasions.

10. Q. And at that time you handed Mr. Taffaro -- excuse me, you

11. handed Mr. Harris a report that had been done by Mr. Ragas; is that

12. right?

13. A. That is correct.

14. Q. And when you handed him that report, you told Mr. Harris that

15. he should stress and he should focus on the fact that this won't be

16. like Village Square; isn't that right?

17. A. I don't remember the exact words, but the nature of the

18. conversation was specifically that Mr. Harris should be aware that

19. we had an over abundance and an oversupply of homes, of single

20. family homes, many of which were being sought to be converted to

21. rental properties; and that we certainly discussed the need and how

22. the need based on the report that his company did, the market

23. analysis -- which I, in fact, during those meetings I requested a

24. copy of and never received, but I gave him the copy of Mr. Ragas'

25. report in good faith to show him that's what the information we had

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*Pg. 241*

1. was.
2. And certainly we indicated that we did not want to create
3. a situation where we would have any housing units that were going
4. to be not well cared for.
5. Q. Mr. Taffaro, simple yes or no answer. Did you mention to
6. Mr. Harris that he should stress that his project would not be like
7. Village Square?
8. I did stress to Mr. Harris that he needed to make sure that his
9. proposed project would not create a repeat of a blighted area, and
10. I referred -- I'm sure I referred to Village Square as part of that
11. blight.
12. Q. And then two days later on October 9th you signed a letter
13. which was sent to the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency that stated
14. that the parish government has the infrastructure necessary to
15. support these projects, referring to the Provident projects, in its
16. water, sewer, municipal trash pick up, roadways, police and fire
17. protection and basic EMS services; is that correct?
18. I did send that letter, yes.
19. Q. And Exhibit 14, this is the letter that you sent; is that
20. right?
21. Yes.