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 246, line 25 – pg 248, line 3, 9-20

**Q=MR. RELMAN, ATTORNEY**

**A=CRAIG TAFFARO, PARISH PRESIDENT**

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25. Q. Do you have any reason to believe that based on what you know

1. about Senator Crowe that he would represent to the Louisiana
2. Housing Finance Agency that this project was a good one for
3. St. Bernard if he didn't believe it was so?
4. MR. MULHALL: Objection, your Honor, hearsay.
5. THE COURT: Sustained. Sustained.
6. BY MR. RELMAN:
7. Q. Well, let me ask you this question. Reading what's in this
8. letter, do you agree with the views that appear to be expressed
9. here by Senator Crowe about the quality of the housing that was
10. being proposed by Provident?
11. MR. MULHALL: Objection, the exhibit speaks for itself.
12. THE COURT: That's okay. The question is does he agree
13. with the letter.
14. THE WITNESS: Mr. Relman, this letter, this letter appears
15. somewhat familiar because it's -- it has some of the same language
16. that was sent to me by Provident as a sample letter --
17. BY MR. RELMAN:
18. Q. Again, Mr. Taffaro --
19. A. I'm answering your question.
20. Q. It's just a yes or no.
21. A. I'm answering your question. That --
22. Q. If you could just give me a yes or no and then --
23. MR. MULHALL: I'm going to ask that counsel to stop
24. cutting the witness off.
25. THE COURT: Well, no, but I think, Mr. Taffaro, you have

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1. to cooperate also. The question is, do you agree with what's in
2. the letter? And so if you agree with what's in the letter --
3. THE WITNESS: Okay. I'll answer the question.

9. The second sentence, "Since the devastation of Hurricane

10. Katrina, there is a well recognized and growing need for quality

11. affordable housing for residents in our area." I agree with that

12. statement as an overall specifically to our area as the

13. metropolitan area that's been discussed today.

14. The next sentence, "The funding from your agency will

15. allow for a better and safer quality of life for our citizens."

16. Certainly I agree with that statement.

17. Next sentence, "These much needed apartments will give

18. many of our residents who have been forced to relocate the

19. opportunity to finally come home." I would agree, partially agree

20. with that sentence.