Day 2 Transcript, Civil Action No. 06-7185(C), Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, et al, v. St. Bernard Parish, et al., pg 80, line 18 – pg 81, line 20

**Q=MR. RELMAN, ATTORNEY**

**A=RAY LAUGA, COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT A**

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18. Q. Well, I am just trying to understand. Are you saying you don't

19. think there's a need for affordable housing in the coming years in

20. St. Bernard Parish?

21. A. I think there is a need for affordable housing, but I think

22. there's a large stock of affordable housing and rentals available.

23. Q. But as far as you're concerned, I guess you were meeting with

24. your constituents when this public outcry occurred because you were

25. in favor of this project going through; is that right?

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1. In July when I met the Provident people I told them I had a
2. definite interest, we were involved with rewriting the codes, that
3. was something that was on my campaign platform when I ran to
4. rewrite the codes and update them to modern standards for St.
5. Bernard Parish. I expressed that to them at the time and that we
6. were in the process of rewriting the codes, and that I had a
7. definite interest that his project would comply and meet with those
8. codes.
9. Q. And if they met with those codes, were you then going to be a
10. supporter of this project in July?
11. I told them -- I expressed to them that I would work with them
12. and their project. But at the time you got to realize in July that
13. project had no funding in place at the time. I probably have three
14. or four projects a month that come to me that have no funding, and
15. I really cannot expend a lot of time and energy on a project that
16. is not real with funding to move forward. So it was another one of
17. several projects that was shown to me that month. I listened to
18. them, I told them I would work with them, I was very interested in
19. having a multifamily development be developed with the higher
20. codes, higher standards in place.