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## **Iberville/Tremè Transformation Project Kicks off Community Engagement**

*HANO and the City of New Orleans Introduce Community Engagement Team  
to lead outreach and participation effort*

**NEW ORLEANS, LA (October 27, 2011)** – As the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) and the City of New Orleans prepare to kick off the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) that will revitalize the Iberville/Tremè neighborhood, community participation remains vital for developing and implementing the plan. This week, the team began scheduling community engagement meetings spearheaded by The Black Men of Labor (BMOL), Clifton James LLC, and GCR and Associates. These local organizations will lead the outreach effort in the Iberville/Tremè community to ensure substantial participation of those that will benefit the most from the plan.

The role of the Community Engagement Team is to enhance and increase strategic partnerships with community groups, businesses, property owners, institutions, and residents in the immediate neighborhood. This form of engagement will ensure that meaningful community participation is sustained throughout the entire process. It will also ensure the preservation of the neighborhood's culture and physical assets, along with strengthening critical investments which are major factors in the neighborhood component of the plan.

“The Tremè community plays a vital role in the city's heritage and cultural identity. This is an opportunity to revitalize one of the greatest neighborhoods in the country,” said Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu. “I encourage citizens to be engaged in this process and provide valuable input on the future of this development.”

“We understand the importance of community input and resident participation as a part of this effort to make Iberville/Tremè a Choice Neighborhood, and will ensure that they play an active role in its transformation,” said HANO's Administrative Receiver David Gilmore. “This is a team of qualified individuals that are well connected and will use a grass roots approach to engage community members and return to the planning table with their comments and suggestions to implement. By the end of this planning process, everyone in this community will have a chance to be heard.”

HANO and the City are committed to using community input to develop all aspects of the plan from the design of new housing developments to the provision of green space, educational opportunities, health care, public safety, transportation options and other quality-of-life improvements.

The BMOL, a community development organization firmly rooted in Tremè, will lead the outreach effort with support from urban planning firm Clifton James LLC, and planning and technology firm GCR and Associates. Beginning this month, the group will host three rounds of meetings. The first round will consist of small meetings with community groups, businesses, residents, schools and religious institutions in the area, providing them with an overview of the project, and to take note of questions and/or concerns about the plan. The second round of meetings will focus on developing ways to address the community's questions and concerns in the plan. The third round of meetings will provide a forum to present the ideas from the smaller meetings to the broader community. Officials from HANO, the City, the development team, and other experts will attend the meetings to hear community input and to answer questions.

If you reside, worship or own a business in the Iberville /Tremè community and would like to schedule a small group meeting, please contact the Black Men of Labor at [info@thebmol.org](mailto:info@thebmol.org) or call 504-212-5660. For more information on the Iberville/Tremè Transformation Project, visit HANO's website at [www.hano.org](http://www.hano.org).

As part of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, HANO and the City of New Orleans were awarded \$30.5 million to transform the Iberville public housing site and revitalize the surrounding neighborhood. The project's Implementation Team consists of the City of New Orleans, HANO, a group of elected Iberville residents, developers, and outreach and social services providers, and will redevelop Iberville's 821 on-site units to create a mixed-income, mixed-use environment. The team will also work within the Tremè neighborhood boundaries of Rampart Street, Tulane Avenue, Broad Street and St. Bernard Avenue to improve its sustainability and to increase access to high quality services.

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