



HOUSING AUTHORITY

of the City of Beaumont, Texas

MEDIA RELEASE

September 14, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hurricane Rita Funds for Affordable Rental Units Finally Flowing

Beaumont – The Board of Directors of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs in Austin awarded a grant of \$13,778,322 to the Housing Authority of the City of Beaumont. The grant was one of five awarded from the 2007 CDBG Disaster Recovery Rental Funds allocated by HUD to assist in the demolition, replacement and reconstruction of rental units damaged by Hurricane Rita in September 2005.

The funds awarded to BHA are specifically designated for the reconstruction of the Pointe North apartments (formerly known as Magnolia Gardens). The funds will be combined with a previously awarded \$20 million dollar HOPE VI grant to BHA in October 2006.

The entire HOPE VI project is expected to cost approximately \$48 million dollars. Plans call for the demolition of 195 fifty-year old dilapidated and hurricane damaged public housing units at 3710 Magnolia, to be replaced with over 400 units of mixed income rental units, which include 83 single-family homes, providing home ownership opportunities for eligible families.

BHA's primary mission is to provide decent, safe and affordable housing for all citizens in Beaumont. This grant greatly reduces the amount of debt the replacement housing must incur. As such, with less debt, the new properties will reach financial stability and self-sufficiency much quicker. This will require considerably less taxpayer support and assistance in the future.

BHA Executive Director, Robert Reyna, says, "We are deeply appreciative to the board and staff of the TDHCA. They are working diligently to move these funds to those areas of greatest need as quickly as the bureaucracy will allow. The continued support from the city, state, and federal officials and our entire HOPE VI initiatives has been phenomenal. These new funds will now guarantee our ability to complete the HOPE VI program on budget and on schedule if not ahead of schedule."