

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2013**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2013-40**

**WHEREAS**, the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) is the owner of a parcel of vacant land located at 540 First Street (a.k.a 2400 St. Thomas), located in the City of New Orleans, State of Louisiana and bounded by Second Street, St. Thomas Street, First Street and Division Street; and

**WHEREAS**, HANO wishes to enter into a 5-year ground lease with the Irish Channel Neighborhood Association (ICNA) in partnership with Parkway Partners for the purpose of creating a community garden to help facilitate community development; and

**WHEREAS**, ICNA has obtained a letter of support from the City of New Orleans, District B Councilmember LaToya Cantrell; and

**WHEREAS**, ICNA will be solely responsible for safety, security and maintenance of the site during the term of the lease and provide liability insurance in an amount acceptable to HANO with HANO as a co-insured; and

**WHEREAS**, ICNA will not be allowed to plant sustainable trees on the vacant land and that the property will be returned to HANO at the end of the lease period free of any debris and encumbrances;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of New Orleans hereby authorizes the Administrative Receiver to submit the appropriate documentation to the United States Department Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to amend the prior disposition and to execute any and all documents necessary in connection with the 5 year ground lease of 540 First Street to the Irish Channel Neighborhood Association.

**EXECUTED this 17th day of September, 2013**

**APPROVAL:**

  
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**DAVID GILMORE,  
ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER  
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



**September 17, 2013**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: David Gilmore  
Administrative Receiver  
Chairman, Board of Commissioners**

**FROM: Desiree Andrepont  
Director, Real Estate Planning and Development**

**RE: Lease of Vacant Land, 540 First Street, to the  
Irish Channel Neighborhood Association**

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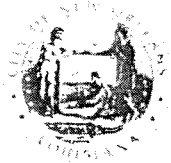
HANO received the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Special Applications Center (SAC) approval for disposition of 540 First Street (a.k.a. 2400 St. Thomas) in 2009. The property did not sell in the Request for Proposals to purchase property in 2009 and has remained in the scattered sites inventory.

Irish Channel Neighborhood Association (ICNA) wishes to create a community garden with the assistance of Parkway Partners to foster community development. ICNA has received a support letter from District B Councilmember LaToya Cantrell who expressed her appreciation of HANO's involvement in the endeavor.

HANO has determined that a ground lease to ICNA for 5 years will provide a much needed benefit to the neighborhood and relieve HANO of a maintenance burden while the vacant land is managed by others.

Approval of the resolution will also allow HANO to submit the required documentation to HUD to amend the original disposition.

It is requested that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Administrator Receiver to execute any and all documents necessary to enter into a 5 year ground lease with ICNA and to submit any and all documents required to update the disposition approval with HUD Special Applications Center.



The Council  
**City of New Orleans**

LATOYA CANTRELL  
COUNCILMEMBER - DISTRICT B

CITY HALL, SUITE 2W10  
1300 PERDIDO STREET  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112  
1504) 658-1020  
FAX 1504) 658-1025

June 10, 2013

Maggie Merrill  
Senior Advisor to the Administrative Receiver  
Housing Authority of New Orleans  
4100 Touro St., 3rd Floor  
New Orleans, LA 70122

**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR IRISH CHANNEL NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Dear Ms. Merrill:

I am writing to express support for the planned Irish Channel Community Garden slated for 540 First Street. The development of a community garden in this area will help facilitate community development, as well as represent a dedication to the health and welfare of the neighborhood. Programs like these have a great impact on the lives of our constituents and their children, both personally and socially.

The final goal of this endeavor is to expand the garden to neighborhood lots, and the corner location at 540 First Street presents a wonderful opportunity for the project to begin. The garden will be managed by the Greening Channel Committee of the Irish Channel Neighborhood Association. This committee has developed a relationship with Parkway Partners and would like to incorporate the Irish Channel garden into Parkway Partners' citywide community gardens effort.

This partnership will address issues related to liability insurance and securing a necessary water source. Parkway Partners will also act as a guide for the developing program, lending its expertise in establishing community gardens.

I am grateful for the support of the Housing Authority of New Orleans and look forward to seeing this endeavor come to fruition.

Sincerely,

  
LaToya Cantrell  
District B City Councilmember