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HANO Breaks Ground on Site of New Senior Building *Community leaders, city, state and federal officials celebrate addition of 100 senior-only homes in Faubourg Lafitte Community*

New Orleans, LA (February 25, 2015) –Today, Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) officials were joined by city, state and federal representatives and community leaders to break ground on 100 senior-only apartments as the latest addition to the Faubourg Lafitte community.

“The Faubourg Lafitte community is another example of how New Orleans is building back smarter and stronger,” said Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu. “Once completed, the new Lafitte Senior Housing building will contribute greatly to this revitalized corridor by providing our seniors with an affordable housing option that is just blocks away from the new Lafitte Greenway, which is opening this spring.”

“The provision of affordable housing and the enhancement of the quality of life for the residents of New Orleans remain the priority of this agency,” said HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner. “We are grateful for this public- private partnership that will assist in continuing the redevelopment of the Faubourg Lafitte community, and that supports one of our long term goals of building essential and efficient homes with accessibility to supportive services and programming for our seniors.”

“I am thrilled that the official groundbreaking for the Lafitte senior center is upon us,” said New Orleans City Council Member (District D) Jared Brossett. “Our seniors deserve this. The Tremé-Lafitte area deserves this. With the Greenway, Carver Theatre, Phillis Wheatley School, and this new senior center among other projects newly completed or coming soon, I am truly excited about what the future holds for this community.”

“The Lafitte Senior Housing project represents an important step in providing new and affordable housing for those who have given so much to us. Our seniors are a vital part of the fabric of New Orleans,” said New Orleans City Council Member (District C) Nadine M. Ramsey. “The sacrifices they have made in the past are responsible for the bright future New Orleans is enjoying now.”

Late last month, developer Lafitte Senior Housing LLC, a partnership between Providence Community Housing and Enterprise Community Partners, began the

construction of the 96,000 square foot building bounded by North Galvez Street, Orleans Avenue, North Johnson Street, and Magic Street. Lafitte Senior, subsidized by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with public housing and project-based Section 8 voucher housing units, will incorporate 89 one-bedroom and 11-two bedroom apartments ranging in size from 615 to 900 square feet. Each unit will contain Energy Star appliances, in-unit microwaves, and cable and internet service connections. Residents will have immediate access to community space with audio/visual capability and multiple laundry rooms within the facility.

“This is an exciting opportunity to offer a wonderful living environment to our Lafitte/Treme seniors,” said President and CEO of Providence Community Housing Terri North. “Providence and Enterprise are very happy to continue our partnership with HANO on this part of the Faubourg Lafitte development. We value our seniors in this community and it is our hope that this development will not only provide housing for them, but become a true home for our treasured members of the Faubourg Lafitte Community.”

“Lafitte Senior Housing is a significant milestone in our efforts to rebuild housing across the Gulf Coast since Hurricane Katrina struck nearly 10 years ago,” said Michelle Whetten, Vice President and Gulf Coast market leader at Enterprise Community Partners Inc. “We’re proud to join Providence to co-develop this much needed housing for seniors.” Enterprise’s generational goal is to end housing insecurity in the U.S., which means no more homelessness and no more families paying more than half of their income on housing.”

The site of Lafitte Senior Housing is located within walking distance of the Lafitte Greenway, and adjacent to the Sojourner Truth Community Center which currently provides senior programming to residents on site. Community gardens, porches and a courtyard are included in the design of the site.

The total redevelopment cost is estimated at \$22 million, which includes \$11 million in a combination of HANO Program Income and Replacement Housing dollars and HUD 901 funding, and \$11 million in funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“FEMA is proud to contribute public assistance dollars to support a project that will provide affordable homes for the senior residents of the new Faubourg Lafitte community,” said FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office Executive Director, Mike Womack. “This project will provide affordable rental housing that is modern, energy efficient and functionally suited to the needs and life styles of New Orleans seniors.”

In June 2012, HANO was approved by HUD to designate more than 500 low-income housing units to seniors, ages 62 and older, representing approximately 16 percent of the agency’s total public housing inventory. Since then, HANO celebrated the grand opening of Heritage Senior Residences at Columbia Parc and the Marias Apartments, adding over 200 new homes for seniors to New Orleans. Lafitte Senior will join Heritage and Marais, the Guste High Rise and Fischer Senior Village as HANO’s living facilities for low-income seniors.

Construction on the Lafitte senior building began in January and is expected to be completed in approximately 18 months. Gibbs Construction is the general contractor and Blich/Knevel is the architect on the project.

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