



WORLD CLASS TRANSIT FOR NEW ORLEANS

RIDE NEW ORLEANS

504 345 8360

Po Box 19231

New Orleans LA 70179

March 4, 2016

Presbyterian Mission Agency
100 Witherspoon St.
Louisville, KY 40202-1396

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Faubourg Lafitte Tenants Association (FLTA)

Dear Presbyterian Mission Agency:

I am writing to offer RIDE New Orleans' full and unequivocal support for the Faubourg Lafitte Tenants Association (FLTA) funding request.

RIDE New Orleans is a non-profit dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the New Orleans region by promoting safe, convenient and affordable transportation options. Over this last year, FLTA has been one of our strongest partners in organizing and working towards equitable transit choices while furthering a community vision for quality transit in New Orleans.

In November of 2014, RIDE began a city-wide series of focus groups beginning in the Lafitte-Treme neighborhood. We worked with FLTA to identify their neighborhood's needs around public transit. Since that inaugural focus group FLTA has been a leading voice influencing the Regional Transit Agency (RTA) to prioritize community values and incorporate public input into the agency's transit planning.

Their insight and support has been instrumental in establishing the RTA's Riders' Advisory Committee, of which they have two appointed members shaping the decision making process at the RTA. FLTA worked closely with RIDE as a planning partner in the community convening, Voices for Transportation Choices (Jan. 2015) where they helped create the agenda, recruited members and participated in the community panel. They were also the first neighborhood organization to sign-on in support of a growing Coalition for Quality Transit that was the direct result of our previous community engagement and collaboration. Since then we have been meeting monthly and they are critical to the Coalition's success.

FLTA is dedicated to social equity, community power, and improving the quality of life for their residents and for all New Orleanians. It is a privilege to be able to work with such a dedicated group actively empowering their members, improving the community, and we look forward to collaborating with them for years to come.

Sincerely,

Matthew Hendrickson

Advocacy Program Coordinator
RIDE New Orleans
504-249-8419
matt@rideneworleans.org

Providence

COMMUNITY HOUSING

Fostering healthy, diverse and vibrant communities

December 16, 2015

Ms. Mary McAdory
Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People
100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville, KY 40202

Dear Ms. McAdory,

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Faubourg Lafitte Tenants Association's (FLTA) application for resident and community engagement funding as well as project support towards the senior program initiatives at Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center. The senior program, which serves elderly residents of Faubourg Lafitte, St. Ann senior apartments, St. Martin Manor senior apartments and residents of the greater Tremé/Lafitte community.

Faubourg Lafitte is a redevelopment project of Providence Community Housing and Enterprise Community Partners. Together, Providence and Enterprise are co-developing affordable housing in the Faubourg Lafitte community, which includes the former Lafitte public housing development in the historic Tremé community. The Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center (STNC), located on the grounds of the former public housing development, is the hub of community services and resources for residents of the Faubourg Lafitte community – providing community programming for residents of Tremé/Lafitte as well as providing meeting and/or training space for community-based organizations.

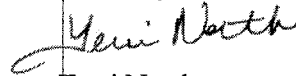
Since 2009, STNC has provided pathways to opportunity for residents. Since 2011, programming has been comprised of four asset-based components: youth development, senior services, job readiness/wealth development, and health and wellness. These programs and services are provided to the community through direct services as well as comprehensive and formalized collective partnerships.

FLTA is an example of such a partnership. The original Lafitte Residents' Council was established in the 1970s and the group received 501c3 status in 2012 as Faubourg Lafitte Tenants Association. This group has been instrumental to the empowerment of the neighborhood and in fostering a sense of community among residents. The group works in tandem with Providence's Community Services staff members to encourage participation in Providence's community-based initiatives as well as work with the Asset & Property Management team to address challenges and opportunities within the community. FLTA also participates in the NEWCITY Neighborhood Partnership – a collaborative of over 80 diverse entities including developers, funders, service providers, faith-based groups & churches, schools & universities, and governmental agencies with a long-term interest in the future of the Tremé/Lafitte, Tulane/Gravier and 7th Ward neighborhoods.

FLTA encourages community participation and empowerment through major engagement efforts such as Taking Back Tremé (neighborhood watch program), Night Out Against Crime, Celebration of Life, and other neighborhood events including health fairs, partnership fairs and a crawfish boil. FLTA also intends to support the senior community through a focused project aimed at supplementing the current 2-day senior program at STNC.

Providence believes that resident empowerment is essential to creating a lasting community and the FLTA continues to make a significant contribution in helping children, families and seniors achieve better life outcomes. I encourage the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People to support these important resident services at STNC that positively impact the lives of so many in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terri North". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Terri North
President & CEO



St. Peter Claver Catholic Church

(An African-American Christ-Centered Catholic faith Community)

1923 St. Philip Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70116-2199

Tel: (504) 822-8059 Fax: (504) 822-9251

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March 18, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Faubourg Lafitte Tenants Association (FLTA) is pursuing funds for a new Social and Educational Community engagement Initiative focused on social and educational programming. Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center resides within the neighborhood development, where FLTA provide social and educational programming for our community in order to build solidarity between neighbors and better advocate for themselves.

FLTA facilitate six community life events though the year, *Celebration of Life* in June, *Taking Back Treme* in August, *Night Out Against Crime* in October, *Faubourg Lafitte Community Thanksgiving Dinner* in November, *Faubourg Lafitte Community Christmas Dinner* in December, and *Community Crawfish Boil* in March. I have attended many of these annual events in the past and found them very rewarding for our community residents.

In addition, the association is reaching out to health and wellness educators around the city to support bringing seniors in our community together weekly for social and educational programming, which we think will increase quality of life for all seniors.

I support the association endeavors to help residents network and build solidarity in the Faubourg Lafitte Community. I also encourage your organization to support FLTA's initiatives with needed resources to continue building community.

Sincerely,

Rev. Mr. Allen Stevens
Pastoral Associate

"Not by power, nor by might, but by the spirit of the Lord of hosts", (Zechariah 4:6).