

SPECIAL MEETING UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

Farmerville, Louisiana
October 13th, 2016

The Union Parish Police Jury met this date in special session in the Police Jury meeting room, Courthouse Annex, Farmerville, Louisiana with the following present: Charles Sawyer, Glenn Hutto, Stan Smith, Derek Kennedy, Nathan Futch, Mike Jones, Lanny Parker and John Watley. Absent: Jerry W. Taylor. Also present was Bruce Hampton, Assistant District Attorney. The President called the meeting to order and welcomed all visitors. Mr. Parker offered the invocation and Mr. Hutto led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Sawyer asked if anyone in the audience would like to register for public comment. At this time, the public was given the opportunity to comment on any item shown on the agenda. No comment was made.

Motion by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Watley and declared adopted by unanimous roll call vote of the Jury to approve the agenda with no changes.

Motion Mr. Kennedy, seconded Mr. Hutto to approve the following proclamation. Motion carried unanimously.

WHEREAS, for more than 70 years it has been the policy of this nation, under the US Housing Act to promote the general welfare of the nation by employing its funds and credit to assist the several states and their political subdivisions to remedy the unsafe and unsanitary housing conditions and the acute shortage of decent, safe and sanitary dwellings for families of lower income;

WHEREAS, according to the *State of the Nation's Housing* report, nearly 41 million households now pay more than half of their income for housing, with more than four out of five with incomes below \$15,000 paid more than 30 percent for housing;

WHEREAS, according to current estimates, on any given night, there are nearly 650,000 homeless nationwide and up to 3.5 million persons who experience homelessness at some point throughout the year;

WHEREAS, according to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition's 2015 *Out of Reach* report, in no state can a full-time minimum wage earner afford either a one or two bedroom rental unit at Fair Market Rate;

WHEREAS, according to the National Housing Conference, health care workers and many other working professionals are priced out of homeownership in the majority of U.S. metropolitan areas nationwide;

WHEREAS, according to the Housing Assistance Council, 1.5 million (5.8 percent) of rural homes were considered substandard in 2009;

WHEREAS, public housing is home to more than 2.3 million people, 37 percent of whom are children, and faces an estimated more than \$26 billion backlog in capital repairs;

WHEREAS, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials raises public awareness of the importance of affordable housing and community development programs and resources;

WHEREAS, the aforementioned groups have declared October Housing America Month, part of a year-long, national campaign to inform the public and decision makers of the critical need to address the nation's housing and community development concerns;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Parish of Union, which has, over a period of many years, endeavored to address affordable housing and community development needs and has been successful in doing so using a combination of local, state and federal resources hereby endorses the Housing America Campaign, its goals, objectives and purposes and in so doing recommits itself to meeting the affordable housing and community development needs of the community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED TO BE AFFIXED THE Great Seal of the Parish of Union, at the Parish Courthouse Annex in the Town of Farmerville, this 13th day of October, 2016.

*Charles Sawyer, President
Union Parish Police Jury*

Motion Mr. Parker, seconded Mr. Futch that the Jury's current Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance plan should be renewed for 2017 and to authorize the President to execute all necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held concerning the Loutre Road and public landing. Tim Hicks spoke against closing the road and blocking public access to the landing. Karl Malone and Johnny Dollar expressed their position concerning the reasons why Loutre Road should be deleted from the parish road system. **Motion Mr. Hutto, seconded Mr. Kennedy for Mr. Hampton to send a demand letter to Timber Traders to move the fence. Motion carried unanimously.**

There being no further business to come before the Jury, the President declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Watley, seconded by Mr. Jones on this the 13th day of October, 2016.

Paula Strickland, Secretary-Treasurer

Charles Sawyer, President