

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
TERREBONNE PARISH COUNCIL
IN REGULAR SESSION**

MARCH 28, 2007

OFFERED BY: Mr. P. Rhodes.

SECONDED: Unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 07-118

A resolution requesting a Louisiana Road Home Program Bill of Rights.

WHEREAS, 2005 was the year of two of the worst hurricanes ever to reach the shores of the State of Louisiana, which caused untold loss of life and property, and

WHEREAS, in an effort to assist the hundreds of thousands of people who were desperately in need of financial assistance to rebuild their lives and their homes, the Louisiana Road Home Program was initiated to administer the state and federal funds being channeled for the rebuilding efforts, and

WHEREAS, many people have voiced frustration with the lack of government action in a timely and efficient manner in the rebuilding effort and with the expenditure of available funds, and

WHEREAS, in an effort to more closely control the efforts of the Louisiana Road Home Program, some people have requested that a Louisiana Road Home Program Bill of Rights be established to assure clear policies and procedures, timelines, financial accountability and transparency in the manner in which recover funds are awarded or rejected.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Terrebonne Parish Council (Community Development & Planning Committee), on behalf of the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, that this governing body does hereby recommend that the following Louisiana Road Home Program Bill of Rights be implemented and applied immediately:

1. The right to current and complete rules of the program.
2. The right to the timely processing of each application.
3. The right to swift and equitable resolution of errors, disputes, and appeals.
4. The right to equitable and accurate calculation of benefit and tender of award.
5. The right to accept initial tender of award without impeding the right of dispute resolution and appeal.
6. The right to simple, equitable and easily decipherable closing documents.
7. The right to simple and equitable rules for lenders, governing the administration of disbursement accounts, expediting, rather than impeding rebuilding.
8. The right to accurate, expedient information regarding the status of individual applications, provided by fully trained personnel within 24 hours of each request.
9. The right to reasonable residency requirements of grants and loans.
10. The right to equitable rules for grant benefits assignment, or compensation, when a home must be sold.

11. The right to affordable or forgivable loans, sufficient to cover any reconstruction gap resulting from low pre-storm valuation.
12. The right to the acceptance of a third-party appraisal for pre and post-storm valuation.
13. The right to elevation awards based on the actual cost of elevation.
14. The right to public discussion concerning the condition and disposition of property acquired, by any level of government, through the Road Home Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Hon. Kathleen B. Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, Dr. Norman Francis, Chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority, and all members of Terrebonne Parish's Congressional and Legislative Delegations, and to Mr. Andy Kopplin, LRA Director.

THERE WAS RECORDED:

YEAS: T. Cavalier, C. Duplantis, H. Lapeyre, P. Lambert, P. Rhodes, A. Tillman, C. Voisin and A. Williams.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINING: None.

ABSENT: K. Elfert.

The Chairwoman declared the resolution adopted on this, the 26th day of March, 2007.