

Charting the Course for Rebuilding a Great American City: An Assessment of the Planning Function in Post-Katrina New Orleans

By the
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APA Team



Sights of New Orleans



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Introductions

- Purpose and Scope
- Acknowledgements
- Guiding Principles

Short-Term Recommendations: Orleans Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan

- Completion of the Orleans Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan
- The Mitigation Plan should be distributed to all interested parties as a Parish-wide policy to guide development and redevelopment in the parish.

Short-Term Recommendations: Orleans Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan

- The Risk Assessment and Vulnerability Assessment of the Plan should be reviewed to determine whether changes need to be made to those portions of the plan in light of Hurricane Katrina and the levee failures and overtopping.
- The staff should begin to prepare site specific plans for areas of the city where for which Mitigation Project funds will be requested.

National Flood Insurance Prog. & New Orleans Flood Damage Prevention Ord.

- Include a freeboard in the ordinance
- Require that future critical facilities and critical facilities that have been substantially damaged by elevated or floodproofed to an elevation above the 500-year flood elevation.
- Include a variance procedure for historic structures

National Flood Insurance Prog. & New Orleans Flood Damage Prevention Ord.



Recovery and Reconstruction Ordinance

- Recovery Organization
- Recovery Plan
- General Provisions
- Temporary Regulations
- Temporary and Permanent Housing
- Hazard Mitigation Program

Recovery and Reconstruction Ordinance

- A one-stop center for permit expediting
- Temporary repair permits for minor repairs to secure structures
- The deferral of fees for reconstruction permits

Recovery and Reconstruction Ordinance

- The creation of a policy regarding the re-establishment of non-conforming building and uses that have been destroyed.
- The creation of a policy regarding notices, FEMA reviews and historical preservation agency reviews before historical structures that are an imminent hazard to health, safety or of collapsing on a public right-of-way may be approved.

Recovery and Reconstruction Ordinance

- Use the model Recovery and Reconstruction Ordinance found in PAS Report 483/484 *Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction*

Streamline the Zoning & Preservation Review Process

- Concise staff reports
- Amend notification procedures

Consider Relocation of HDLC & VCC Staffs to City Planning Commission Offices

- Staff cooperation and coordination
- One-stop permitting

Establish inclusive on-going public involvement process for rebuilding

- Utilize a visioning process as used by other cities (Atlanta, Houston and Birmingham)
- Consider engaging experienced national consulting teams
- Employing multiple workshops, computer simulations of alternate development scenarios, community access television and interactive website

Encourage full participation in BNOB strategic framework development process

- Involve the public in the task forces and panel processes
 - City Planning Commission
 - Neighborhood/Preservation organizations
 - Citizens

City Planning Commission/City Council Retreat

- ULI recommended strategy framework
- APA Assessment Team recommendation

Community workshop to review city's master plan

- Two to three day workshop conducted by APA/ULI/AIA
- Focus on Land Use Element, including transportation, preservation, parks and economic development
- Possible modifications would be greater density, mixed use, LRT line, expanded park land: illustrative map

Review and amend the zoning ordinance

- Reduce non-conforming status of portions of the housing stock
- Permit “of-right” reconstruction of existing houses: Lower Ninth Ward lot sizes

Long Range Recommendations

- Finalizing the Master Plan
- Creating formal neighborhood planning programs
- CPC's role in the preparation of the Capital Improvement Plan
- Identifying measures to improve CRS rating
- Permanently increase City Planning Commission's staff capacity

Next Steps

- November 8: CPC reviews APA report
- November 10 – 12: CPC participates in Louisiana Recovery Authority visioning workshop
- November 13 – 18: CPC assists BNOB Commission & ULI in preparing framework for redevelopment plan

Next Steps

- TBD (Nov./Dec.): CPC & City Council, in cooperation with Mayor's Office, hold retreat to review ULI & APA recommendations
- NLT Dec. 31: CPC assists BNOB Commission in preparing redevelopment plan

Next Steps

- First QTR 06: CPC conducts community workshop to review and amend Master Plan so as to incorporate redevelopment plan recommendations

The Goal of the “Big Easy” is to be Open for Business!

