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HOUSING AUTHORITY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 29, 2015**

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## **HOUSTON HOUSING AUTHORITY MOVES AHEAD WITH LYONS AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT**

**HOUSTON** – On behalf of its Board of Commissioners, Houston Housing Authority (Authority) Chairman Lance Gilliam has informed the leaders of the Latter Day Deliverance Revival Church that the Authority is ending its efforts to acquire three vacant tracts owned by the church in Houston's Fifth Ward.

Notwithstanding the 190<sup>th</sup> District Court consistently having ruled in favor of the Houston Housing Authority, agency commissioners concluded that continuing to expend funds on legal fees instead of investing in homes was inconsistent with the Authority's core values. The Liberty Institute, representing the Latter Day Deliverance Revival Church, had sued the Houston Housing Authority alleging that the proposed acquisition violated the Texas Freedom Restoration Act.

“My fellow commissioners and I made a commitment to rebuild 63 homes demolished at Kelly Village. Although the decision by Latter Day’s leadership to retain these three vacant lots makes that task more difficult, it will not stop us. While our door will remain open should the church have a desire to sell their property in the future, our current priority is starting construction of new homes now,” said Chairman Gilliam.

The Authority has asked its architects to create a new master plan that respects its neighbors while adding the much needed homes in this important community. The first phase of the development will include at least thirty homes for families seeking quality, affordable places of residence in the Fifth Ward.

The Christian Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, a valued congregation in the community lead by Pastor Quinton Smith, owns a church adjacent to the property the Authority will develop. This church's property is also not included in the Authority's plans.

### **ABOUT HHA:**

The Houston Housing Authority provides affordable homes and services to more than 58,000 low-income Houstonians, including over 17,000 families housed through the Housing Choice Voucher Program and another 5,700 living in 25 public housing and tax

credit developments around the city. HHA also administers one of the nation's largest voucher program exclusively serving homeless veterans. More information about the Houston Housing Authority can be found at [www.housingforhouston.com](http://www.housingforhouston.com).

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