

GEDP UPDATE

GEDP NEW OFFICE LOCATION

1902 Mechanic
(corner of 19th and Ship's Mechanic Row)

To Contact the GEDP :

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The Galveston Economic Development Partnership is a Private Non-Profit Membership based organization. Utilizing the strength of the public-private partners of the GEDP, the GEDP's mission continues to focus on the expansion of Galveston's employment and tax bases.

GEDP goes to Washington

GEDP President Jeffrey Sjostrom joined Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas and City Manager Steve LeBlanc on a visit to our Nation's Capitol during February 3-5, 2009. This visit was organized by Mr. Barry Goodman of the Goodman Corporation.

Designed as a mission on transportation projects, the GEDP participated in discussions ranging from transportation to business development.

In addition to the targeted transportation projects which included Seawall Beautification/ Protection, Galveston Rail Bridge, Commuter Rail and a host of other topics, discussion also focused on resources needed for the rebuilding of our Galveston business community.

In particular, the GEDP continues to seek parity with other states as it relates to financial incentives available to our

business community as a result of the financial loss and hardship incurred from a natural disaster.

Information was gained on the progress of the 2008 Recovery Bill and the status of the proposed Stimulus Bill now in discussion.

The GEDP will continue to monitor these efforts and keep you informed as programs are announced.

Business Recovery Resources

Immediately upon Ike's landfall your GEDP commenced with finding Business Recovery resources from local, regional, State and Federal partners.

Within two weeks of landfall, the GEDP facilitated the **Hurricane Ike Recovery Loan** program with our local lenders. Since then, the GEDP has continued seeking more financial resources for the recovery and rebuilding of the Galveston business community.

Programs or resources currently in development or in process include:

Galveston Business Recovery Fund

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Small Business Administration (SBA)

Governor's Office of Economic Development

For further information, see articles attached or call the GEDP at 409-770-0216.

Recovery Tools in development:

CDBG	\$179 Million
Housing	60%
Infrastructure / Economic Development	40%
EDA	
Public Works Grants	\$20 Million
Regional Revolving Loan Fund	\$10 Million

(The numbers above illustrate the preliminary estimates to date)

Galveston Business Recovery Fund

Contributions to the Galveston Business Recovery Fund can be directed to the following address:

HGAC Corporation for
Regional Excellence
c/o Galveston Business
Recovery Fund

P.O. Box 22777
Houston, Texas 77227-2777

Checks should be made out to the following:

HGAC Corporation for
Regional Excellence

(in the memo line of the check please identify Galveston Business Recovery Fund)

Hurricane Ike Recovery Loans

Between September 13, 2008 and December 31, 2008 Galveston Banks re-invested almost \$50 Million to local businesses impacted by Hurricane Ike.

Participating Lenders

Frost Bank
Hometown Bank
Moody National Bank
Prosperity Bank
Texas First Bank

"A hand-up not a hand-out"

Galveston Business Recovery Fund

Fund Raising for this vital resource continues. To date the GEDP has received approximately \$500,000 in verbal commitments to this fund. Gap financing is a critical need for our local businesses in recovering from the affects of Hurricane Ike. As many are anxiously awaiting the delivery of tangible business resources, your GEDP is committed to getting these funds out into the Galveston business community as soon as possible.

This Fund has been developed to assist businesses located on Galveston Island prior to Hurricane Ike who have committed to staying on Galveston Island.

Additional information will be forthcoming in the coming days for

your review. Applications for this fund will be invited once funds have been received for processing.

In addition to their support of our recovery efforts, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) is also thanked for their willingness to act as the fiscal agent for the Galveston Business Recovery Fund.

If you know of any corporate or charitable organizations that may be interested in contributing to this important initiative please have them contact GEDP staff at 409-770-0216.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Since September 13th GEDP staff has been in constant communications with HGAC and the State regarding the possibility of relief funding coming from the State/Federal Government.

The first round of funding has been in development for the past couple of months. During this time, your GEDP has appeared before the House Select Committee on Disasters on January 7, 2009 (chaired by Representative Sylvester Turner); and the Public Hearing held by the State CDBG Agencies in Galveston (December 8, 2008).

Presently, HGAC has been charged with developing a Method of Distribution for the estimated \$814 Million coming to the Houston - Galveston region. These funds are for housing, infrastructure and economic development.

HGAC published their draft Method of Distribution on Friday February 6, 2009. Preliminary allocations include: Galveston - \$179M; Galveston County - \$236M; Houston \$172M; Harris County - \$85M. The remainder of funds will be available for the other 11 counties in the HGAC region.

GEDP staff will again be present on Wednesday February 11, 2009 for a public hearing to be held in Texas City by HGAC.

For additional information please contact GEDP staff or visit the HGAC website www.h-gac.com.

GEDP Task Forces

Housing and Sustainable Development

A long-standing Task Force of the GEDP, our 2009 kick-off meeting will be **Monday, February 16th** at Mario's on the Seawall beginning at 11:30a.m.

This task force will be meeting on the ***third Monday of each month.***

This Task Force has produced a middle income housing survey, the 2008 Economic Outlook Conference and a number of housing related activities over the past few years.

Under the leadership of Steve Schulz, this Task Force will reexamine the housing market on Galveston Island and renew discussions on middle income housing and sustainable development activities within the City of Galveston.

Please contact GEDP staff for further information. If you are interested in participating in the work of this Task Force please confirm your attendance for our kick-off meeting on the 18th.

Hurricane Recovery

Initiated at the Request of Mayor Thomas following Hurricane's Katrina and Rita, this Task Force finished their work back in 2005-06. Staff has continued utilizing the information developed as a result of this Task Force while also looking for ways to enhance and update this information.

Products delivered as a result of this effort included recommendations to the City of Galveston for a bridge loan, revenue fund reserves and a host of other topics for the City's consideration. In addition, this Task Force also created the Business Recovery Guide and several actions related to the business community's preparedness and recovery.

In consideration of lessons learned as a result of Hurricane Ike, the GEDP will be reconvening this Task Force to identify further enhancements that can be made to our planning efforts. If you are interested in participating in this effort, please call staff for more information.

Maritime

This task force was re-initiated in 2008 under the leadership of Jayson Levy and Dr. Bill McMullen.

Just prior to Hurricane Ike, the Maritime Task Force completed a survey of maritime/industrial businesses on Galveston Island and had begun the process of a land survey/land use strategy for business development along Harborside Drive, the Port and Pelican Island.

This Task Force will resume monthly meetings on the ***third Friday of each month*** at 8am. The next meeting of this task force is scheduled for **Friday, February 20, 2009.**

Please contact GEDP staff for further information. If you are interested in participating in the work of this Task Force please confirm your attendance for our meeting on the 20th.



Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

The GEDP has operated a proprietary GIS system for a number of years. This system has allowed for greater planning and review of development projects across Galveston Island.

In addition to our traditional GIS services there has been an additional tool made available for our use. The Greater Houston Partnership has unveiled a new regional GIS tool for economic development. This resource has been made available to the GEDP.

If these services are of use to you, please do not hesitate to call on us.

**Other
Community
Recovery
Planning
Efforts**

Galveston Community Recovery Committee

GEDP Staff, as are many of you, are currently participating in this planning effort organized by the City and led by Ms. Betty Massey.

This working committee of over 300 is currently divided into five committees. The five committees include Transportation, Human

Services, Environmental issues, Housing, and Economic Development.

If you are interested in providing input into this dynamic process please feel free to send any thoughts or comments to your GEDP staff for inclusion into the discussions that are currently taking place.

If you would like additional information on the work of this Committee please visit the following website www.recoverygalveston.org

Governor's Commission for Disaster Recovery and Renewal

Appointed by the Governor and led by former Harris County Judge Robert Eckels, GEDP President Jeffrey Sjostrom has been appointed to serve on this working committee.

Meetings have already been held in Galveston and Harlingen with more

to follow. The focus of these initial meetings has been to interview local leaders for identifying issues that have confronted their communities as a result of natural disasters.

The next meeting will be held in Beaumont on February 12th.

It is anticipated that final recommendations will be concluded by June of this year.

If you would like additional information on the progress of this commission, please contact your GEDP staff.

GEDP Web Site Enhancement

Thanks to the work of Jayson Levy, Keith Palmer, Marie Garrett and Deanna Walton and her staff at ANICO - the GEDP website is in process of being updated and revised.

Over the past few weeks these individuals have been working to realign the GEDP website and update its' content for your use.

These updates will continue as the changes occur and we encourage your visiting this site for relevant information pertaining to our island's business reconstruction and development.

Thank you for your patience as we continue working to enhance this site.

Over the next week or two you will begin to see visible changes to the format and content of information available for your use.

www.gedp.org