

Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow Arranges \$72,000 Donation to New Orleans Mission

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New Orleans, LA - July 11, 2008 - Today, Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow presented the New Orleans Mission with cash and furniture valued at \$72,000. The donations were contributed by Howard Acquisitions LLC, a subsidiary of Plainfield Asset Management, LLC, owners of the Plaza Tower at 1001 Howard Avenue, and by Councilmember Fielkow through funds provided to Councilmembers by Harrah's Casino.

The furniture - valued at \$58,000 - includes couches, coffee tables, chairs, kitchen cabinets and granite counter tops, dining room sets, a writing desk, chests, televisions, art work, glassware and bar stools which the Mission will use at their facilities. In addition Howard Acquisitions donated \$10,000 to the Mission.

"Plainfield wants to be a part of New Orleans' recovery and is firmly committed to helping the City rebuild," said Thomas Walper, Plainfield Partner and Head of Corporate Restructuring. "We look forward in participating with other worthwhile community endeavors in the future. We applaud the New Orleans Mission for its beneficial work in the community, which is a major contribution to rebuilding New Orleans," Walper concluded.

"The Board, staff and clients of the New Orleans Mission truly appreciate the support of corporate partners such as Plainfield, Councilman Fielkow and our other elected officials," said Bennett Powell, New Orleans Mission Board President. "Hurricane Katrina devastated our facilities. We have relied on a diverse group of individuals, churches, businesses, foundations and government agencies not only to rebuild but to expand our facilities," said Mission Executive Director Ron Gonzales.

"When Plainfield asked who could best benefit from their donation, I knew the New Orleans Mission was a worthwhile recipient," said Councilmember Fielkow. "The New Orleans Mission provides much needed services including housing, case management, clothing and free meals to thousands of men and women each month," he continued. "I am also pleased to donate \$5,000 to help the Mission fulfill their goals," Fielkow concluded.

Located at 1130 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, the New Orleans Mission is the largest private service provider for the homeless in New Orleans. A member of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, the New Orleans Mission operates a comprehensive program that includes an Emergency Over-Night Shelter for Men, a Discipleship Program for Men, an Overnight Shelter for Single Women, Transitional Housing for Families, and a Day Center featuring laundry, showers, case management and storage for belongings.

Several supportive agencies including Traveler's Aid, the Veterans Administration and Celebration Hope also have offices at the Mission. Celebration Hope offers free mental health and substance abuse counseling. The Mission provides shelter for up to 160 men, women and children each night. Many evenings the Mission is full and must turn people away.

The New Orleans Mission lost its roof and entire contents during Hurricane Katrina. "We placed our faith in God and He answered our prayers," said Gonzales. "With the help of many individuals, we raised more than \$2 million from the country of Qatar, the National Federal Home Loan Bank Foundation, and churchgoers all across America," he continued. "The majority of our previous donors are gone and we still need new sources of funding to keep our programs operating," said Powell. The Mission's annual operating budget is \$780,000.

The City of New Orleans has contracted with the Mission to provide community outreach and shelter services. "We are proud of the important role the Mission has played with other partnering agencies to find more stable housing for those living in Duncan Plaza or under the Claiborne Avenue overpass," said Councilmember Fielkow.

Howard Acquisitions acquired the Plaza Tower in a public foreclosure sale in July, 2007. Plainfield Asset Management, LLC was founded in February 2005. The firm manages investment capital for institutions and high net worth individuals based in the United States and abroad. Plainfield currently employs over 150 people in its offices in Greenwich, Connecticut.

For more information about the New Orleans Mission call (504) 523-2116 or log on to www.neworleansmission.org.

New Orleans City Council

The New Orleans City Council is the legislative branch of New Orleans city government. The Council considers and enacts all local laws that govern the City of New Orleans. The Council also approves the operating and capital budgets for the City, as recommended by the mayor, and continually monitors revenues and expenditures for local government operations. The City Council is also the regulatory body for public utilities. It also reviews and has final say on many land use and zoning matters, as well as considers major economic development projects for the City. As a Board of Review for Orleans Parish, the Council examines appeals of property tax assessments for real estate taxes, and certifies tax rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission. Other responsibilities of the Council include overseeing the operation of the public access television in Orleans Parish.

The City Council is comprised of five districts and two councilmembers-at-large. Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; Council Vice-President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow; District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura; District "B" Councilmember Stacy S. Head; District "C" Councilmember James Carter; District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.