

Bring New Orleans Back Commission to Host Baton Rouge Town Hall Meeting to Gather Citizens' Input on Rebuilding Strategies

For more information on the national strategy, contact Mike Etienne, metienne@uli.org, (202) 624-7170.

Washington, D.C. [November 11, 2005] – Mayor Ray Nagin's *Bring New Orleans Back Commission* will be hosting a town hall meeting for the citizens of New Orleans displaced by damages caused from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. This open forum meeting is part of a series of five town hall meetings that will provide citizens the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas on the development of a master plan for rebuilding the city.

The event will be held on **Thursday, December 8 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** at the **Mount Zion Baptist Church** at **356 East Boulevard** near downtown Baton Rouge.

The Commission's town hall meetings are aimed to reach as many New Orleans residents as possible to ensure that they have significant input into the rebuilding process and to foster constructive participation in the revival of New Orleans. The other town hall meetings will take place in **Houston, TX -- December 10; Atlanta, GA -- December 6; Memphis, TN -- November 30; Dallas TX -- December 6; and Fort Worth, TX -- December 7.** These communities were selected because they represent the relocation areas where the largest portions of New Orleans residents now reside.

For questions and information about the December 8 town hall meeting in Baton Rouge, please call Renee Warren, ULI Louisiana, at 985-649-8350, Boo Thomas, Plan Baton Rouge, at 225-267-6300 or Alison Cascio, APA Capital Section, at 225-389-5169.

The town hall meetings are organized by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and the American Planning Association (APA).

The Urban Land Institute (www.uli.org) is a nonprofit education and research institute supported by its members. Its mission is to provide responsible leadership in the use of land in order to enhance the total environment. Each year, the Institute honors an extraordinary community builder through the Urban Land Institute J.C. Nichols Prize for Visionaries in Urban Development. Established in 1936, the Institute has more than 28,000 members representing all aspects of land use and development disciplines.

The APA is a nonprofit public interest and research organization representing 37,000 practicing planners, officials, and citizens involved with urban and rural planning issues. Its mission is to provide leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and citizen empowerment, and providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change. (www.planning.org)

The Town Hall meetings are supported by the Fannie Mae Foundation. 