



CITY OF KENNER

MAYOR'S OFFICE

MICHAEL S. YENNI
MAYOR

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KENNER MAYOR WELCOMES HUD INVESTIGATION OF LOCAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

Today, Kenner Mayor Mike Yenni welcomed the arrival of investigators from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Public Housing as they examine allegations of possible improprieties in the Kenner Housing Authority.

City Attorney Keith Conley sent a letter in June to HUD officials asking for investigators to come down after being informed about potential questionable practices. Conley pointed out that the city has limited authority over the Kenner Housing Authority Board. "The mayor's only responsibility in regards to the Kenner Housing Authority is the appointment and removal of board members," Conley said. "That is why the mayor reached out to the federal agency, which funds the board, asking for their assistance in making sure the agency was being operated in an efficient manner."

In a letter to the city, in advance of the HUD visit, federal officials said they intended to talk with the board's commissioners, along with Executive Director Claudette Raphael. In the same letter, the director of the HUD Office of Public Housing, Cheryl Williams, stated "We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to working with the Kenner Housing Authority to recover and achieve sustainable performance."

Yenni said he is eager to learn the results of the investigation. "We look forward to any and all recommendations made by HUD," he said. Yenni stressed that this inquiry should not be a reflection on the board. "These volunteers are taking time away from their families and working hard to benefit the city of Kenner; we appreciate their service to the city. The board raised the initial concerns, which is why I requested and welcomed the assistance of a higher authority."

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