GEX AND ARTIGUES
HANCOCK COUNTY OFFICE OF
BRYANT, DUKES & BLAKESLEE, P.L.L.C.
P. O. DRAWER 47
WAVELAND, MS 39576-0047
(228) 467-5426
FAX (228) 467-3258

RONALD J. ARTIGUES, JR.
S. TRENT FAVRE

Of Counsel
LUCIEN M. GEX, JR.

September 21, 2007

Mr. Donald E. Powell
Federal Coordinator for
Gulf Coast Rebuilding
U.S. Department of Homeland Sec.
Washington, DC 20528

Re: Hancock County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Powell:

I have been requested by the Hancock County Board of Supervisors to respond to your very generous and helpful letter regarding the remaining needs and priorities for Hancock County's recovery process. At its last regularly called meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved a list of five projects for which your assistance is desperately needed. The first public assistance project is a jail facility to serve Hancock County as well as Bay St. Louis and Waveland. We are currently contracting with a neighboring county for jail services and the costs are astronomical for our current financial condition. A jail facility is crucial at this time.

The second public assistance project is an emergency operations center (EOC). We are currently conducting emergency operations from a leased school facility. The facility is not designed or adequate for our purposes and use of the facility can be withdrawn. A new county facility, centrally located, is important to our ability to provide emergency management services to Hancock County.

The third public assistance project is the Bay St. Louis City Hall Complex. Bay St. Louis' City Hall building, administrative building and police department were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The city was forced to acquire a new facility for police services, zoning, building department, utility department and city hall. These acquisition costs were incurred at time when the city is facing a budget shortfall and struggling to meet operational expenses. Reimbursement of these costs would allow the city to continue with operations and recovery.

The fourth public assistance project is the construction of a county-wide human resources building. Such facilities existed to provide human services to the public. The entities that provide these needed services desperately need adequate facilities from which to operate.

The fifth public assistance project is a multi-purpose facility to house computer mainframes, historical documents and county records in the northern portion of Hancock County, safe from the possible damage from future storms or flooding. Such a building can be multi-purpose to also meet these unfulfilled needs as well as provide for much needed justice facility and building in northern Hancock County.

Hancock County greatly appreciates the assistance you have provided, and hopefully will continue to provide. I have included only a brief listing of the projects as requested in your letter. County officials can provide details for each project if necessary and look forward to working with you to make these a reality. Please contact Rocky Pullman, Board President, or me with any further questions or direction as to how you would like for us to proceed.

Again, thank you for everything you have done. It is only with help from you and others like you that we will properly recover from this devastation.

GEX and ARTIGUES

By:_____

Ronald J. Artigues, Jr.
Counsel for Hancock County

cc: Hancock County Board of Supervisors