



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR  
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

SEP 12 2008

Mr. Shane Short  
Chairman  
Forest Park/Fort Gillam  
Local Redevelopment Authority  
745 Forest Parkway  
Forest Park, GA 30297

Dear Mr. Short:

I am pleased to inform you of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's final determination that the *Forest Park/Fort Gillam Strategic Reuse Plan and Homeless Assistance Submission* (the Plan), dated August 2, 2007, with supplemental information dated September 19, 2007, July 16, 2008, and August 21, 2008, complies with the requirements of the Base Closure Community Redevelopment and Homeless Assistance Act of 1994 and its implementing regulations found at 24 CFR Part 586. The Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) may move forward with implementing the reuse plan, which focuses on economic redevelopment and includes the construction of a 20-room emergency homeless shelter for women with male children between the ages of 11 to 17 and their siblings. The basis for HUD's determination is discussed below.

HUD determined that the Plan appropriately balanced the needs of the communities in the vicinity of the installation for economic redevelopment and other development with the needs of the homeless in the community. The basis for that determination was that of the six Notices of Interest (NOIs) in the property received by the LRA, two of the six, Covenant House and Handled With Care, Inc., were received after the deadline date to receive NOIs in the property. Of the remaining four NOIs, the LRA rejected the NOI submitted by First Light Vision mainly because it was not an eligible applicant, having only recently applied for 501(c)(3) status; and the Weinza House, because the NOI did not meet the criteria for a no-cost homeless assistance conveyance. The LRA incorporated the only eligible remaining two NOIs submitted by representatives of the homeless into the reuse plan, while indicating the Fort Gillam closure resulted in the loss of over 1,000 jobs.

Under the Act, the purpose of HUD's review of base closure plans is to make certain enumerated determinations "with respect to the expressed interest and requests of representatives of the homeless" 10 U.S.C. 2687 note (b)(7)(H)(i). Calvary Refuge Center and the Clayton County Community Services Authority collaborated and proposed a program where the LRA would design and construct a new facility of approximately 4,925 square feet to provide emergency shelter for women and male children ages 11 to 17 and their siblings. This homeless assistance program would be located at the Refuge Center's current location. The homeless need in Forest Park and Clayton County, GA is substantial, as is the need for economic redevelopment. HUD is satisfied that the

Forest Part/Fort Gillam LRA's outreach to the representatives of the homeless was in the manner dictated by the Act and regulations and finds the LRA's balance determination to be appropriate.

Congratulations on your success in effectively carrying out the military base reuse planning process. I wish you continued success in implementing the Fort Gillem reuse plan. HUD stands ready to assist you in your efforts. If the Department can provide any further service please contact Ms. Mary C. Presley, Community Planning and Development Director, in our Atlanta Field Office, located at 40 Marietta Street, Five Points Plaza, Atlanta, GA 30303. Ms. Presley can be reached at (404) 331-5001.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Johnston", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Johnston  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Special Needs

cc:

Mr. Joseph F. Calcara, DASA (I&H)

Mr. Patrick O'Brien, OEA