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**Mayor Landrieu Joins HANO to Celebrate
Grand Opening of the
Faubourg Lafitte Senior Building**
*Community leaders, city, state and federal officials cut ribbon at the
newest addition to the Faubourg Lafitte community*

New Orleans, LA (April 11, 2017) –Today, Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu, representatives from the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO), city, state and federal officials and community leaders celebrated the grand opening of Faubourg Lafitte Senior Building. The 100 unit apartment building is the latest addition to the Faubourg Lafitte community. Focused specifically on affordable housing options for seniors, the building is located in the 700 block of North Galvez Street.

“The opening of the Faubourg Lafitte Senior Building marks yet another sign of progress for our city,” said Mayor Mitch Landrieu. “Now more than ever, it’s important that we work together to prioritize increasing affordable housing options for all of our residents. I commend HANO, Providence Community Housing and Enterprise Community Partners for their commitment to creating another state-of-the art community for New Orleans seniors.”

“The completion of the Faubourg Lafitte Senior Building solidifies our commitment to increasing affordable housing opportunities in New Orleans,” said HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner. “HANO will continue to prioritize the use of public-private partnerships as we remain focused on transforming public housing sites into sustainable communities, while providing essential and efficient homes accessible to residents of all ages.”

“The opening of the Lafitte Senior Housing building creates more affordable, sensible options for our seniors and continues to build upon my long-standing goal of improving equity in the city,” said Councilmember Jared Brossett. “Additionally, the completion of this project is yet another milestone in the rebirth of the Lafitte Corridor.”

Developer Lafitte Senior Housing, LLC, a partnership between Providence Community Housing and Enterprise Community Partners, recently completed construction of the 96,000 square foot building which is bounded by North Galvez Street, Orleans Avenue, North Johnson Street and Magic Street. The three-story building is subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with public housing and project-based Section 8 voucher housing units, and includes 89 one-bedroom and 11 two-bedroom apartments ranging in size from 615 to 900 square feet. Each unit contains Energy Star appliances, in-unit microwaves, and cable and internet service connections. Residents will enjoy immediate access to in-house community space with audio/visual capability and multiple laundry rooms within the facility.

“Providence and Enterprise have been committed to working with former Lafitte public housing residents and other community members in the redevelopment process since the beginning of our work on Faubourg Lafitte,” said Matthew Morrin, Director of Development for Enterprise Community Partners. “We are very proud to have worked with HANO to complete the new Faubourg Lafitte Senior Building just as it was envisioned in the plan we created along with former Lafitte residents and other community members for the redevelopment of this site back in 2006 and 2007. We are especially excited to see additional pre-Katrina residents of the original Lafitte development move back into some its apartments and have the chance to enjoy the Lafitte Greenway and many other new and long-standing neighborhood amenities.”

Faubourg Lafitte Senior Building, which encompasses community gardens, porches and a courtyard, is located within walking distance of the Lafitte Greenway, and adjacent to the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center. The total redevelopment cost is estimated at \$22 million, consisting of \$11 million in a combination HANO Program Income and Replacement Housing dollars and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) 901 funding, and \$11 million in funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“FEMA remains committed to the Louisiana Recovery and we are happy to be a part of the tremendous progress that the Housing Authority is making in regards to providing affordable housing opportunities for residents of New Orleans,” said Louisiana Recovery Office Director Mike Womack. “This new community is uniquely suited to the needs and life styles of New Orleans seniors.”

In June 2012, HANO was approved by HUD to designate more than 500 low income housing units to seniors, ages 62 and older, representing approximately 16 percent of the agency’s total public housing inventory. Since then, HANO celebrated the grand opening of Heritage Senior Residences at Columbia Parc and the Marais Apartments, adding over 200 new homes for seniors in New Orleans. Lafitte senior joins Heritage and Marais, the Guste High Rise and Fischer Senior Village as HANO’s living facilities for low income seniors.

With the completion of the Senior Building, the Faubourg Lafitte development team, including Providence Community Housing, Enterprise Community Partners, L&M Development and HANO has now completed 465 mixed income residential units on the 27-acre former Lafitte site and additionally, over 230 mixed income residential units in the surrounding neighborhood. All of these apartments and homes contribute to the development team’s commitments to comprehensively redevelop the Lafitte Public Housing site and its surroundings. The team is working towards beginning construction on an additional 40 mixed income homeownership units at the Lafitte site in the next six months.

“In all, more than \$27 million in disaster recovery funding has been invested in transitioning the historic Lafitte Housing project into the new and vibrant Faubourg Lafitte community,” Pat Forbes, executive director of the state’s Office of Community Development, said. “The Faubourg Lafitte Senior Building will provide safe and affordable housing with wonderful amenities to low-income, elderly residents. This neighborhood approach to restoring whole communities has driven our recovery from Hurricane Katrina and subsequent disasters.”

Construction on the Faubourg Lafitte Senior Building community began in January 2015, and was completed in approximately 18 months. This project was completed by the general contractor, Gibbs Construction, and the architect, Blich/Knevel.

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