



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HANO Outlines an Ambitious Timeline for Transforming Guste High Rise and Surrounding Properties

New Orleans, LA – The Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) will assume management of Guste High Rise and Guste Phases I, II, and III beginning on July 1, 2026. HANO has laid out an ambitious transition plan beginning with the appointment of Larry Barabino, Jr. as the Senior Director of Community and Property Operations, effective June 15, 2026. Mr. Barabino will play a key role in implementing operational improvements aimed at stabilizing the Guste Community and providing on-site supportive services tailored to the needs of the residents. Mr. Barabino will be placed full-time on the site beginning June 15, 2026. “I want the residents and surrounding community to know that HANO is working on their behalf every day to restore the property and improve the residents’ quality of life” stated Marjorianna Willman, Executive Director of HANO.

Barabino is returning to the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) after serving as CEO of the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORD) since December 2018, where he oversaw more than 160 facilities, a workforce of over 300 employees, and an operating budget exceeding \$20 Million. “While NORD’s footprint is much larger than Guste Homes, the job is just as important. Mr. Barabino will fill a critical role in our comprehensive and strategic plan across Guste communities,” stated Marjorianna Willman, Executive Director of HANO. “Mr. Barabino understands the communities we serve; he has roots in public housing, and we have a shared vision of restoring the community.”

In addition to having the Senior Director of Community and Property Operations, HANO will place HANO Police, Finance, Client Services, and Maintenance Teams onsite. HANO will be laser-focused on addressing construction, plumbing, and HVAC issues and bringing vacant units back online within the next ninety days. Client service specialists will work with potential tenants to help overcome any barriers, such as identification and references, that may prevent individuals from accessing permanent housing.

HANO expects to issue a Request for Proposals for investors and lenders interested in supporting the substantial rehabilitation of Guste High Rise by the end of 2026. “It’s clear that an infusion of capital is needed and HANO will be looking for experts with the capacity to acquire capital and the ability to substantially rehab the site with minimal disruption to the residents,” said Willman. HANO continues to work with HUD’s technical assistance team to access financial tools to support the redevelopment.

“HANO Commissioners approved the use of \$777,650.17 of reserve funds to settle the outstanding utility bill. Now the focus is on moving swiftly to address maintenance issues, fill vacant units, and provide financial stability to the property,” said Percy Manson, HANO Board President.

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About Housing Authority of New Orleans

The Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) is focused on providing affordable housing opportunities for low-income residents of the city of New Orleans while laying the foundation for economic sustainability. HANO serves over 22,000 low-income families through its affordable housing programs. HANO also serves public housing needs for the elderly, disabled, and veterans.

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