

**HANO Highlights: News from January 2025** We are excited to announce the appointment of our new Executive Director, Marjorianna Willman. We honored the HANO Police Department on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. We shared the draft Choice Cooper Neighborhood Transformation Plan with the community. To top it all off, we were amazed by a historic snowfall in New Orleans.

## THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP



### **Marjorianna Willman, HANO Executive Director**

On January 13th, the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) Board of Commissioners unanimously selected Marjorianna Willman to serve as the next Executive Director for the agency.

She comes to the Housing Authority of New Orleans from the Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) where she served as Executive Director and previously Chief Operating and Legal Officer. Her oversight included leading a staff of over 150 employees focused on increasing and creating affordable, safe, and energy-efficient housing across Louisiana. Her areas of expertise include creating policy, community development, and delivering impactful programs benefiting Louisiana's citizens. The veteran leader served in New Orleans as the Director of the Office of Housing

Policy and Community Development. Under her tenure, she led the city to be named one of the seven High Performing Grantees by the U.S. Department of Treasury. She is also known for creating an eviction diversion program in partnership with the local courts that received the 2021 Innovation Award from the Louisiana Bar Association. Willman's decades of experience working in the affordable housing industry includes the administration of federal, state, and local funding for housing development, disaster recovery, rental assistance, supportive services, and homelessness solutions.

"I am exhilarated for this opportunity to make an impact in delivering affordable housing in the city that I love," stated Willman. "Working together with community, federal, state, and local partners, a team of dedicated HANO professionals, and other stakeholders, HANO will quickly become a high-performing model agency," added Willman.

Willman is a licensed attorney. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Louisiana State University and a Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center. She also earned a certificate in Executive Education Leading in an Era of Complexity from the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business. Ms. Willman was featured as a Legal Leader in the Spring 2023 issue of Affordable Housing News. She assumed her new position as Executive Director on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

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HANO WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP CONTINUED...



### **Percy Manson**, President of the HANO Board of Commissioners

Percy Manson was elected as President of the Board of Commissioners of the New Orleans Housing Authority on December 10th. With three decades of experience in lending within financial institutions, he currently serves as the Senior Vice President of Community and Economic Development at Hope Credit Union. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Finance from Louisiana Tech University, a Master of Business Administration from the University of New Orleans, and a certification of completion from LSU Graduate School of Banking. Additionally, he serves as a political consultant, is the vice chair of the International High School of New Orleans, and a board member of the Peace Center of New Orleans. Manson previously held the position of Immediate Past President of the Sigma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



### **Shermeeka Mitchell**, Director of Client Services

Shermeeka Mitchell joined the HANO staff in January, taking on the role of Director of Client Services. She brings a wealth of experience in workforce development, human services, case management, and adult education. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Master of Science in Guidance Counseling from Alcorn State University. Throughout her career, she has interacted with residents of housing developments in various capacities, whether through education or preventative services. In her new position, she is eager to take a more direct approach to addressing the needs of this community through the Client Services Department.

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## NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

January 9th was National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. HANO Interim Executive Director Keva Landrum, Deputy Director of Operations Falecia Stewart, and the HR Department took a moment to express their gratitude to HANO's hardworking and dedicated Police Department. The team enjoyed a delicious pizza lunch. Thank you, HANO PD, for everything you do to ensure the safety of our residents and community!



## DRAFT CHOICE COOPER NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSFORMATION PLAN PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC

The draft Choice Cooper Neighborhood Transformation Plan was presented to the public on January 28, 2025. During an engaging meeting with residents of Marrero Commons, attendees had the opportunity to vote on their top priorities for the plan. They also enjoyed a

meet-and-greet with a selection of artists. One of these individuals will be selected to design a light art project, which is set to be installed in the neighborhood by year's end.

In 2022, the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) received a Planning Grant from HUD for the B.W. Cooper/Earhart Neighborhood as part of the Choice Neighborhood Initiative. HANO, in collaboration with planning team members from Collabo and Choice Neighborhood Ambassadors, has been working with a diverse group of local stakeholders. This group includes nonprofits, local universities, businesses, supportive service agencies, and residents. Together, an innovative and inclusive Transformation Plan is being developed that focuses on three key goals:

- Housing: Expanding high-quality, mixed-income housing.
- People: Enhancing income, employment, health, and education outcomes for residents.
- Neighborhood: Fostering conditions for public and private investment to develop a complete community.

The draft plan can be viewed on the HANO website. Please send public comments to [info@hano.org](mailto:info@hano.org). The completed plan will be submitted to HUD in April 2025.





## SNOW DAYS AT NEW FLORIDA AND THE ESTATES

On January 21, 2025, New Orleans experienced an extraordinary winter storm, blanketing the city in 10 inches of snow—an occurrence not witnessed since the 1890s. Officer Rashi Reed from the HANO PD took these photos of the snowfall at the New Florida and The Estates Housing Developments. We remain captivated by the sparkling beauty of this historic event!

## UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

### Lafitte Senior Mardi Gras Arts & Crafts

Lafitte Senior Center, 700 N Galvez St, New Orleans  
February 10 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### Fischer Senior Mardi Gras Ball

Fischer Senior Center, 1400 Semmes St, New Orleans  
February 22 | 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

### Board of Commissioners Meeting

HANO Helen Lang Boardroom, 2051 Senate St, New Orleans  
February 25 | 4 p.m.

### Spring College Tour to the Texas Region

March 5-7

For further details on these and even more upcoming events, follow HANO online:  [hanohousing](https://www.facebook.com/hanohousing)  [hano\\_housing](https://www.instagram.com/hano_housing)



Marjorianna Willman, *Executive Director*

Jabarie Walker, *Chief of Staff*

Calandra Corder, *Director of Communications; Editor and Contributor*

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