



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2026

Media Contacts:

Karen Mackey
kmackey@hano.org
504.670.3454

HANO Settles the Guste Homes Outstanding Debt with Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans

New Orleans –On May 19, 2026, the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) unanimously approved a resolution to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) regarding the outstanding utility bills for the Guste properties. Under this agreement, HANO will pay a settled amount of \$777,650.17 to bring the accounts current for Guste High Rise and Guste I, II, and III. Beginning in June, HANO will take over the management of the SWBNO accounts at the properties.

Settling the delinquent SWBNO accounts is part of a multiphase approach to stabilizing the property. A full-scale forensic audit has been commissioned to help answer important questions around finances. It is important to understand and eliminate any inefficiencies or duplications contributing to the development's current financial condition.

HANO is continuing to work with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to take the measures necessary to maintain housing for the residents for years to come. As a requirement to avoid displacement for the residents living in Guste High Rise, HANO has submitted to HUD an Elderly Designation Housing Plan, and a plan to bring back online 80 vacant housing units.

"I appreciate the leadership of the HANO Board of Commissioners for taking the necessary steps to put the residents first," said HANO Executive Director Marjorianna Willman. "HANO is dedicated to providing safe and quality housing for the residents of the Guste community. I am committed to bringing all 130 vacant units back into operation and using the revenue generated to reinvest in the property. My goal is to ensure that every resident enjoys the quality of life they deserve and to restore stability to the community."

Residents of Guste are invited to share their thoughts and suggestions regarding potential improvements and changes they would like to see at the property. Your insights are valuable in shaping the future of our community. Input may be sent to HANO employees Waldreka Johnson at wjohnson@hano.org or (504) 670-3473, or Chanelle Campbell-Washington at cwashington@hano.org or (504) 670-3267.

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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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