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Gulf Coast Interfaith (GCI) continues its work in the key areas of democracy, disaster recovery, housing, healthcare, employment, education, and Latino Outreach in an effort to advance social, economic and health opportunities for the residents of the city of Galveston and Galveston County and the Gulf Coast area. Collaborating with local congregations and community advocacy groups, we are consistently reaching to fulfill our goal to produce tangible, sustainable solutions to the issues facing our neighbors.

GCI

GCI steering committee will try to meet early in 2016 to discuss current issues facing the community, restructuring the administration of GCI's efforts, and the relationship between GCI and the Galveston Living Wage Study Group.

GALVESTON COUNTY COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

GCI made its office at 2728 Ave Q available to the Galveston County Collaborating Organizations (GCCO)¹ for several meetings concerning redevelopment of the Northside of Broadway in Galveston, rebuilding public housing in Galveston and privatization of the Sanitation Department of Galveston.

EMPLOYMENT

Galveston Living Wage Study Group

The Galveston Living Wage Study Group held its regular monthly meeting at St. Patrick Catholic Church on October 17th and at the GCI office on November 19th.

¹ The membership of the coalition known as the Galveston County Collaborating Organizations varies depending on the issue. Generally the CO is comprised of: NAACP Galveston Unit 6180, LULAC Galveston Council 151, Galveston Coalition for Justice, Galveston Northside Task Force, Gulf Coast Interfaith, Barbour's Chapel Community Development Corporation, NAACP Mainland Branch Unit 6201, NAACP Dickinson/Bay Area Branch Unit 6280, LULAC Texas City Council 255, Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition, LULAC Galveston Council 22270.

DISASTER RECOVERY and HOUSING

On October 5th a meeting was held at Galveston City Hall that was hosted by former NAACP President David Miller and Mayor Jim Yarbrough to discuss the distribution of the remaining \$44 million in Hurricane Ike Disaster CDBG infrastructure funds. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Galveston members of the GCCO as well as from other interested parties- St. Vincent's House, MBS, Anthony Griffin, and Sullivan Land Services. On November 17th members of the GCCO became aware that a contract had been approved by the GLO for the distribution of the remaining \$44M and it had been placed on the council agenda for approval on November 19th. A request to delay the vote for 60 days was emailed by GCCO to each council member on November 18th and on November 19th during the morning work session the Austin Advocates emailed an objection to the proposed contract vote by the council. The council approved the GLO contract in a 6-1 vote later that day. The GCCO requested another meeting and met with Mayor Yarbrough on December 15th where information was requested and another meeting with Mayor Yarbrough was scheduled for January 19th.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Galveston County Community Watchman published and distributed 2200 copies of its first monthly newspaper in September, 2015. Currently, the primary audience is the African American community in south Galveston County. The member organizations of the GCCO have been asked to submit announcements, articles and pictures.



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