



City of Baton Rouge
Parish of East Baton Rouge



Press Release
Friday, December 18, 2015

Press Release

Mayor Holden, HUD Officials lead effort to end Veteran Homelessness

Roundtable explores permanent Baton Rouge housing possibilities for Vets

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the City of Baton Rouge co-hosted a Landlords Roundtable Discussion at the Louisiana Housing Corporation on December 4th, as part of the effort to end veteran homelessness in Baton Rouge. Officials from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Louisiana Housing Authority, and Volunteers of America of Greater Baton Rouge joined Mayor Holden and HUD representatives in sharing information regarding programs and assistance available to landlords that could be beneficial to our Veterans obtaining permanent housing.

Thirty-five landlords, property owners, and stakeholders received background information about First Lady Michelle Obama's challenge to mayors across the country to end Veteran homelessness. A video presentation from the First Lady encouraged landlords to join the effort by establishing a housing preference for Veterans that will help them to quickly move into permanent housing. Landlords also received information on programs such as Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), and Section 8. These programs will help eligible Veterans pay rental costs and fees, and provide wrap-around services to ensure stability.

Mayor Holden applauded the work done by federal, state, and local partners to shelter 176 Veterans since accepting the Mayors Challenge last September.

"No veteran who has served our country and protected our freedom should be left to live on the street," the Mayor said.

Mayor Holden accepted the challenge last year when First Lady Michelle Obama joined the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in urging mayors across the country to help put an end to veteran homelessness by Dec. 31, 2015 using federal, local and nonprofit resources. Mayor Holden was among the first mayors in the country to accept the challenge and the Louisiana Housing Corporation and other local and federal agencies joined his effort to end veteran homelessness in Baton Rouge.

The goal of the Mayors Challenge, which is overseen by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and the National League of Cities, is to leverage federal resources and implement a local strategy to make sure every veteran in the community has access to permanent and stable housing so that they no longer have to sleep on the streets. If a veteran becomes homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless, the program will quickly connect them to the help necessary to provide housing stability.

For more information about the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness visit:
http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/veteran_information/mayors_challenge

