

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact:
Martha Landrum, 504-598-4663
Martha@gnof.org

\$60,000 GRANT AWARDED FOR ST. BERNARD PARISH DESIGN WORK

NEW ORLEANS – The St. Bernard Community Foundation has awarded a \$60,000 grant to the government of St. Bernard Parish to help with the area's recovery.

The grant will allow the parish to hire a national leader in planning and public policy to rewrite its zoning regulations in an effort to simplify the rebuilding process for both officials and private developers. Donald Poland Consulting of Hartford, Conn., plans to update, modernize and help to implement the new regulations by the end of the year.

"I think one of the main focuses here is to create effective regulations that will help to encourage investment in the parish," Donald Poland said.

Poland wants to create a "design development district" that will introduce mixed uses and the latest in "smart codes" along major entryways and high-traffic areas, such as the Judge Perez Drive gateway (near Jackson Barracks), the St. Bernard Highway gateway, the Parish Government complex area, Village Square and the future hospital location. The new designs will allow the parish to phase in more pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use development without imposing excessively onerous requirements that could, if implemented with excessive haste and in a universal fashion, slow the rate of reinvestment within an area that was devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Poland will also work to streamline the approval and permitting processes so that buildings can be constructed more quickly, while still conforming to the highest standards of design.

With returning jobs, an excellent public school system and a renovation of Jackson Barracks, St. Bernard Parish has a "bright future," Poland said.

Mr. Poland is a professional planner and urban geographer who has 13 years experience in land use planning, neighborhood redevelopment and executive-level

management. He is recognized as a national leader and expert on neighborhood and housing issues and is the current president of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association. In this latter capacity, he worked on development of a smart growth policy guide for the American Planning Association. Poland is also a founding member, secretary and executive director of the Connecticut Partnership for Balanced Growth, as well as a member of the board of trustees for the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. He was executive director and chief executive officer for The Neighborhoods of Hartford Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. He previously held the position of Director of Planning and Development for the Town of East Windsor, Conn.

Established last year, the St. Bernard Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

ABOUT GNOF

The Greater New Orleans Foundation (www.gnof.org) serves as a catalyst for change in southeast Louisiana by connecting community needs with individuals, families and organizations interested in charitable giving – and through leadership of initiatives designed to improve the quality of civic life. Tracing its roots to 1923, GNOF is a leading resource on charitable giving and community needs, stewarding more than 700 charitable funds and endowments with total assets of more than \$192 million.