

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS

STATE OF LOUISIANA

NO: 15-8354

DIVISION: 4-7

STATE OF LOUISIANA-DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION,
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
DISASTER RECOVERY UNIT -
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

VS.

ZINA WOODARD, LOUIS THOMAS, CARLOTTA NAVARRE, AND AUDREE LEE

**PETITION FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT AND FOR
JUDGMENT TO RECOVER HAZARD MITIGATION
GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS**

NOW INTO COURT, through undersigned counsel, comes Petitioner, the State of Louisiana, Office of Community Development, Disaster Recovery Unit - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (hereinafter "HMGP"), which respectfully files this Petition for Declaratory Judgment and for Judgment to Recover Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds. In support, HMGP respectfully represents:

1.

The Defendants in this case are Zina Woodard, Louis Thomas, Carlotta Navarre, and Audree Lee, majors domiciled in Orleans Parish, who voluntarily participated in HMGP to mitigate their home after Hurricane Katrina.

2.

HMGP is a mitigation program funded by FEMA and is administered by the State of Louisiana, the grantee. HMGP assists homeowners whose homes were damaged as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It also helps homeowners in coastal Louisiana protect their homes from damage, which may occur in future natural disasters, by elevating their homes, reconstructing safer structures, or installing individual mitigation measures. The State of Louisiana serves as the funding vehicle by which FEMA funds are awarded to eligible homeowners.

3.

Defendants executed a Voluntary Participation Agreement (hereinafter "VPA") on July 13, 2010 to participate in HMGP and to receive HMGP grant funds. Defendants also agreed to comply with all HMGP guidelines, which include using HMGP funds for their intended purpose.

FILED
2015 AUG 31 P 4:34
CIVIL
DISTRICT COURT

4.

FEMA grant funds in the amount of \$80,000.00 (hereinafter "FEMA grant funds") were paid to Defendants by HMGP on or about January 11, 2011 for the specific purpose of Reconstruction of their home located at 4225 Jumonville Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70122.

5.

Photographs dated May 1, 2015 show that although the FEMA grant funds were received, Defendants' home was not reconstructed.

6.

Collection letters were mailed to Defendants.

7.

Defendants have failed to respond to the letters and have failed to return the funds to the State.

8.

Defendants' failure to return the FEMA grant funds has resulted in Defendants owing to HMGP the unearned federal funds, which must be recovered by HMGP, the State program charged with distributing FEMA funds for mitigation projects.

9.

HMGP must account to FEMA for all funds issued to homeowners. Failure of HMGP to recover the FEMA grant funds from Defendants will result in reimbursement to FEMA by the State of Louisiana.

10.

HMGP requests that the debt of \$80,000.00 owed by Zina Woodard, Louis Thomas, Carlotta Navarre, and Audree Lee to HMGP be recognized and that judgment in favor of HMGP be granted, directing Defendants to return and pay the FEMA grant funds to the State, in full.

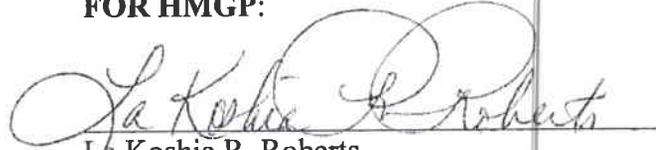
ALL PREMISES CONSIDERED, WHEREFORE, HMGP PRAYS:

- a. That this Honorable Court declare that Defendants, Zina Woodard, Louis Thomas, Carlotta Navarre, and Audree Lee, are non-compliant with the Voluntary Participation Agreement signed by them;
- b. That this Honorable Court declare that Defendants, Zina Woodard, Louis Thomas, Carlotta Navarre, and Audree Lee, are indebted to HMGP in the amount of \$80,000.00 because of their failure to reconstruct their home according to their agreement to abide by HMGP guidelines, including using HMGP funds for their intended purpose;
- c. That Defendants, Zina Woodard, Louis Thomas, Carlotta Navarre, and Audree Lee, be ordered to return the \$80,000.00 HMGP grant to HMGP, in full;

- d. That there be judgment rendered herein in favor of HMGP and against Defendants, Zina Woodard, Louis Thomas, Carlotta Navarre, and Audree Lee, in the full sum \$80,000.00;
- e. That Defendants, Zina Woodard, Louis Thomas, Carlotta Navarre, and Audree Lee, be assessed all costs and fees associated with this matter; and
- f. That the Court grant such other relief as is just and proper.

Respectfully submitted:

FOR HMGP:



La Koshia R. Roberts
Bar Roll No. 26715
State of Louisiana, through
its Division of Administration
2021 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 100
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122
Telephone: 504-284-4022
Facsimile: 504-284-4091
LaKoshia.Roberts@la.gov

T. Randolph Richardson (Special Counsel)
Bar Roll No. 11245
Law Office of T. Randolph Richardson
1010 Common Street, Suite 3000
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112
Telephone: 504-212-4163
Facsimile: 504-581-7083
trichar994@aol.com

PUBLIC ENTITY/FEE EXEMPT
(La.R.S. 13:4521 and 13:5112)

PLASE SERVE:

ZINA WOODARD
1717 VIRGINIAN COLONY AVENUE
LAPLACE, LOUISIANA 70068

CARLOTTA NAVARRE
1717 VIRGINIAN COLONY AVENUE
LAPLACE, LOUISIANA 70068

LOUIS THOMAS
1717 VIRGINIAN COLONY AVENUE
LAPLACE, LOUISIANA 70068

AUDREY LEE
1717 VIRGINIAN COLONY AVENUE
LAPLACE, LOUISIANA 70068

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS

STATE OF LOUISIANA

NO: _____

DIVISION: _____

STATE OF LOUISIANA-DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION,
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
DISASTER RECOVERY UNIT -
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

VS.

ZINA WOODARD, LOUIS THOMAS, CARLOTTA NAVARRE, AND AUDREE LEE

FILED
2015 AUG 31 P 4:34
CIVIL
DISTRICT COURT

VERIFICATION

CONSIDERING THE FOREGOING PETITION FOR RECOVERY OF HAZARD
MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS:

I, CRAIG P. TAFFARO, JR., Director of the State of Louisiana's Hazard Mitigation Grant
Program, declare under penalty of perjury that the representations made in the foregoing Petition are
true and correct to the best of my knowledge, belief and understanding.

THUS DONE ON THIS 28th DAY OF August 2015 IN NEW ORLEANS,
LOUISIANA.



Craig P. Taffaro, Jr.



La Koshia Reconda Roberts
Notary Public
Bar Roll No. 26715
My Commission expires at death.