September 5, 2007

**Office of the Federal Coordinator
for Gulf Coast Rebuilding**

The Honorable Ray Nagin
Mayor of New Orleans
1300 Perdido St., Suite 2E04
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear Mayor Nagin:

It was good to see you last week during the two-year commemoration of Katrina. With this milestone behind us, my office continues to press on with the work before us: to support your efforts to accelerate and advance the rebuilding and renewal of New Orleans.

As you know, we are committed to ensuring that the Federal Government provides coordinated, effective, and appropriate support to you and the other local leaders that must drive this rebuilding effort. I strive constantly to improve the performance of all Federal efforts and to ensure that Federal dollars translate into tangible results.

I know that concerns persist regarding Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) public infrastructure funding. While this is a shared partnership between the Federal, state, and local governments, we are committed to ensuring that the Federal government meets its responsibilities in our ongoing effort to help drive various project worksheets to completion.

Toward that end, I ask you to please outline the five public assistance projects of highest priority to the City. I commit to working closely with you, FEMA, and other relevant state or local agencies to seek resolution on these projects in an expeditious manner. Within thirty days of receiving your request, our goal is to identify the barriers that prevent us from reaching a decision and/or action on these projects. Please also identify the member of your staff that is the most appropriate point of contact on this going forward.

Thank you for your cooperation, and I look forward to continuing our work together on behalf of the people of New Orleans.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Powell
Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding

cc: Governor Kathleen Blanco, State of Louisiana
cc: Dr. Edward Blakely, Executive Director of Recovery Management
cc: Supt. Warren Riley, New Orleans Police Department
cc: Marcia St. Martin, New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board