

Agreement Terminating the Section 106 Consultation Process

Among the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, the ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION, the MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY, the CITY OF GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, for the Gulfport Job Corps Center Redevelopment Project in Gulfport, Mississippi

This document outlines the termination of the National Historic Preservation Act's Section 106 process as the U.S. Department of Labor (the Department) has cancelled its current undertaking to redevelop the Gulfport Job Corps Center, and affirms the Department's intention to begin a new Section 106 Process, as appropriate, for the redevelopment of the Center.

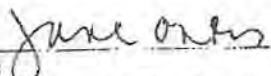
As the Department previously stated in its December 2011 Section 106 white paper to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), if an agreement could not be reached by March 15, 2012, the Department would be required to cancel the current construction contract for the redevelopment of the Gulfport Job Corps Center in order to preserve \$18,575,223 of the \$23,038,223 allocated to this project, and which are set to expire on June 30, 2012 (the remaining \$4,463,000 of the funds were appropriated in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and have no expiration date).

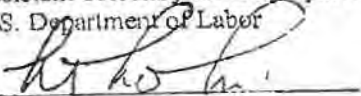
The Department has carefully considered each party's position in this matter and appreciates each party's contribution and dedication to both the preservation of the former 33rd Avenue High School and the redevelopment of the Gulfport Job Corps Center. The Department believes that all parties have negotiated and worked together in good faith, throughout the Section 106 process, to reach a mutually beneficial resolution.

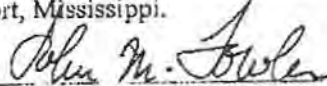
Unfortunately, despite the parties' best efforts, an agreement to move forward with the current project could not be reached by March 15. Accordingly, the Department has decided to terminate its current construction contract and reobligate the approximately \$18 million in Job Corps construction funds to other shovel-ready Job Corps center projects.

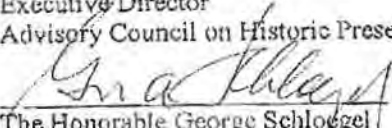
The Department will continue to work with the ACHP, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), and the City of Gulfport to reach an agreement for the recordation of the former 33rd Avenue High School buildings and to secure and protect them in a manner that prevents further significant deterioration to the buildings and that avoids imminent danger to occupants and employees of the Gulfport Job Corps Center.

The Department reiterates its commitment to serving the youth of the Gulfport community, having operated a center in this Gulf Coast region for more than 30 years. The Department will work with the MDAH, the City of Gulfport, and all identified consulting parties to begin a new Section 106 process, as appropriate, for the redevelopment of the Gulfport Job Corps Center, which will inform future decisions about the establishment of a permanent center in Gulfport, Mississippi.


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