

## **JUDGE GRANTS \$75 million JUDGMENT**

On February 15, 2022, Civil District Court Judge D. Nicole Sheppard held a hearing by “zoom” (no one was allowed in the Courthouse, and only the attorneys were allowed to participate) on the Class Members’ Motion for Summary Judgment that we filed on April 9, 2021. We sent a letter last year notifying all Class Members that we had filed the Motion.

The Motion was originally set for hearing on November 2, 2021. Then it was changed to November 19, 2021. Then it was changed to January 5, 2022. And then it was changed to February 15, 2022, when it finally took place.

The Judge issued her Judgment on March 14, 2022, and she granted the Class Members’ Motion. The total value of the Judgment, including interest, as of April 9, 2021, is \$75,323,455.71.

The Judgment awards individual amounts to everyone who received a partial payment for their claims in the 2015 Settlement with the former Insurers of HANO. So if you received a payment in 2015, then you are listed in “Exhibit A”, which is attached to the Motion that the Judge just granted. The individual awards the Judge made are based on whether you lived on the EPA site or in the Adjacent Area, and the present value of your home if you are a homeowner, as those matters were determined by the Court and the Special Master in 2014-2015.

At this time, we have absolutely no indication from the City of New Orleans or the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) that they will ever pay the amounts awarded to each of you in the Judgment. By State law, we cannot force them to pay you. All we can do, and what we will do, is continue to talk with attorneys for the City and HANO to try to convince them to agree to pay this Judgment.

You should also understand that this \$75 million Judgment has nothing to do with the lawsuits filed by about 24 Gordon Plaza homeowners in Federal Court in New Orleans, trying the force the City to pay to relocate the remaining Gordon Plaza residents. Those two lawsuits only pertained to Gordon Plaza, and did not ask for anything for anyone else who ever lived on the Agriculture Street Landfill or went to school at Moton. Those two Federal Court lawsuits were filed by another group of lawyers, and they were both dismissed by the Federal Court. So both Federal Court lawsuits failed. Fortunately, their failure in Federal Court has no effect on the \$75 million Judgment that the 5 of us who are your Court-appointed Class Counsel were able to finally get for you.

If/when we have any news about the possibility of any payments, we will post the announcement on our firm’s websites. Meanwhile, if you have moved, please call 504-297-1215, and give us your new address.

Thank you for your patience –

Your Class Counsel – Suzette Bagneris, Joseph Bruno, Linda Harang, Stephen Murray, and George Roux