

Conclusion

Beginning of the Recovery

Throughout this process, there was one basic fact we all recognized: we will not satisfy everyone with this report.

For that reason, we attempted to focus on what would benefit the majority of the city, as opposed to relegating our recommendations to the outer edges of the problem. That does not mean that we ignored the outer edges because we spent as much time there, trying to solve these problems, than in any other segment of the report.

There were just some issues that cannot be resolved, like “I want to build back on my property regardless of the new FEMA regulations and new building codes.” And “I had no – or insufficient – insurance and have no means to rebuild.” We offered options to this problem, like pool your land, have Biloxi Housing Authority contract for multi-family housing that will be subsidized by HUD. Many simply rejected those kinds of options. We respect their decision, since the landowners themselves must determine what they will do to recover from Katrina.

Accordingly, the Reviving the Renaissance Committee Report, along with *Living Cities’ Moving Forward in East Biloxi*, is presented to the Mayor, City Council and the Citizens of Biloxi. Please review this

Man will not
merely endure;
he will prevail.

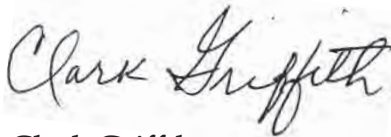
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with the open mind in which it was developed. This is not the perfect answer. However, it is our best effort to get us started on reviving the Renaissance in Biloxi.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to make our City the envy of the nation. We can show the world how to recover from America's worst natural disaster while maintaining our history and heritage and – at the same time – become a Tier 1 tourist attraction. All the elements are here: superb leadership at all levels and a dedicated people who have proven their resilience and desire to progress. We are already seeing the main economic engines of our City – Keesler Air Force Base, casinos, the seafood industry, tourism, etc. – moving forward to get us back to pre-Katrina levels and beyond.

This report is intended to be a roadmap to this recovery. We fully recognize the biggest issue is housing for our citizens and workforce. It all starts with solving that problem.

As we move ahead, we have two options. We can rebuild our City with an attitude that “everything is OK as long as it produces economic growth,” or we can take the approach of this report, which provides organized and structured development that meets the historic, cultural and social desires of our citizens. We ask all of you to do your part and consider these recommendations as we Revive the Renaissance in Biloxi.



Clark Griffith
Chairman

