

Mr. Percy Marchand,

In response to your e-mail on the meeting date, I am not available to attend a meeting on Feb. 3rd, 2007. February 3rd is a very short notice. I recommend that you give more time for other board members to be notified. Letters go to some board members through the mail system and that takes time. As a board member, I recommend that you consider the third or fourth weekend of February for the meeting to take place. Also the meeting should be held at GRI's office and not at Xavier. Last but not least, as a board member, I recommend that the meeting include the Interim Director, The Consultant and GRI's Attorney along with all other board members in attendance. Please notify me of your decision and date for the meeting.

Thanking you in advance,

Annie S. Jackson, Secretary

Thanks for your advice Zee, although your medium for sending it was not the best.

I originally intended this email to be a letter of resignation, but upon further thought - I feel that now is not the time to abandon ship, but better yet stabilize it in shakey waters.

I am in disagreement with the majority of your memo for the following reasons:

1. We have actively sought board membership for months. What we have is what we have. Your memo will only serve to further deplete the board's membership, rather than inspire them to take action.
2. The problems with GRI have not been with the board leadership, in setting direction and goals, but rather in the execution - this lies with the Executive Director - who has been given enormous resources and authority, but has not respectively delivered.
3. I take exception to the idea of the Board being expected to be as involved as you have advised. In

a post-katrina environment, we are ALL tied up in rebuilding our lives. This is not an excuse, and it doesn't mean board members should not be involved.. However, our organization is blessed with the resources to allow the Executive Director and (her un-hired staff) to execute the goals of our organization with aid from the Board. She must be pro-active and effective. Here are several areas lacking in that role:

- a. Requested and received permission to revise the budget months ago and never turned in a revised budget
- b. Has a weekly standing appointment with the chair that is rarely taken advantage of (it has been a number of months)
- c. Has yet to hire staff
- d. Has yet to secure an office
- e. Has not produced adequate financial records to the Board
- bf. Has not produced requested letters to 1. Xavier University or 2. The City of New Orleans

My experiences thus far with the Executive Director is that the only issues that have been pressed have been in relation to her being paid her salary and rent.

4. The Board is the ultimate decision maker for any and all GRI decisions it chooses to make or not make - with the understanding that it has ultimate responsibility to it's most important stake holders - the Gert Town Community.

In the future, such communication regarding GRI's Board should be sent to the chair not the entire GRI organization.

As acting chair I will not bring up the actions you requested, however, any board member is welcome to do so and it will be entertained.

Percy Marchand

As noted below from my original email, I asked that the meeting be held at Xavier University. I am