



## Isle de Jean Charles Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw

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Greetings,

The Isle de Jean Charles Tribal Resettlement project has taken some very strong curves and is no longer meeting the goals and objectives set out by the residents and IDJC Tribe. The changes are so much so that I have begun to question my ability to be a part of the project committee due to what I believe are unjust actions and proposals set forth in the IDJC Permanent Relocation Project.

The IDJC Tribe began working in 2002 to help resident ensure a future together as a tribal community. Through various turns of events our tribe began **working with and partnering** Louisiana OCD officials and other non-profit organizations to submit our Tribe's ideas and goals for a new tribal community. As of now:

1. The efforts to design a tribal community have been replaced with a "As such, the IDJC Resettlement is an **initiative led by the State of Louisiana's Office of Community Development (OCD)** ....<sup>1</sup>"
2. The project that was supposed to be led by the Isle de Jean Charles Community and Tribe is now just "in close collaboration."<sup>2</sup>
3. The project that was supposed to build the capacity of the Tribe and community now places it in the hands of a housing authority and a new non-profit corporation<sup>3</sup>.
4. The project was to ensure the **Culture and life-ways** of the community would survive to live on into the future is no longer even mentioned in the master plan.
5. The project was to bring justice to a marginalized community by not valuing them or their land to be protected<sup>4</sup>. The new plan allows for camp owners to have more rights and privileges than land owners.

I believe the final unjust act is the requiring Island property owners to sign away interest of their homes. The last thing anyone wants to do is sign away the legacy from their ancestors who worked so hard to keep it. Our Tribe feels this is dishonoring of everything our ancestors did to ensure we survived the

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<sup>1</sup> Isle de Jean Charles (IDJC) Resettlement Permanent Relocation & Homeownership Assistance Program (Option A) Version 1.0 9/16/2018 pg.4

<sup>2</sup> Isle de Jean Charles (IDJC) Resettlement Permanent Relocation & Homeownership Assistance Program (Option A) Version 1.0 9/16/2018 pg.5

<sup>3</sup> Isle de Jean Charles (IDJC) Resettlement Permanent Relocation & Homeownership Assistance Program (Option A) Version 1.0 9/16/2018 pg.8

<sup>4</sup> USACE Morganza to the Gulf realignment 1999.



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Indian Removal Act 1830, Indian Relocation Act of 1956, Jim Crow Laws and other discriminatory acts. The injustices are contrary to everything our Tribe stands for and will not be tolerated.

In our opinion, the State of Louisiana has managed to ruin their chance to be leaders of our country and world by ignorance and "good 'ole Louisiana politics." We believe the parameters set forth are unconstitutional.

It is our suggestion that some real discussion and collaboration happen. We have a scheduled meeting October 8, 2018 with the Office of Community Development and fully expect to address these issues in length.

Sincerely,

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