



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — November 30, 2006

WHEN: Wednesday, December 6th, 2006 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

WHERE: 2401 Esplanade Avenue, Musicians Union Hall.

Local Katrina victim and National and New Orleans non-profits to hold public forum with elected officials to identify and help solve Post-Katrina insurance problems.

WHAT: While the water has long since receded from Hurricane Katrina, insurance woes continue to plague victims and slow recovery. Local Katrina victim, Paige Rosato has signed on with a nationwide charity, United Policyholders, to lead a charge to connect citizens with elected officials and insurance help by organizing public forums on post-Katrina insurance issues.

“Our hope is that by providing an opportunity for elected officials to hear directly from constituents at these forums, we can all work together to share information and seek solutions to the post-Katrina insurance crisis,” Rosato says. “United Policyholders has a track record of hosting forums around the country that lead to improved practices by insurance companies.”

Neighborhoods' Planning Network Development Director, Gill Benedek, agrees, with Ms. Rosato. “Insurance is an essential component of the rebuilding process. Both residents and business owners appreciate the importance of receiving their full claim.” Governor Blanco has called a special session of the Louisiana State Legislature to convene on December 8, 2006, and the legislature will be taking up insurance related bills next session. The United Policyholders' forums give consumers a chance to be heard on the insurance potholes that remain in the road to recovery from Hurricane Katrina. Karen Reimus, a 2003 San Diego, CA firestorm survivor turned policyholder advocate with UP is flying out to attend and help fellow disaster victims.

State Senator Ed Murray will be at the forum and stated today “We must build on the reforms we enacted last session and keep working to ensure that insurance policyholders are treated fairly ...The unavailability and skyrocketing cost of insurance are major obstacles to our state's ability to recover from the 2005 hurricanes.” Other area legislators and Louisiana Commissioner of Insurance James Donelon have been invited to participate.

United Policyholders is a non-profit organization that works to preserve the insurance promises that are so important to individuals and businesses and to help solve the claim problems that chronically arise after disasters. Visit www.unitedpolicyholders.org for more info. The Neighborhood Planning Network provides an inclusive and collaborative city-wide framework to empower neighborhood groups in New Orleans' rebuilding.

For more information, please contact Paige Rosato at (985) 807-5666 or by email at paige@unitedpolicyholders.org, Amy Bach at (415) 713-3048 (PST) or Gill Benedek at (504) 527-0499.