

## Nagin lauds demolition vote

by UPI

NEW ORLEANS -- New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin welcomed a city council vote approving the demolition of four major public housing developments to make way for new residences. Nagin said at a news conference after the 7-0 vote Thursday night to demolish developments at B.W. Cooper, St. Bernard, Lafitte and C.J. Peete that city officials will use the permits that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Housing Authority of New Orleans must now apply for to ensure that the conditions of the council's resolution are met, the New Orleans Times-Picayune reported. "The decisions made today were ones of compassion, courage and commitment to this city," Nagin said. "This is an incredible day. You heard lots of pain today. The City Council in its wisdom has come up with a solution that will allow us to move forward, to hold HUD accountable." Council President Arnie Fielkow said the resolution paves the way for the transformation of the run-down developments into modern housing, the Times-Picayune reported. "We have the opportunity to make our home a place that all New Orleanians can point to with pride," Fielkow said. "It's my hope that the word 'project' will never again be used in place of what should be 'transitional homes.' Every citizen deserves a safe and affordable place to raise a family."

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