



PRESS RELEASE

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Prince Charles' housing advocate visits South Mississippi

South Mississippi is rolling out the red carpet to welcome the leader of Prince Charles' charity to support sustainable communities. On Monday, Hank Dittmar, Chief Executive of the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, will tour several Harrison County developments and speak to area business and community leaders about the foundation's efforts to promote affordable housing and teach traditional homebuilding crafts, sustainability principles and green building practices. Tour stops will include Hope VI, the East Biloxi Coordination Center, Mississippi State University Community Design Studio, the Veteran's Administration site in Gulfport and a North Gulfport Community Land Trust's model home.

The Prince of Wales believes there is a link between people's wellbeing and their built environment. The foundation's mission is to help others understand and apply time-tested principles and build in a sustainable way – thus reaping improvements in public health, livelier and safer streets and a more affordable lifestyle for families and individuals. After Katrina, the Prince's Foundation established a training program for teachers of traditional building crafts at Delgado College in New Orleans.

"The immensely successful town of Poundbury established in England by Prince Charles demonstrates how traditional architecture and modern town planning can create a thriving new community where people live and work in close proximity," said Gerald Blessey, President of Tradition Properties.

The event is sponsored by Joseph C. Canizaro, Developer of Tradition Properties, the Gulf Coast Business Council and the Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation. Dittmar currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of the world-renowned Congress for New Urbanism. The international organization promotes the creation and restoration of compact, walkable, mixed-use cities, towns and neighborhoods, such as The Village at Tradition now under development in central Harrison County on Highway 67 seven miles north of Gulfport and Biloxi.

The Renaissance Corporation shares the mission of the Prince's Foundation to promote sustainable development and is supporting that mission through its Renaissance Builder & Developer Guild. The Guild is Renaissance's design and education centerpiece. In partnership



with Mississippi State University Community Design Studio, the Guild will encourage the redevelopment of communities as environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable through responsible land use practices with a particular focus on the mixed-use and mixed-income communities.

Renaissance will endorse and reward developments that meet its standards for sustainability and link financial incentives to certified Renaissance Guild projects. Also as part of the Guild an ongoing education and advocacy program will include regular forums on the best practices of responsible use of land in creating sustainable communities.

For more information on the Renaissance Corporation or the Renaissance Builder & Developer Guild, call 896-3386 or visit www.msgcrc.com