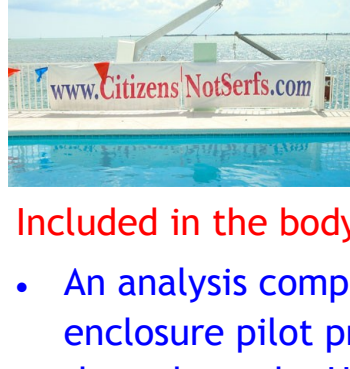


Citizens Not Serfs

“Together We Can Save the Keys”

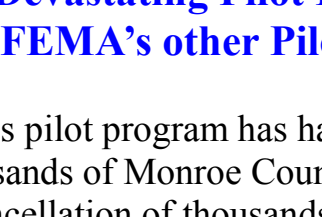


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Volume 6
April 27rd, 2010

Included in the body of this Newsletter:

- An analysis comparing Monroe County’s downstairs enclosure pilot program with FEMA’s other pilot programs throughout the United States
- A notice that our organization is searching for a Monroe County citizen to apply for Federal Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant funding to offset their costs for demolition & remediation following a downstairs enclosure inspection
- The announcement of Citizens Not Serfs Advisory Board



Monroe County’s Devastating Pilot Program is Nothing like Any of FEMA’s other Pilot Programs

Monroe County’s pilot program has had devastating consequences for thousands of Monroe County’s citizens including contributing to: the cancellation of thousands NFIP flood insurance policies, a 9.2% population loss between 2000 & 2008, increased foreclosure rates, and has forced hard working citizens to leave their homes and lose their jobs. This Pilot Program does not benefit individuals in the community.

Every other FEMA pilot program around the U.S. is a positive program that is intended to assist American citizens, not penalize citizens for violations that are oftentimes the result of past government oversights and Monroe County’s unique historical legacy.

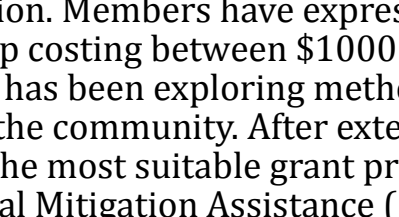
The following are some examples of beneficial pilot programs from around the country:

Public Law 109-295, directs FEMA to conduct a “Public Assistance (PA) Pilot Program” to reduce federal costs, increase flexibility, and to expedite the release of recovery funding. (http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/policy/pa_pilot_pg.pdf)

Another constructive example is that FEMA is funding the cost of repairing 32 apartment units in the Galveston area under the “Rental Repair Pilot Program.” (<http://www.houstonhurricanesrecovery.org/node/204>)

Another example of a practical program is that in order to provide alternative housing in the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina and the other hurricanes of the 2005 season, the government appropriated \$400 million to implement the “Alternative Housing Pilot Program.” (<http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/ahpp.shtm>)

It seems quite unfair that our Pilot Program is the only pilot program that is negative/destructive & aimed at retroactively demolishing nonconforming portions of homes and forcing tremendous financial burdens on individuals, when all the other pilot programs are aimed at assisting American citizens in improving their living situations. It is now time for FEMA to begin to mend the relationship with Monroe County citizens who are fed up with FEMA not taking a humanistic approach to Monroe County’s unique situation. FEMA can begin mending these relationships by immediately putting an end to Monroe County’s unique & devastating pilot. At the very least, FEMA should follow the example of its other pilot programs around the country and set up financial assistance programs to help offset the costs associated with bringing homes into compliance.



Citizens Not Serfs is searching for a Monroe County citizen to apply for Federal Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant funding to offset their costs for demolition & remediation following a downstairs enclosure inspection

Citizens Not Serfs is still dedicated to our mission of ending the pilot program as soon as possible and have been working hard in Washington to accomplish this goal. Nevertheless, our organization asserts that financial assistance programs would also be beneficial to many citizens to offset their costs for demolition & remediation following a downstairs enclosure inspection. Members have expressed to us that this process can end up costing between \$1000 and \$50,000 dollars. Citizens Not Serfs has been exploring methods to provide financial relief to the community. After extensive research, it seems as though the most suitable grant program in existence today is the Federal Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program. As of April 1st, the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) was accepting applications for this funding source.

One of the eligible project types, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria, for FMA projects are “other activities that bring an insured structure into compliance with the floodplain management requirements at 44 CFR §60.3.” Citizens Not Serfs asserts that the demolition and remediation of unpermitted downstairs enclosures to come into compliance with local flood plain management regulations under §60.3 should be an eligible activity under this program.

In order to test this assertion, we need a member of the community to apply for this source of grant funding to see if FEMA is going to take a more humanistic approach in their treatment of Monroe County citizens or if they are going to continue the trend of bullying and mistreatment. If you, or someone else you know in the community, is currently going through the process of demolishing their downstairs enclosure please contact John November at john@citizensnotserfs.com or at 305-745-1715. This grant funding could potentially pay up to 75% of the costs associated with bringing a home into compliance. Citizens Not Serfs pledges to do everything within our power to facilitate the application process for this grant. By taking the step to apply for this grant funding, this community member will be participating in the process of developing financial assistance programs for all Monroe County citizens going through this devastating process. **Can you help?**



Announcement of Citizens Not Serfs Advisory Board

Citizens Not Serfs inaugural advisory board will be comprised of the following members:

Joanie Agosti
Carol Callowhill
Joe Chernay
Bob Frankenbush
Jim Gambino
Michelle Hardin
Kelly Koch
Terry McGee
Jose Sanchez
Jon Shebel
Greg Shepard
Art Szeglin



*Due to some email problems, please contact Phil Shannon at shannonpj@msn.com if you requested to be on the board, yet you were not listed above.



For More Information go to: CitizensNotSerfs.com or email John November at john@citizensnotserfs.com

Thank You for Your Continued Support!