

also a new school in that direction, a new community center in that direction. And part of our goal has always been to make sure not just that we recovered from the storm, but also that we started dealing with some of the structural inequities that existed long before the storm happened.

And I'm going to say nice things about him later, but I'm going to make sure to say that none of this would have happened had it not been for the outstanding leadership of Mayor Mitch Landrieu, who has been just an unbelievable partner throughout this entire process. We're really proud of what he's doing. You can see the results here.

Now, just because the houses are nice doesn't mean our job is done. This is a community, obviously, that still has a lot of poverty. This is an area where young people still, too often, are taking the wrong path before they graduate from high school. This is a community that still needs resources and still needs help.

But the fact that we can make this many strides 10 years after a terrible, epic disaster, I think, is an indication of the kind of spirit that we have in this city. And it's reflected in our Mayor. So we're proud of you.

Okay, guys, we're going to see you later.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:11 p.m.

## Remarks Following a Briefing on Hurricane Preparedness and Recovery Efforts in New Orleans

*August 27, 2015*

I am here at the Sanchez Community Center, and we've got some outstanding State officials, local officials; Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana; some folks like Thad Allen, who were involved in the early recovery efforts here in Katrina; philanthropies like the Red Cross and the Rockefeller Foundation; and local community leadership like the Foundation for Louisiana and the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center.

And what we've been doing is just looking at the lessons that have been learned over the course of the last decade and sharing a sense of pride for the excellent coordination that's taken place between Federal, State, and local governments in the rebuilding process, but also some humility and some sense of urgency about the work that still needs to be done.

So we had a chance to talk about the progress that's been made around protecting New Orleans and protecting the Louisiana coast and water management. And behind me, you can see all kinds of charts and maps that indicate that we now have one of the best water management systems and storm management systems in the world right here in New Orleans, thanks to the work of State and local authorities as well as the Army Corps of Engineers.

We talked about the need to continue to restore wetlands and the natural barriers that can mitigate the harm from significant storms.

So that's infrastructure resilience. We also talked about community resilience and human resilience. And what's, I think, been critically important over the last decade is to recognize that it's one thing to stop water from pouring in, it's another thing to make sure that individuals and families have the resources and the structure to rebuild after a tough storm hits. And that means that attention has to be paid to housing; attention has to be paid to employment; attention has to be paid to preparedness; attention has to be paid to equity. And the city of New Orleans, with the help of some private sector as well as public dollars, has been doing some terrific work in making sure that the rebuilding process integrates all those concerns.

And we also talked about lessons learned going forward and how we can share the data that's been learned over the last decade with other communities. So, for example, Robin Barnes of Greater New Orleans, Inc., who specializes in helping small businesses and economic development, actually has worked with us on the Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts, because New Orleans is increasingly becoming

a laboratory for the kind of good work that we're going to have to do all across the country and around the world.

And so everybody here has done some outstanding work, but they also recognize that there's a lot more work to be done. I just want to appreciate all of you for participating and helping me learn a little something here today. [Laughter]

And one recurrent theme that's emerged out of this discussion is that perhaps the biggest lesson to be learned from Katrina is making sure that there is trust and effective communication between citizens, their governments, civil society, because when people know each other, trust each other, are accountable to each other, like any human enterprise, mistakes will happen, natural disasters occur, but there's no problem that we as Americans

can't solve if we're working together. And that's what New Orleans has been starting to do over the last several years, and it's really showing all across this city.

All right? Thank you very much, everybody. I'll give a longer speech in a second. [Laughter] Appreciate it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:44 p.m. at the Andrew P. Sanchez and Copelin-Byrd Multi-Purpose Center. In his remarks, he referred to Thad W. Allen, executive vice president, Booz Allen Hamilton Inc., in his former capacity as Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard; and Robin Barnes, executive vice president and chief operating officer, Greater New Orleans, Inc.

## Remarks on the 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans August 27, 2015

*The President.* Everybody, have a seat. Hello, everybody! Where y'at? It is good to be back in the Big Easy. And this is the weather in August all the time, right? [Laughter] Every year? As soon as I land in New Orleans, the first thing I do is get hungry. [Laughter] When I was here with the family a few years ago, I had a shrimp po'boy at Parkway Bakery and Tavern. I still remember it; that's how good it was. And one day, after I leave office, maybe I'll finally hear Rebirth at the Maple Leaf on Tuesday night. I'll get a chance to "see the Mardi Gras," and somebody will tell me what Carnival for. [Laughter] But right now I just go to meetings. [Laughter]

I want to thank Michelle for the introduction and, more importantly, for the great work she's doing, what she symbolizes, and what she represents in terms of the city bouncing back. I want to acknowledge a great friend and somebody who has been working tirelessly on behalf of this city, and he's following a family legacy of service: your mayor, Mitch Landrieu. Proud of him. His beautiful wife Cheryl. Senator Bill Cassidy is here. Where did Senator Cassidy go? There he is. Congressman Cedric Richmond. Where's the Congressman? There he is

over there. We've got a lifelong champion of Louisiana in your former Senator, Mary Landrieu, in the house. [Applause] Mary! I want to acknowledge a great supporter to the efforts to recover and rebuild, Congressman Hakeem Jeffries from New York, who has traveled down here with us.

To all the elected officials from Louisiana and Mississippi who are here today, thank you so much for your reception.

I'm here to talk about a specific recovery. But before I begin to talk just about New Orleans, I want to talk about America's recovery, take a little moment of Presidential privilege to talk about what's been happening in our economy. This morning we learned that our economy grew at a stronger and more robust clip back in the spring than anybody knew at the time. The data always lags. We already knew that over the past 5½ years, our businesses have created 13 million new jobs. These new numbers that came out, showing that the economy was growing at a 3.7-percent clip, means that the United States of America remains an anchor of global strength and stability in the world, that we have recovered faster, more steadily, stronger than just about any economy