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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Mayor seeks to ensure seamless transition for domestic violence program

Mayor Cedric Glover is asking the Providence House Board of Directors to recommit to managing the Domestic Violence Program at least through the end of the existing contract.

The board decided on Monday to discontinue accepting clients at the Safe House on April 30, with the final client departing no later than May 25. The contract calls for Providence House to operate the program through June 30, 2014.

“Once the Providence House ceases its domestic violence prevention operations, a void will exist in our community that may heighten the potential for tragic events similar to one that occurred in the City this week,” Mayor Glover said, referring to a domestic dispute this week that ended with a woman being fatally shot. “This is, from my perspective, an unacceptable set of circumstances. The women, children and, in some cases, men who are subjected to the horrors of domestic violence cannot be left without viable, effective and professional options.”

The Providence House accepted the challenge to operate this program in 2009. During that period, 2,166 people have been served. Simone Hennessee, executive director of Providence House, informed Mayor Glover on Monday of the board’s decision.

The Mayor has written a letter to the chairman of the board, Dr. Sue Seiler-Smith, asking Providence House to work with the appropriate officials at the state of Louisiana as well as the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence to identify, contract and seamlessly transition these services to a qualified service provider.

“This represents the only appropriate option that will ensure that families are protected and lives are saved,” Mayor Glover said.

Any organization wishing to administer the program, and receive state and federal funding, must be a member and approved by the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

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