



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 9/1/2014

ANNOUNCING THE GRAND OPENING OF LOWER 9TH WARD MARKET

Local Couple Opens The Lower 9th Ward's First Grocery Store Since Hurricane Katrina

Caffin Avenue Plaza
2036 Caffin Avenue (and Galvez)

September 9, 2014, New Orleans – Today, residents of the Lower 9th Ward now have neighborhood access to fresh produce and healthy food for the first time since Hurricane Katrina . Local business owners and residents Burnell and Keasha Cotlon will host a grand opening of their Lower 9th Ward Market today. This citywide event will be celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 9AM. All are welcome to attend the ceremony in support of the neighborhood revitalization.

The Market, located at the intersection of Caffin Avenue and Galvez, will be open Monday-Saturdays. The Market's grocery offerings include locally grown fresh fruit and vegetables, locally harvested honey, dairy products, as well as a growing assortment of dry and canned goods, snacks and condiments, plus household products. The opening of the Market completes the first floor of the Caffin Avenue Plaza that consists of the "Galvez Goodies" Sweet Shop and "Cross the Canal" Beauty and Barber Shop. Each of these businesses contributes to the rebuilding of the Lower 9th Ward neighborhood and provides opportunities for the Cotlons to serve their community. It will also provide jobs to local residents as well.

"We can finally provide fresh and healthy food to our neighborhood and if we don't have it, just ask," said Cotlon. The ability to feed a family with fresh produce and to provide a healthy diet is nearly impossible for the residents of the Lower 9th Ward. The nearest opportunity to purchase produce is in Chalmette, 2.7 miles away, requiring multiple bus routes for those accessing public transportation. Burnell and Keasha believe that the store, in addition to bringing food access to the area, will bring back residents and other businesses to a neighborhood that feels long forgotten by the City of New Orleans. In order for the Lower 9th Ward Market to open, the Cotlon's efforts involved:

- The renovation of a Hurricane Katrina damaged building
- The opening of two small businesses within the plaza to provide funds for the Market
- The investment of their life savings along with assistance and donations from family members to local residents and various volunteers from across the country
- Being awarded a FEAST IV NOLA grant to purchase a refrigerator

For more information about the new Lower 9th Ward Market and the Caffin Avenue Plaza:

Burnell and Keasha Cotlon
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