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\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*

## **ST. BERNARD HOSPITAL NOTICE TO PROCEED ISSUED** ***HSD CHAIRMAN WAYNE J. LANDRY SIGNS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT***



PHOTO BY RACHEL FINK

FROM L-R: PROJECT MANAGER PHIL WENDLING, COUNCIL/HSD CHAIRMAN WAYNE J. LANDRY, DISTRICT B COUNCILMAN/HSD VICE-CHAIRMAN GEORGE CAVIGNAC, HSD BOARD MEMBER ANDREW SERCOVICH, AND CITADEL BUILDERS PRESIDENT DENZEL CLARK.

With great celebration, a year's worth of diligent and difficult work by the St. Bernard Parish Hospital Service District board culminated Monday morning. With the signing of the Construction Contract and Notice to Proceed by HSD Chairman Wayne J. Landry, Citadel Builders, LLC, will commence construction of St. Bernard's new state-of-the-art hospital starting on December 6th.

Long in coming, St. Bernard's Hospital project had stagnated for years under the board's prior leadership. With much controversy, the HSD board membership changed in mid-2009 when St. Bernard Parish Council at Large Wayne J. Landry and District B Councilman George Cavignac took over seats vacated by former board members Drs. Paul Verrette and Bryan Bertucci.

"When I ran for office in October, 2008, my primary campaign pledge was to help get our much-needed hospital off the ground," said Council/HSD Chairman Wayne J. Landry. "When we took over the HSD board in mid-2009, the project still didn't even have any viable financing for construction. With the seemingly insurmountable tasks of laying the groundwork for complete financing and putting the project back on track, in a year we have brought the hospital to fruition and it's poised to go vertical. Today is truly a great victory for the people of St. Bernard Parish."

With the contract and Notice to Proceed being signed, Citadel Builders -- the General Contractor awarded the low-bid contract on November 9<sup>th</sup> -- will have fifteen months to construct the new 40-bed hospital facility.

Councilman/HSD Vice-Chairman George Cavignac stated, "I don't think we could be any happier than to see this day come. The sheer amount of time and work that the new Hospital Service District board has put in to make this project a reality is incredible, but it was well worth it. Not only will St. Bernard Parish's healthcare needs finally be met by a high-quality facility, but the Hospital will be an economic engine for St. Bernard Parish that is second to none."

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