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## Rev. Jackson Encourages Bowen Residents to 'Keep Hope Alive'

*Residents of Atlanta Housing Authority face unwarranted evictions and displacement*

**Atlanta (October 25, 2007)** – Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr., founder and president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, visited with residents of the Atlanta Housing Authority's Bowen Homes Wednesday night. The meeting at the Bowen Community Center continued Rev. Jackson's initiative to shed light on those living in low-income housing.

"The promise of public housing was family friendly," said Rev. Jackson. "The scheme to undermine public housing is all across the nation. This is not just an Atlanta situation it's the same story everywhere."

Also at the community meeting were elected officials Sen. Vincent Ford and Councilwoman Phylicia Moore. Both representatives offered their opinion on the current issues facing Bowen residents.

"There is a war on the poor going on in Atlanta," said Sen. Ford. "It is very important the housing authority put in place a humane way of treating people."

Councilwoman Moore brought up the concern that if these low-income housing units are torn down all of the occupants may not be able to find housing they are able to afford.

"I do not want to see these homes being demolished until I actually see they have some place to stay," she said.

According to Attorney Lindsey Jones there are only 9,000 Section 8 housing units available in the city of Atlanta and 22,000 people are currently on a waiting list. He urged AHA to put redevelopment plans in writing before destroying the homes.

Janice Mathis, Esq., Vice President and Executive Director of Rainbow PUSH and Citizenship Education Fund Peachtree Street Project stated, "the Rainbow PUSH Coalition calls on the Bush administration to quadruple Section 8 funding immediately to protect public housing residents threatened by HOPE VI."

Rev. Jackson showed his commitment to Bowen residents by spending the night with one of the families, offering them words of encouragement and giving them points of action.

## Bowen Homes/And One

“We want to renew the focus on resident protection,” Rev. Jackson said. “Our bothers and our sisters here need jobs and job training.”

Members of the community, which is largely made up of mothers and children, were encouraged to register to vote and voice their needs in order to get help.

Shelia Hightower, president of the Bowen Residents Association, expressed here desire to change the perception that Bowen residents are lazy and sorry. “I want to make sure our people are safe, sound and secure.”

*The Rainbow PUSH Coalition is a progressive organization protecting, defending and expanding civil rights to improve economic and educational opportunity. The organization is headquartered at 930 E. 50th St. in Chicago. To learn more about the RainbowPUSH Coalition, please visit [www.rainbowpush.org](http://www.rainbowpush.org), or telephone (773) 373-3366. For more information about the Peachtree Street Project and the Create Opportunity Conference, please call the number listed above.*