

# News Release

## Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

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Public Information Officer



### Our **SLV** Is:

“Provide the services,  
leadership, and vision to  
improve the quality of life  
in Jefferson Parish.”

**Aaron F. Broussard**  
Parish President

March 7, 2007  
For Immediate Release

### **Over 12,000 Building Permits Issued in Jefferson Beware of Unscrupulous Contractors**

Almost 12,000 building permits for residential construction and over 2,000 permits for commercial construction have been issued by the Jefferson Parish Department of Inspection and Code Enforcement since Katrina.

Whether repairing a home or businesses damaged by Katrina or building new, many Jefferson Parish residents are in the market for a construction contractor.

Unfortunately, sometimes the excitement of new construction is shattered by an unscrupulous contractor. Recently a contractor was charged by the state Attorney General with contractor fraud in three parishes, including 39 counts of felony theft or forgery in Jefferson Parish alone.

The following suggestions from the Department of Inspection and Code Enforcement may help residents and business owners avoid dishonest, unqualified or unlicensed contractors.

- Ask for references and contact those former customers to see if they were satisfied, and go see for yourself the quality of the work.
- Ask to see the contractor's license. Contractors must be licensed in each of their fields. For example, electricians, plumbers, and air-conditioning contractors must be licensed in their specialties and a general contractor must have a license for general construction such as concrete, framing, drywall, and main building construction.
- Contractors should have general liability and workman's compensation insurance. Make sure the insurance certificates are current.
- Don't allow any work to begin until you have a written contract that spells out what the contractor will do and when payments are due.
- You or the contractor must have the required permits before work begins. On the East Bank of Jefferson, call the Department of Inspection and Code Enforcement at 736-6957 for information on permits; on the West Bank call 364-3515.
- Consider contacting an attorney if a dispute arises and you cannot resolve the issue with the contractor.
- Finally, to avoid the most common rip-off by an unscrupulous contractor, do not pay for work before it is performed to your satisfaction.

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