

New Orleans City & St. Tammany Parish Councils Move Forward on Cox-Charter Agreement For New Orleans Hornets Game Telecast

News Release

January 28, 2008

In This Email

New Orleans City Council President & St.
Tammany Parish Council Chairman Joint
Letter

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[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - January 28, 2008 - Today, New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow and St. Tammany Parish Council Chairman Jerry Binder issued a joint letter to Cox Communications / Cox Sports Television and Charter Communications demanding the parties reach a mutually acceptable resolution to the North Shore programming dispute involving the broadcast of New Orleans Hornets basketball games by Wednesday, January 30, 2008.

The letter states, if an agreement is not reached by the January 30, 2008 deadline, the New Orleans City and St. Tammany Parish Councils will hold a joint task force meeting on Friday, February 1, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in the New Orleans City Council Chamber to address next steps. *(The letter follows this press release.)*

Joint Task Force Formed Earlier This Month

A New Orleans City Council Resolution, passed on January 10th, called for both councils to work together over the next three weeks with Cox, Charter and the New Orleans Hornets towards a resolution of the broadcast dispute.

With the deadline approaching this week, New Orleans City Council President Fielkow and St. Tammany Parish Council Chairman Binder, on behalf of their respective Councils, are prepared to take whatever steps necessary to protect the public's interest.

"With the recent agreement between the New Orleans Hornets and the State of Louisiana, it is even more imperative that a resolution to this matter be achieved as quickly as possible," said New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow. "The Hornets are a vital economic and cultural asset to the City of New Orleans, but their importance extends to our entire metropolitan region. While I have been encouraged by the dialogue between the two parties over the past few weeks, it is time to settle the dispute."

St. Tammany Parish Council Chairman Jerry Binder said, "The January 10th Resolution laid out a very reasonable timeline to achieve a resolution between Charter and Cox. Hornets fans across the metro region deserve to be able to follow their team on television."

New Orleans City Council President and St. Tammany Parish Council Chairman Joint Letter

January 28, 2008

Mr. Rod Mickler
Cox Sports Television
Vice President of Regional Sports

Mr. Jim Laurent
Charter Communications
Director of Government Relations

Dear Rod and Jim:

As President / Chairman of the New Orleans City and St. Tammany Parish Councils, respectively, we would like to thank you for your efforts the past two weeks in attempting to negotiate a resolution to the existing Cox-Charter dispute regarding the telecast of New Orleans Hornets games on the North Shore. We appreciate that, under your leadership both Cox and Charter have exchanged offers and continue to work in good faith in an effort to reach a resolution.

As you know, the current North Shore television matter has been made even more important by virtue of the recent agreement signed between the Hornets and the State of Louisiana. There now exists attendance thresholds which, if not met, could contractually allow the Hornets to either exit the market or renegotiate their current agreement as early as next season. The ability to have Hornets games telecast on the North Shore is certainly an important component of the Hornets being successful in reaching the attendance thresholds, given the basketball fan base which exists on the North Shore. Clearly, the Hornets' continued presence in New Orleans is vitally important, both economically and otherwise, to not only New Orleans but indeed the entire metropolitan area.

As you are aware, a joint task force involving members of the New Orleans City and St. Tammany Parish Councils was formed to address the current television dispute. Given the time sensitivity in reaching an agreement and helping the Hornets meet its attendance thresholds, we are asking that the parties use their best efforts to reach a mutually acceptable resolution on or before the end of the business day this Wednesday, January 30, 2008. If such an agreement is not reached, a joint New Orleans-St. Tammany Task Force public meeting will be noticed for Friday, February 1, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. in the New Orleans City Council Chamber to discuss our respective Council's next steps. We much prefer that a voluntary agreement be reached before then, but, given the new Hornets-State agreement and the upcoming NBA All Star Game, time is clearly of the essence and our respective Councils are prepared to take whatever steps necessary to protect the public's interest.

We, again, appreciate your personal efforts and remain available to work with you this week to hopefully resolve this matter.

Yours very truly,

Arnie D. Fielkow

President
New Orleans City Council

Jerry Binder

Chairman
St. Tammany Parish Council

New Orleans City Council

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The City Council is comprised of five districts and two councilmembers-at-large. Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow; Council Vice-President and Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura; District "B" Councilmember Stacy S. Head; District "C" Councilmember James Carter; District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.



Statement

January 28, 2008

New Orleans City Council Statement

New Orleans, LA - January 28, 2008 - We are deeply shocked and saddened by the senseless murder today of a New Orleans Police Officer while in the line of duty. Our thoughts and prayers are with the fallen officer's family, friends and colleagues during this difficult and tragic time.

As we mourn the terrible loss of this young dedicated officer, we are mindful of the sacrifices of all of the police officers who put their lives on the line every day to protect the citizens of New Orleans.

To honor the memory of the City's fallen officer, we respectfully request that Mayor C. Ray Nagin lower to half-staff all flags being flown on City buildings for a thirty-day mourning period.

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New Orleans City and St. Tammany Parish Councils Extend Deadline for Hornets Broadcast Resolution

News Release

January 30, 2008

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New Orleans
City Council

New Orleans, LA - January 30, 2008 - Today, New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow and St. Tammany Parish Council Chairman Jerry Binder announced that the original deadline of January 30, 2008 for Cox Communications / Cox Sports Television and Charter Communications to reach an agreement concerning the broadcast of New Orleans Hornets games on the North Shore has been extended to Wednesday, February 6, 2008.

Cox Communications / Cox Sports Television and Charter Communications have contacted Council President Fielkow and Council Chairman Binder to request a short time extension to continue their negotiations.

As a result, the joint task force meeting called by the New Orleans City and St. Tammany Parish Councils for Friday, February 1st, 2008 has been postponed until Wednesday, February 6th at 10:00 a.m. in the New Orleans City Council Chamber.

New Orleans City Council President Fielkow says, "I am pleased that both parties are, in good faith, negotiating with each other to restore the broadcast of Hornets games to the North Shore. Therefore, Councilman Binder and I have agreed to extend today's deadline so that the parties can continue their discussions. The joint meeting called by the New Orleans City and St. Tammany Parish Councils has been rescheduled to Wednesday, February 6th and it is my sincere hope that an agreement can be reached by the extended deadline."

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Media Advisory

January 22, 2008

Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting On Ethics Reform

- What:** The New Orleans City Council's Governmental Affairs Committee will hold a meeting to formulate an ethics reform agenda to bring forward in Baton Rouge for the special session called by Governor Bobby Jindal.
- Who:** Speakers will include Inspector General Robert Cerasoli, members of the Orleans legislative delegation, local advocates and Councilmembers.
- When:** Wednesday, January 23, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.
- Where:** Council Chamber, City Hall
- Contact:** Seung Hong
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***City Council Calls for State Ethics Reform
To Apply to Local Governments,
Authorizes Execution of Auditing Contract &
Honors Historic Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club***

News Release

January 24, 2008

Contents

Called for Ethics Reform at the
Local Level

Authorized Execution of
Auditing Contract

Recognized Historic Zulu Social
Aid and Pleasure Club

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New Orleans, LA - January 24, 2008 - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed a resolution in support of the special state legislative session on ethics reform and the extension of ethics reform to include municipal and parish governments. The council also authorized execution of the City of New Orleans auditing contract. And, as the City enters the first full weekend of Mardi Gras the Council commended the community efforts and contributions of the historic Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club.

Called for Ethics Reform at the Local Level



*Councilmember-at-Large
Arnie Fielkow*

The City Council resolution introduced by Councilmember Fielkow, co-sponsored by Councilmember Midura and unanimously supported by the full Council supports Governor Bobby Jindal's upcoming special legislative session on ethics reform. The resolution also requests that ethics reforms include every political subdivision of Louisiana, including local governments.

Council President Fielkow said, "It would be disingenuous to have ethics laws apply only to state legislators and not to local officials. This Resolution, together with the hiring and full funding of the Office of Inspector General, are great steps by this City Council towards strengthening faith in good local government."

The Resolution strengthens the Council's already strong commitment to ethics reform. The Council has established and funded the New Orleans Office of Inspector General, and has requested that the State Legislature enact stricter campaign finance laws, including prohibition of contributions to elective regulatory bodies from entities that regulate them.

Councilmember Midura said, "We continue our march toward establishing transparency and implementing the necessary administrative controls to ensure that Louisiana's government functions efficiently and ethically."

At a Governmental Affairs Committee meeting earlier this week, Committee Chair Councilmember Shelley Midura met with Inspector General Robert Cerasoli, members of the Orleans legislative delegation and local advocates to formulate an ethics reform agenda to bring forward in Baton Rouge for the Special Session scheduled in February.

Authorized Execution of Auditing Contract



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

The Resolution reflects the recommendation by the Council's Budget, Audit and Board of Review Committee to retain Postlethwaite & Netterville (P&N) as the lead audit firm in compliance with the City Charter requirement that the City Council obtain an external audit of the City's financial statements.

Budget, Audit, Board of Review Committee Chair Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "The City Council Budget Committee stands committed to the monitoring of all budget processes for City departments and we are confident in our recommendation of P&N."

Specifically, the Resolution requests and authorizes the Council President to execute a contract with P&N to perform the audit of the City for the Fiscal Year of 2007 and four subsequent years. The Council's Budget, Audit and Board of Review Committee interviewed the respondent and engaged in a thorough evaluation of P&N's proposal before making the recommendation.

Honored Historic Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club



Members of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club

Members of the historic Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club updated the Council on the Krewe's 2008 activities including the Zulu Ball, Lundi Gras festivities and the Mardi Gras Day parade.

The Councilmembers recognized the Krewe's continuous community activism and commended the organization for their decision to return to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

The Council presented proclamations to the 2008 Zulu Royalty - Zulu King Mr. Frank Boutte and Zulu Queen Mrs. Joycelyn Boutte; as well as other Krewe members present in recognition of their contributions to the community as part of the Zulu organization.

The Zulu representatives expressed their gratitude for the City Council's continuous support of the Krewe and presented each Councilmember with the traditional Zulu Mardi Gras throws.

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**City Council - World Trade Center 2007
Diplomatic Mission Showing Signs Of Success One Year Later:**

**Ambassador of Greece to the United States Commits to
Working to Establish Joint Greek - American Partnership
to Encourage Business Development**

News Release

January 25, 2008

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[World Trade Center
of New Orleans](#)

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New Orleans, LA - January 25, 2008 - During a visit with New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow, the Ambassador of Greece to the United States, Alexandros P. Mallias, announced his commitment to work towards establishing a joint Greek-American Chamber of Commerce in New Orleans. The chamber will work to encourage business between New Orleans and Greece, particularly with the Greek shipping industry, and to build upon the existing strong friendship between Greece and New Orleans.

The announcement is the result of a City of New Orleans 2007 Diplomatic Mission to Washington, D.C. The New Orleans representatives, led by City Council President Arnie Fielkow, Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, World Trade Center of New Orleans Managing Director Eugene Schreiber and Lisa Ponce de Leon, Director of International Relations for the City of New Orleans, met with sixteen foreign embassies in Washington, D.C. over a two-day period.

Among the embassies visited were Australia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, France, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Turkey, South Africa, and Spain.

The local delegation, in conjunction with Senator Mary Landrieu, also hosted a reception for representatives of seventy three nations at the Reagan Building / International Trade Center.

Council President Fielkow said, "New Orleans is experiencing an upswing in business, and our expanding international presence is a key driver of this economic growth. The progress we are making in our recovery is being noticed around the world, and I thank Ambassador Mallias for his recognition of New Orleans' international strength and business opportunities."

Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis said, "As we rebuild we will continue to need the aid and support from our brothers and sisters from around the world. I would like to thank the Greek Ambassador for his commitment to establishing this new economic development partnership."

The purpose of the March 2007 diplomatic initiative was to recognize and thank the international community for its commitment to New Orleans, to invite foreign nations to establish more consular and international offices here, and to strengthen the city's international presence.

Since then, Australia has opened a trade office in New Orleans, followed by the appointment of an Honorary Consul of Haiti, Mexico reopened its consulate, the Ukrainian Ambassador to the U.S. visited and expressed interest in appointing an Honorary Consul and South Africa has sent two official delegations to visit New Orleans.

Councilman Fielkow continues, "This announcement shows how critical our outreach effort was and will continue to be, for our city's economic recovery. We made the case for the diversification of our economy and the delegation was able to make international connections that are continuing to bear fruit."

World Trade Center of New Orleans was the first of what are today 309 World Trade Center organizations in 88 countries which are members of the World Trade Centers Association. The mission of the World Trade Center is to add wealth and jobs in Louisiana through international trade, port development, and allied activities.

Lisa Ponce de Leon, Director of International Development for the City of New Orleans, said, "Mayor C. Ray Nagin has instructed me to make the city of New Orleans a truly international city for all. The proactive, aggressive team work of the international community is showing results. This visit of the Honorable Ambassador from Greece and the distinct initiatives within our city and community are building blocks toward the internationalization and globalization of economic growth in our region."

"The proposed Greek-American Chamber offers numerous benefits for our ports and maritime industry and can be a great vehicle to promote Louisiana's trade and investment opportunities with Greek ship owners, the world's largest in terms of tonnage," said Eugene Schreiber, Managing Director of the World Trade Center of New Orleans.

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City Council Examines Homelessness Issue & Hears Testimony from Social Service Agencies

*Council Passes Resolutions Supporting
New Orleans Hornets Northshore Broadcasts,
"Pump to the River" Project and
Expanded Fresh and Healthy Food Access*

News Release

January 10, 2008

Contents

Examining Homelessness Issue

Supporting New Orleans
Hornets

Pledging Support of Regional
"Pump to the River" Project

Expanding Fresh and Healthy
Food Access

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New Orleans, LA - January 10, 2008 - Today, the New Orleans City Council comprehensively examined the City's homelessness issue and heard testimony from social service agencies serving the homeless in New Orleans. The Council also passed three resolutions supporting New Orleans Hornets Northshore broadcasts, the "Pump to the River" drainage project and expanded fresh and healthy food access.

Examining Homelessness Issue



*Representatives from social service agencies
serving the homeless in New Orleans*

Numerous social service agencies and groups serving the homeless in New Orleans testified before the City Council today. As its first order of business the Council convened these agencies to comprehensively examine the City's homelessness issue. Through the testimony from City Council members the importance of agency collaboration was reinforced.

Among those testifying were social service professionals working on interim housing, mental and physical health, law enforcement and workforce development. In the coming weeks, follow-up meetings with council members will be held to continue coordination of an action plan to address this issue.

Offering testimony were Martha Kegel, Executive Director of UNITY of Greater New Orleans; Sam Scaffidi, NOPD Homeless Assistance Collaborative; Calvin Parker, Manager of Multifamily Housing Programs for the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development - Disaster Recovery Unit; Lisa Woodruff-White, Deputy Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Social Services and Ron Gonzales, Executive Director of New Orleans Mission.

Supporting New Orleans Hornets



Representatives from Cox Communications and Charter Communications

The resolution requests the Council's Special Development Projects & Economic Development and the Cable & Telecommunications Committees work with the St. Tammany Parish Council, representatives from the New Orleans Hornets, Cox Communications and Charter Communications to return broadcasts of New Orleans Hornets basketball games to St. Tammany Parish.

The Council resolution outlined the importance of the New Orleans Hornets to the general economic vitality of the City. The resolution also reinforced the related economic and entertainment benefits the Hornets bring to the citizens and businesses of metro New Orleans.

Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee Chair Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow, Committee Member District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head and Cable & Telecommunications Committee Chair District "C" Councilmember James Carter and Committee Member and Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson formally participated in the formulation of the resolution.

Pledging Support of Regional "Pump to the River" Project



Members of Jefferson Parish delegation

The Council's action formally supported the "Pump to the River" drainage project, citing the importance of a collaborative process and alternative methods of enhancing flood protection and drainage.

The project reflects the recommendation of the August 30, 2007 United States Army Corps of Engineers Report to Congress. "Pump to the River" calls for the removal of existing and the installation of new pumping stations at the mouths of the 17th Street, Orleans Avenue, and London Avenue canals. This project calls for these new pumping stations to discharge directly into the Mississippi River.

A Jefferson Parish delegation including Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard, Councilmember-at-Large John Young and members of the "Pump to the River" project appeared before the Council. They offered testimony citing the economic and quality of life benefits of the project and the protection of the lives and property of citizens in Jefferson and Orleans Parishes. The Council resolution encouraged continued engagement by the United States Army Corps of Engineers with all necessary stakeholders to address any and all concerns.

Expanding Fresh and Healthy Food Access

By resolution a task force will convene to examine options to expand access to fresh and healthy food. The task force will specifically address this critical need from both a health and an economic perspective.

The task force membership will include the City Council's Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee, the New Orleans Food Policy Advisory Committee, the Mayor's Office of Recovery and Development Administration, the New Orleans Health Department and the Office of the City Attorney. The task force will work to identify and include appropriate representatives from State government.

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Opinion Editorial

January 10, 2008

City Council President & Councilmember-At-Large Fielkow: 2008 - A Pivotal Year

In a recent Times Picayune opinion editorial, City Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow discussed his thoughts on the City of New Orleans in 2008:

As the City Council convenes its first meeting of the new year, we do so with a renewed sense of hope and high expectations for New Orleans' future.

We enter the third year of a project unprecedented in modern American history -- the rebuilding of a great city devastated by the worst man-made disaster ever seen on this continent. While it is appropriate that we are preoccupied with all that remains to be done, I think we should pause for a moment to acknowledge all that has been done.

Signs of our rebuilding abound everywhere. The just-completed BCS Championship, Sugar Bowl and New Orleans Bowl, together with the upcoming Mardi Gras season and NBA All-Star Game, represent an unprecedented nearly \$1 billion economic impact to our community. Fans wearing LSU's purple and gold, Ohio State's scarlet and gray, Hawaii's green and white and Georgia's red and black provided a much-needed shot in the arm to our small businesses and for that, we are most appreciative.

Our friends at the Convention and Visitors Bureau expect 9 million visitors in 2008. More than 400,000 conventioners and exhibitors will check into the Morial Convention Center during 2008. Passenger volume at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport topped 7.5 million in 2007 and is expected to rise above 8 million in 2008.

Demographers tell us that our population jumped 13 percent in 2007, more than they had expected, with high hopes that our population might reach 330,000 by the end of 2008. There are plenty of jobs available in the economy, enough for everyone who wants to work.

We enter the new year hopeful that this will finally be the year when we indeed see hundreds of cranes in the sky. All of those who are working so hard to bring the LSU-Veterans Hospital complex, with a potential of 10,000 jobs, to downtown New Orleans deserve our commendation and assistance. We look forward to other projects beginning to drive piles in 2008, including the Trump Tower. A good example of the restoration of downtown New Orleans is seen in the recently completed renovation of the old Western Union Building on Baronne Street, vacant for 15 years but now converted to apartments with a bank on the ground floor.

It seems to me that the real heroes of the recovery, however, are the thousands of men and women who came back to the city to rebuild their homes and businesses before they got their Road Home money, before their neighbors returned and before their customers returned.

They are my heroes, and I salute them for their love of this city, their commitment, their courage and their indomitable spirit.

Speaking of the Road Home, it will soon have a \$5 billion impact on our economy, with \$5 billion more to come during the remainder of 2008. It is high time that all applicants receive the funds due them so that they can make the necessary repairs to their homes and businesses and bring vitality back to all New Orleans neighborhoods.

Regional approaches to solving our metropolitan area's issues need to continue to be encouraged and pursued. Whether it be curbside recycling, joint lobbying or new flood protection efforts like Pump to the River, we would be well-served to put regionalism into action.

All that we have accomplished, however, will go for naught if our streets are not safe and parents do not feel that their children have a secure future. Accountability for those involved in the criminal justice system must be a top priority. Those in leadership should be objectively measured by whether a sizable reduction occurs in our murder rate and other violent crimes.

We need long-term criminal justice reforms to continue, but, at the same time, it is crucial that 2008 be a year when citizens have regained confidence that public safety is restored to our neighborhoods.

All indications are that 2008 is a year when we will turn the corner on the recovery. I know this is our shared wish.

With unity, commitment, caring and hard work, it is within us to rebuild a city that will be a shining example of what Americans can do, even in the wake of a terrible tragedy that might have permanently overwhelmed a less resilient people.

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NOLA Council News
January 31, 2008 Vol.1, No.3

Council Releases Statement on NOPD Officer Death
(January 28, 2008)



We are deeply shocked and saddened by the senseless murder today of New Orleans Police Officer Nicola Cotton while in the line of duty. Our thoughts and prayers are with the fallen officer's family, friends and colleagues during this difficult and tragic time.

As we mourn the terrible loss of this young dedicated officer, we are mindful of the sacrifices of all of the police officers who put their lives on the line every day to protect the citizens of New Orleans.

To honor the memory of the City's fallen officer, we respectfully request that Mayor C. Ray Nagin lower to half-staff all flags being flown on City buildings for a thirty-day mourning period.

To view complete Statement click [here](#).

New Orleans City & St. Tammany Parish Councils Move Forward on Cox-Charter Agreement for New Orleans Hornets Game Telecast
(January 28, 2008)



Representatives from Cox Communications and Charter Communications

The New Orleans City Council passed a resolution requesting the Council's Special Development Projects & Economic Development and the Cable & Telecommunications Committees work with the St. Tammany Parish Council, representatives from the New Orleans Hornets, Cox Communications / Cox Sports Television and Charter Communications to return broadcasts of New Orleans Hornets basketball games to the North Shore.

City Council President Arnie Fielkow and St. Tammany Parish Council Chairman Jerry Binder issued a joint letter to Cox Communications / Cox Sports Television and Charter Communications demanding the parties reach a mutually acceptable resolution to the programming dispute.

The original deadline of January 30, 2008 for Cox Communications / Cox Sports Television and Charter Communications to reach an agreement has been extended to Wednesday, February 6, 2008. If an agreement is not reached the New Orleans City and St. Tammany Parish Councils will hold a joint task force meeting in the New Orleans City Council Chamber to address next steps.

To view complete News Release click [here](#).

Council – World Trade Center 2007 Diplomatic Mission Showing Signs of Success *(January 25, 2008)*



During a visit with New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow, the Ambassador of Greece to the United States, Alexandros P. Mallias, announced his commitment to work towards establishing a joint Greek-American Chamber of Commerce in New Orleans. The chamber will work to encourage business between New Orleans and Greece, particularly with the Greek shipping industry, and to build upon the existing strong friendship between Greece and New Orleans.



The announcement is the result of a City of New Orleans 2007 Diplomatic Mission to Washington, D.C. The New Orleans representatives, led by City Council President Arnie Fielkow, Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, World Trade Center of New Orleans Managing Director Eugene Schreiber and Lisa Ponce de Leon, Director of International Relations for the City of New Orleans, met with sixteen foreign embassies in Washington, D.C. over a two-day period.

Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis said, "As we rebuild we will continue to need the aid and support from our brothers and sisters from around the world. I would like to thank the Greek Ambassador for his commitment to establishing this new economic development partnership."

Since then, Australia has opened a trade office in New Orleans, followed by the appointment of a Honorary Consul of Haiti, Mexico reopened its Consulate, the Ukraine Ambassador to the U.S. visited and expressed interest in appointing an Honorary Consul and South Africa has sent two official delegations to visit New Orleans.

To view complete News Release click [here](#).

Council Calls for State Ethics Reform to Apply to Local Governments *(January 24, 2008)*



Councilmember Shelley Midura;
Janet Howard, President, Bureau
of Governmental Research and
Inspector General Robert Cerasoli

The New Orleans City Council passed a resolution in support of the special state legislative session on ethics reform and the extension of ethics reform to include municipal and parish governments.

The Resolution was introduced by Councilmember Fielkow, co-sponsored by Councilmember Midura and unanimously supported by the full Council. The resolution requests that ethics reforms include every political subdivision of Louisiana, including local governments.

The Resolution strengthens the Council's already strong commitment to ethics reform. The Council has established and funded the New Orleans Office of Inspector General, and has requested that the State Legislature enact stricter campaign finance laws, including prohibition of contributions to elective regulatory bodies from entities that regulate them.

At a Governmental Affairs Committee meeting, Committee Chair Councilmember Shelley Midura met with Inspector General Robert Cerasoli, members of the Orleans legislative delegation and local advocates to formulate an ethics reform agenda to bring forward in Baton Rouge for the Special Session scheduled in February.

Councilmember Midura said, "We continue our march toward establishing transparency and implementing the necessary administrative controls to ensure that Louisiana's government functions efficiently and ethically."

To view complete News Release [click here](#).

Council Authorizes Execution of Auditing Contract *(January 24, 2008)*



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

The New Orleans City Council passed a resolution which reflects the recommendation by the Council's Budget, Audit and Board of Review Committee to retain Postlethwaite & Netterville (P&N) as the lead audit firm in compliance with the City Charter requirement that the City Council obtain an external audit of the City's financial statements.

Budget, Audit and Board of Review Committee Chair Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "The City Council Budget Committee stands committed to the monitoring of all budget processes for City departments and we are confident in our recommendation of P&N."

Specifically, the Resolution requests and authorizes the Council President to execute a contract with P&N to perform the audit of the City for the Fiscal Year of 2007 and four subsequent years. The Council's Budget, Audit and Board of Review Committee interviewed the respondent and engaged in a thorough evaluation of P&N's proposal before making the recommendation.

To view complete News Release click [here](#).

Council Honors Historic Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club *(January 24, 2008)*



Members of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club

As the City entered the first full weekend of Mardi Gras the Council commended the community efforts and contributions of the historic Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club.

The Councilmembers recognized the Krewe's continuous community activism and commended the organization for their decision to return to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

The Council presented proclamations to the 2008 Zulu Royalty – Zulu King Mr. Frank Boutte and Zulu Queen Mrs. Joycelyn Boutte; as well as other Krewe members present in recognition of their contributions to the community as part of the Zulu organization.

The Zulu representatives expressed their gratitude for the City Council's continuous support of the Krewe and presented each Councilmember with the traditional Zulu Mardi Gras throws.

To view complete News Release click [here](#).

Councilmembers Participate in Martin Luther King Day Community Commemoration at City Hall

(January 21, 2008)



Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson and Councilmember Willard-Lewis

District “E” Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, along with Mayor C. Ray Nagin, Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, Councilmember Carter and community representatives commemorated Martin Luther King Day on the steps of City Hall.

Speakers included Mayor Nagin, Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson, Councilmember Willard-Lewis and Dr. Elliot Willard. Presentations were made by community representatives with accompanying inspirational music and song.

Willard-Lewis said, “Today we celebrate the amazing life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I want to thank most importantly, our citizens - thank you for taking the time to recognize this important and historical moment, you come together to recognize that unity is important and diversity is valued. We are sending a strong message to the world – as New Orleans rebuilds we are united.”

The program was followed by the annual Martin Luther King Day March from City Hall to the Martin Luther King, Jr. statue on South Claiborne Avenue.

City Council President and Councilmember-At-Large Fielkow: 2008 – A Pivotal Year

(January 10, 2008)



Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow

In a recent Times Picayune opinion editorial, City Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow discussed his thoughts on the City of New Orleans in 2008:

We enter the third year of a project unprecedented in modern American history - the rebuilding of a great city devastated by the worst man-made disaster ever seen on this continent. While it is appropriate that we are preoccupied with all that remains to be done, I think we should pause for a moment to acknowledge all that has been done.

Signs of our rebuilding abound everywhere. The just-completed BCS Championship, Sugar Bowl and New Orleans Bowl, together with the Mardi Gras season and the upcoming NBA All-Star Game, represent an unprecedented nearly \$1 billion economic impact to our community.

Regional approaches to solving our metropolitan area's issues need to continue to be encouraged and pursued. Whether it be curbside recycling, joint lobbying or new flood protection efforts like “Pump to the River,” we would be well-served to put regionalism into action.

Accountability for those involved in the criminal justice system must be a top priority. We need long-term criminal justice reforms to continue, but at the same time it is crucial that 2008 be a year when citizens have regained confidence that public safety is restored to our neighborhoods.

With unity, commitment, caring and hard work, it is within us to rebuild a city that will be a shining example of what Americans can do, even in the wake of a terrible tragedy that might have permanently overwhelmed a less resilient people.

To view complete Statement click [here](#).

Council Examines Homelessness Issue, Hears Testimony from Social Service Agencies and Passes Resolutions Supporting “Pump to the River” Project and Expanded Fresh and Healthy Food Access *(January 10, 2008)*



The New Orleans City Council comprehensively examined the City's homelessness issue and heard testimony from social service agencies serving the homeless in New Orleans. The Council also passed resolutions supporting the "Pump to the River" drainage project and expanded fresh and healthy food access.

Examining Homelessness Issue

Numerous social service agencies and groups serving the homeless in New Orleans testified before the City Council. The Council convened these agencies to comprehensively examine the City's homelessness issue. Through the testimony from City Council members the importance of agency collaboration was reinforced.

Among those testifying were social service professionals working on interim housing, mental and physical health, law enforcement and workforce development. In the coming weeks, follow-up meetings with council members will be held to continue coordination of an action plan to address this issue.

Pledging Support of Regional "Pump to the River" Project

The Council's action formally supported the "Pump to the River" drainage project, citing the importance of a collaborative process and alternative methods of enhancing flood protection and drainage.

The project reflects the recommendation of the August 30, 2007 United States Army Corps of Engineers Report to Congress. "Pump to the River" calls for the removal of existing and the installation of new pumping stations at the mouths of the 17th Street, Orleans Avenue, and London Avenue canals. This project calls for these new pumping stations to discharge directly into the Mississippi River.

Expanding Fresh and Healthy Food Access

By resolution, a task force will convene to examine options to expand access to fresh and healthy food. The task force will specifically address this critical need from both a health and an economic perspective.

The task force membership will include the City Council's Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee, the New Orleans Food Policy Advisory Committee, the Mayor's Office of Recovery and Development Administration, the New Orleans Health Department and the Office of the City Attorney. The task force will work to identify and include appropriate representatives from State government.

To view complete News Release [click here](#).

Proposed Policies for Establishing Tax Increment Financing Districts in The City of New Orleans

*Mayor's Office of Recovery and Development Administration
February, 2008*

OVERVIEW

The establishment of Tax Incremental Financing Districts (TIF) is a major policymaking decision with significant impacts both to taxpayer generated revenues and economic and community development endeavors throughout the City of New Orleans. Given this, it is essential that the Mayor and City Council for the City of New Orleans jointly establish by resolution governing principles and project eligibility criteria to guide the creation of TIF's. Furthermore, projects seeking and awarded TIFs must be assessed and monitored through a Mayoral Oversight Committee, consisting of representation from appropriate city governmental and private-sector entities.

TIF SELECTION CRITERIA

- A project or geographic location for which a TIF is considered must be located within a designated recovery area or other special economic or redevelopment district or zone as established by the City of New Orleans;
- A project or geographic location for which a TIF is considered must be catalytic in nature, in that it will spur further development in the immediate vicinity, provide significant improvement to public infrastructure, or otherwise significantly contribute to economic development within the City of New Orleans;
- A project or geographic location for which a TIF is considered must adhere to "mixed-use" and recovery-based planning concepts and in so doing are consistent with the highest and best use from a public perspective of the property and geographical location involved;
- A project for which a TIF is considered must entail sufficient risk and investment by the project developer as gauged by industry standards related to that type of project, including that the project developer has up to 25% cash equity in the project and is capable of ensuring long-term project quality and debt service;
- A project for which a TIF is considered must entail a cost to benefit ratio at or above \$1 to \$3 as detailed through project profoma or financial analysis;
- A project for which a TIF is considered must demonstrate that the TIF is "but for" financing, as detailed through project pro formas, financial analysis, or statements from lending sources;
- A project for which a TIF is considered must include a state matching TIF.

- A project for which a TIF is considered may include other state or federal funding assistance, tax credits or other financing incentives. The City TIF shall not provide profit for the proposed project as a result of these various financing sources as determined by the cost benefit analysis.
- A project for which a TIF is considered must ensure that least 20% of its permanent jobs are at or above the Metropolitan area living wages;
- A project for which a TIF is considered, if commercial in nature, must provide for public benefit amenities or spaces as compatible with the nature of the project; and, if housing in nature, should provide at least 20% of its units at affordable housing rates;
- The TIF must finance all enhancements or alterations to public infrastructure directly related to the project or geographic location to be supported, with any remaining undedicated portion of the TIF available to other project costs as permitted by law;
- The TIF must be structured so as to establish a minimum and maximum tax increment threshold and a set duration of time for the existence of the TIF, with particular thresholds and timelines set on a project-by-project basis;

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

As the City of New Orleans continues to rebuild its damaged commercial and public infrastructure, it is incumbent on local governmental officials to analyze the applicability of tax incremental financing as means of stimulating long-term economic growth within the City. Of particular importance is an assessment of how TIFs can be used in concert with other applicable development incentives and recover-based assistance. Further, given the City's post-disaster financial posture and existing *Ad Valorem* millage obligations, it is important to assess how best to structure TIFs for maximum efficacy or otherwise limit the scope of TIFs in the short-term.

Pursuant to Resolution R-06-405 passed by the New Orleans City Council in September of 2006, a local intergovernmental task force was established to review existing laws, ordinances, best practices from other jurisdictions across the nation, external reports produced by Lambert Advisory, LLC and the Bureau of Governmental Research, and conduct interviews with economic development finance experts.

The following is a summary of recommendations developed by the task force for consideration by the Mayor and the City Council. Specific items include procedural reforms that are already being implemented, along with other recommended action steps for future implementation. Both ongoing and contemplated procedural reforms are designed to streamline the process for reviewing and selecting projects or geographic locations to be serviced by TIFs based on recovery-based and sustainable economic development principles.

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) TIF PROCEDURES IN THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

TIFs will enhance the City's economic well-being if applied in a uniform, transparent, and rational manner that emphasizes recovery-based and sustainable economic development principles. Therefore, the task force emphasizes the utility of TIFs for specific projects and well-defined geographic areas that are located within the City's designated recovery areas or other special economic or redevelopment districts or zones as established by the City of New Orleans.

To accomplish this, the consideration and advancement of each application for a TIF will follow a formalized set of standard operating procedures within the administration of the City of New Orleans. The Mayor's Office of Recovery and Development Administration will publicize and make available to the general public the forms, guidelines and supporting documents designed to facilitate a user-friendly approach to the submission of projects seeking TIF support. Such public awareness will be expanded through web access to all forms, guidelines and supporting documents as well as printed materials to include brochures as funding is available.

The Division of Economic Development intends to further disseminate TIF information utilizing the dozens of business and economic development organizations throughout the city and the region as well as insuring that council staff have access to web and print documentation as each become available.

(2) GEOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS DURING RECOVERY AND REBUILDING

The task force recommends limited application of TIF supplemental funding for development projects during this recovery and rebuilding phase in the city's history. In addition to strongly recommending that TIFs be focused on projects which greatly enhance the city's public infrastructure, the task force also recommends that TIFs be limited to particular geographic areas to include: (1) areas included in medical districts, (2) areas designated for riverfront development/redevelopment, (3) already existing commercial corridors, and (4) Recovery Management Target Zones defined as "Rebuild" and "Redevelop."

(3) STREAMLINED AND CONSOLIDATED PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION

The task force proposes for ease of use, one point of entry is designated for all parties seeking TIF supplements for their projects. As such, the Division of Economic Development will serve as that point of contact with the expectation that complete and accurate TIF applications will be submitted to the Deputy Director for Development.

Secondly, consistent, accurate and timely information regarding the applications for projects which are requesting TIF supplements is critical. Moreover, completion of such a project within a specified timeline is essential to maintaining a high level of transparency and financial stewardship. Accordingly, the Division of Economic Development will formalize its requests for information from developers in a standardized format to include comprehensive documentation supported by a well-developed business plan.

By standardizing the application and review process, the policy makers of the City of New Orleans will be able to fully consider the merit of TIF requests in a timely, efficient and effective manner, serving the best interests of the City of New Orleans.

(4) CLARIFICATION OF EXPECTATIONS BY CITY AUTHORITIES FOR TIF RECIPIENTS

The specific criteria by which projects or geographic locations are to be reviewed for consideration of a TIF are detailed in a previous section. To facilitate the attendant review process, project applicants should be required to submit a proposed timeline to project completion, along with the following information: financial statements and related documentation which verify the necessity of a TIF; cost/benefit analysis of the use of the TIF for said project and impact on city which should be at or above a \$1 to \$3 ratio for costs to benefits; and any existing business plan(s). In addition, developers will be required to provide documentation demonstrating that a minimum of 25% cash equity on the part of the owners/investors, to be matched by the requested TIF up to a maximum of 50% match.

Developers of projects involving housing will be required to provide documentation supporting plans for 20% of all units to be affordable housing for low to moderate income households. Likewise, those projects that are commercial in nature must supply documentation evidencing that the project will spur further development in the immediate vicinity, provide significant improvement to public infrastructure, and otherwise provide public benefiting amenities or space in a manner compatible with the project-type.

(5) ENHANCED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Recognizing the value of public participation in neighborhood and community development/redevelopment, the task force highly recommends expanding public involvement in addition to the existing state law. Louisiana requires that a minimum of twenty-one (21) days elapse during a notice period for citizens of the given local government to submit their comments, support and/or concerns. Consideration of additional community-based public hearings would serve the interests of the citizens and the developers as well.

(6) OVERSIGHT, MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The task force recommends that under the leadership of the Mayor's Office of Recovery and Development Administration, a unified oversight committee be established consisting of no more than seven members to evaluate the progress and compliance of projects utilizing TIF support. It is proposed that such be created by resolution of the City Council to include designees of the Mayor's Office of Recovery and Development Administration, the Chief Administrative Officer, the City Attorney's Office, the City Planning Commission, NORA, the Industrial Development Board, Special Projects and Economic Development Committee of the City Council and an independent expert. Should additional policy development or procedural modification become necessary, this oversight body would complete this work including that which may be necessary for it to carry out oversight functions.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

EXISTING TAX INCREMENT FINANCING LEGISLATION

Louisiana law provides for two types of Tax Increment Financing mechanisms: (1) property tax, also known as ad valorem, and (2) sales tax. Either form may be utilized to enhance an economic development project. It is important to remember that this tool builds on anticipated future increases in tax revenue above the present level of revenues collected in a specific geographic area. This portion of the specific revenue stream may be used to satisfy bond or other debt incurred in the construction of improvements, improvements which may be presumed to create increased tax revenues available.

As state law is presently written, economic development projects which may be enhanced through either TIF include initiatives in the following sectors: industrial/manufacturing, housing, hotel/motel, commercial/retail, amusement/theme park/tourism, transportation, medical services, and any other industry which the local government determines to be of economic significance. However, property tax (ad valorem) TIFs must be approved by the voters of the entire district affected. Moreover, only tax revenues not previously dedicated to a particular purpose may be subjected to a TIF diversion.

The use of sales tax TIFs can be enhanced when the local millage is coupled with a portion of the state's share of sales taxes. Again, this matter was reviewed by the legislature in 2002. Subsequent amendments adopted during the special session allow for the execution of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement ("CEA") between the state and the local government subject to the approval of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the State Bond Commission. Such approval requires that the parties to the CEA demonstrate a reasonable expectation of the furtherance of a public function of the state, the maintenance of existing jobs, or the creation of new economic growth, all of which should equal or exceed the value of the state's obligation.

Also in the 2002 special session, the state legislature authorized the creation of economic development districts by ordinance, specifically for Algiers, but by definition to all of Orleans parish. With the municipal governing authority serving as the governing authority for the district, the district carries the designation of a political subdivision of the state. This allows such a district to finance development projects through the sale of revenue bonds secured by ad valorem or sales tax incremental financing. Such use in this case differs slightly from traditional TIFs in that only qualified electors must approve ad valorem financing; in the event there are none, no vote of the populace is required.

It should be noted that the use of hotel occupancy tax increments has been reviewed by the Louisiana judicial system and shaped by the Louisiana legislature to insure that a TIF supported by hotel occupancy tax incremental financing will in effect require the application of a new hotel occupancy tax as existing taxes may not be used.

No ordinances affecting the consideration or general administration of TIF applications, defined districts or projects have been approved by the City of New Orleans.

ORLEANS PARISH MILLAGE STRUCTURE

As a point of reference, the total sales tax collected in Orleans Parish currently stands at 9% of the purchase price. Sales tax revenues are split between the Orleans Parish School Board which receives 1.5%, the Regional Transit Authority which receives 1%, the State of Louisiana which receives 4%, and the general fund of the City of New Orleans which receives 2.5%.

Of the 175.19 mills ad valorem taxes levied, only 16.1 mills are not yet dedicated to an entity or obligation. The millage split is as follows: debt service, 31.7 mills; fire and police, 6.4 mills; parkways and recreation, 3 mills; Audubon Zoo, .44 mil; Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, 4.11 mills; Public Works, 1.9 mills; Capital Improvement and Infrastructure Trust Fund, 2.5 mills; Neighborhood Housing Improvement Fund, 1.25 mills; Economic Development Fund, 1.25 mills; New Orleans Public Libraries, 4.32 mills; New Orleans Police Department, 5.26 mills; New Orleans Fire Department, 5.21 mills; New Orleans Criminal Sheriff, 3.5 mills; New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, 52.9 mills; and the Orleans Levee District, 12.76 mills.

Clearly the mass dedication of millage to entities and obligations leaves little in the way of available revenues for consideration in any ad valorem TIF application. A review of practices nationwide suggests that the deconstruction of property tax in the City of New Orleans in this manner puts the city at a strong disadvantage in this arena. Nonetheless, the possibility of use is not completely negated.

RECOMMENDED NEXT-STEPS

The Administration will:

- Formalize a set of operating procedures and publicize applications and forms.
- Develop and issue a semi-annual Request For Information from developers seeking TIF
- Coordinate with the Industrial Development Board for financial consultants to assist the administration in applying the 'but for' test, cost to benefit ratio, and project feasibility study, which also may include the issuance of a Request for Qualifications for financial consultants.
- Establish and staff the oversight and monitoring committee
- Establish application and processing fee schedule for TIF applicants by the oversight committee.
- Hire staff to work with the oversight and monitoring committee in the processing of TIF applications.

ATTACHMENTS

Supplemental attachments to this document provide draft application for TIF consideration (Attachment A), TIF Evaluation Form (Attachment B), and TIF Recommendation and Routing Sheet (Attachment C).

Attachment

Application for Tax Increment Financing

For

(Project Name)

A. APPLICANT

1. Name of Business

Address

Address

Address

Main Contact Person

Name

Title

Telephone #

Fax #

E-mail

Alternate Contact Person

Name

Title

Telephone #

Fax #

E-mail

2. Provide a brief history and description of your business.

Attach additional information and materials if available.

Attach (and label as **Exhibit A**) the following information for all other members of the project team. Include such participants as architect, engineer, general contractor, marketing consultant, financial adviser, appraiser, etc.

Name of Business

Address

Name of Contact Person

Title

Phone #

Fax #

E-mail Address

B) PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Location

Attach (and label as **Exhibit B**) information which fully describes and illustrates the location and boundaries of the proposed project. Include map(s), legal description(s) if available, property identification numbers, address, and area (in sq. ft. or acres).

2. Ownership and Legal Structure

Attach (and label as **Exhibit C**) the full name(s) of the entity(s) which will own the project, and fully describe their legal structure (i.e. principals, ownership interests, liability, relationship to parent organization, subsidiaries, etc.). If available, provide federal and state tax ID #s.

3. Description

Attach (and label as **Exhibit D**) a complete description of the proposed project. If the project will proceed in phases, then provide information for each phase as well as the total project.

Minimally provide the following information:

- a. Do you have control of the project site? Explain.
- b. Details of any known environmental problems with the site. Has any testing been completed or is underway?
- c. Type of project (retail, office, industrial, rental housing, home ownership, etc.)
- d. New construction or rehabilitation/renovation. If renovation, provide details.
- e. Description of structures which will need to be demolished.
- f. Details of any historic preservation issues
- g. For commercial/industrial:
 - Number and size of structures (sq. ft.)
 - Type of construction and materials
 - Terms of sale (if applicable)
 - Details of signed leases (rates, duration, etc.)
 - Projected terms for space not currently under lease
 - Details of any market studies completed or underway
- h. For ownership housing:
 - Type, number and size of units (sq. ft. and number of bedrooms)
 - Anticipated sales price (excluding real estate commissions)
 - Details of any market studies completed or underway
- i. For rental housing:
 - Type and size of buildings (#of floors, units, etc.)
 - Type of construction and materials
 - Size of units (sq. ft.) and number of bedrooms
 - Description of building/unit amenities

List of utilities included with rent

Monthly rental rates by unit type

Details of any market studies completed or underway

4. Construction Timeline

Attach (and label as **Exhibit E**) an estimated construction timeline by phase/structure (see example below).

EXAMPLE

Phase 1

Office Building A

% Complete at the End of 2007 _____

% Complete at the End of 2008 _____

% Complete at the End of 2009 _____

Retail Building B

% Complete at the End of 2007 _____

% Complete at the End of 2008 _____

% Complete at the End of 2009 _____

Phase 2

Rental Housing

Apartment Building A

% Complete at the End of 2007 _____

% Complete at the End of 2008 _____

% Complete at the End of 2009 _____

Apartment Building B

% Complete at the End of 2007 _____

% Complete at the End of 2008 _____

% Complete at the End of 2009 _____

Home Ownership

Townhomes (#)

% Complete at the End of 2007 _____

% Complete at the End of 2008 _____

% Complete at the End of 2009 _____

Single Family Units (#)

% Complete at the End of 2007 _____

% Complete at the End of 2008 _____

% Complete at the End of 2009 _____

5. Development Budget (Sources and Uses) – During Construction Period

Attach (and label as **Exhibit F**) a complete development budget for construction of the project. This budget should include a detailed listing of all sources and uses of funds.

For each “use” of funds, indicate the methodology or means by which this estimated cost was derived (i.e. appraisal, contractor estimate, X% of hard costs, actual cost, etc.)

For each “source” of funds (debt, equity, public assistance, etc.), indicate the status of the funding source, and the applicable financing terms/details.

6. Development Budget (Sources and Uses) – Permanent Financing

If ownership of the project is being retained by the applicant (or affiliate or subsidiary) and permanent financing will be obtained, attach (and label as **Exhibit F1**) a complete development budget upon permanent financing.

7. Operating Cash flow Proforma (15 Year)

If ownership of the project is being retained by the applicant (or affiliate or subsidiary), attach (and label as **Exhibit F2**) a projected 15-year operating cash flow proforma for the project. The proforma should clearly identify all assumptions, and should provide a detailed listing of all anticipated revenues, expenses, capital contributions/distributions, etc. The cash flow should clearly identify “Net Operating Income (NOI), “Cash Flow before Taxes (CFBT)”, and “Cash Flow after Taxes (CFAT)”.

8. Projected Number of Jobs Created and/or Retained

Indicate below how many new jobs will be created by the project.

	Total	Living Wage	Time Period
Full-time	_____	_____	_____
Part-time	_____	_____	_____
Seasonal	_____	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____

Indicate below how many existing jobs will be retained by the project.

	Total	Living Wage	Time Period
Full-time	_____	_____	_____
Part-time	_____	_____	_____
Seasonal	_____	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____

C. REQUESTED TAX INCREMENT FINANCING ASSISTANCE

1. Describe the amount and purpose of requested tax increment financing assistance.

2. Statement of justification for the use of tax increment financing.

3. If tax increment financing assistance is not provided, will the project (1) proceed as previously described utilizing other financing, (2) proceed in some alternative form, or (3) not proceed at all? If the project will proceed in some alternative form, provide a summary below.

Attachment B

TIF Evaluation Form

Application Name

Cost Benefit Ratio

Above 1:3

(25 Points Possible)

Feasible Business Plan

(25 Points Possible)

Targeted Zone Location

(25 Points Possible)

Provision of Low-Moderate

Income Housing or Fulfillment of

Public Good (25 Points Possible)

Total

Attachment C

TIF Review Routing Sheet

Application Name

<u>Title</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>
OPD	_____	_____
ORM	_____	_____
NORA	_____	_____
CAO	_____	_____
CPC	_____	_____
Special Projects	_____	_____
City Attorney's Office	_____	_____
Mayor	_____	_____
Clerk of Council	_____	_____



February 29, 2008

Dear Community Stakeholder,

Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) is an important tool in the continued economic recovery and growth of the City of New Orleans. The City Council is ever mindful of the paramount importance of this issue in our community - especially as our neighborhoods rebuild.

The City Council is reviewing the Mayor's proposal and will approve a TIF policy that sets standards, defines eligibility, and reviews and monitors applications. Our goal is to adopt a policy by the end of the year. Our purpose in this communication is to request input and suggestions on a proposed TIF policy being offered by the Mayor's Office.

Since you are an important stakeholder in the successful and ordered recovery and redevelopment of New Orleans, we value your input and ask that you take a moment to comment on this vital economic development issue. You may view the most recent **Proposed TIF Policy** from the Mayor's Office on the City Council's website at www.neworleanscitycouncil.com.

Please direct your suggestions and comments by March 10, 2008, to the City Council Fiscal Office, Calvin Aguillard (504) 658-1093 cjaguillard@cityofno.com and/or Barbara Avalos (504) 658-1092 btavalos@cityofno.com, fax (504) 658-1100.

The Council knows clearly that Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) must be granted and administered with objective standards and is an important tool in economic development policy. As the Council, together with the Administration, moves forward with developing a comprehensive economic development policy we hope you will take part in this important dialogue.

We thank you for your interest and look forward to receiving your input.

Sincerely,

Arnie Fielkow

Arnie Fielkow
City of New Orleans
Councilmember-at-Large



New Orleans City Council

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New Orleans City Council Statement: Response to United Nations Statement Regarding Public Housing Demolition in New Orleans

Statement

February 28, 2008

Contents

City Council Statement
Motion M-07-628

Contact:
Ron Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: 504-658-1082
rjpursell@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - February 28, 2008 - This is a fundamental quality of life issue - every citizen deserves a decent, safe, affordable place to live and raise a family. The past model of public housing in New Orleans has been a failed one - years of neglect and mismanagement left our public housing developments in ruin.

That is why in December 2007, following weeks of comments from interested and affected parties and more than four hours of public comment, the New Orleans City Council voted unanimously to allow demolition of the Lafitte, St. Bernard, C.J. Peete and B.W. Cooper housing developments and expressed its commitment to planned mixed income redevelopment. Prior to the Council's vote on the motion, each side was given equal time to comment. The Housing Authority of New Orleans, individual citizens, representatives of groups and organizations and the faith community all offered comments.

The Council Motion M-07-628 requested that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) assure immediate redevelopment following the targeted demolitions. The Council did not have the authority to reopen the housing developments. The only option the Council had was to demolish and redevelop or keep blighted uninhabited buildings and lose federal funding for future redevelopment and assistance for displaced residents wanting to return home.

These are critical times in our City's history - we can choose to continue on the path of progress and positive change or we can choose to maintain the status quo. Out of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina came the unprecedented opportunity to not only make this City whole again, but to make it a stronger and better City. This City Council together will maintain a course which will make New Orleans great again - not only for the few but for all.

MOTION

NO. M-07-628

CITY HALL: December 20, 2007

**BY: COUNCILMEMBERS FIELKOW, CLARKSON, MIDURA,
HEAD, CARTER, HEDGE-MORRELL AND WILLARD-LEWIS (BY
REQUEST)**

WHEREAS, according to the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) at the time of Hurricane Katrina, there were 4,534 total public housing units with 2,987 occupied units in the B.W. Cooper, C.J. Peete, Lafitte, and St. Bernard housing developments; and

WHEREAS, the HANO current redevelopment plans for B.W. Cooper, C.J. Peete, Lafitte, and St. Bernard housing developments will demolish 4,534 total public housing units - 2,987 of these units occupied at the time of Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of New Orleans is committed to ensuring the replacement of 4,534 total hard housing units with either public housing units or affordable units consistent with the mixed income development model; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of New Orleans is committed to the planned phased redevelopment of Lafitte and B.W. Cooper housing developments, and where practicable, of the phased redevelopment of the St. Bernard housing development; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of New Orleans is committed to ensuring the preservation of historic and structurally sound buildings and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of New Orleans strongly believes that HANO has an obligation to the citizens of New Orleans to implement a plan that would transition public housing residents from dependence on subsidized housing to independence, through programs that include, but are not limited to, financial management, education, vocational training and workforce development, and implementation of a work requirement as allowed by law; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of New Orleans strongly believes that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and HANO should be accountable to the citizens of New Orleans and thus provide quarterly updated performance

reports to the Council of the City of New Orleans as to the status of the redevelopment of the B.W. Cooper, C.J. Peete, Lafitte, and St. Bernard housing developments; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of New Orleans strongly believes that oversight of the construction process and efficient post-construction site management is essential to successful redevelopment of the B.W. Cooper, C.J. Peete, Lafitte, and St. Bernard housing developments; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of New Orleans strongly believes that HUD and HANO should make the creation of homeownership opportunities for current residents of those developments a priority; and

WHEREAS, the redevelopment of the B.W. Cooper, C.J. Peete, Lafitte, and St. Bernard housing developments is tied to Louisiana Housing Finance Authority (LHFA) Tax Credits that may be jeopardized by any delay of Council action; now therefore,

BE IT MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, that this Council approves the requested demolition of the buildings in the B.W. Cooper, C.J. Peete, Lafitte, and St. Bernard housing developments; the Lafitte Housing Development generally bounded by Orleans Avenue to the north, Lafitte Street to the south, North Rocheblave Street to the west, and North Roman Street to the east to exempt from demolition Buildings 45, 46, 47 and the Sojourner Truth Building; C.J. Peete Housing Development generally bounded by Washington Avenue to the east, LaSalle and Freret Streets to the south, Louisiana and Toledano Avenues to the west, South Claiborne Avenue on the north; B.W. Cooper Housing Development generally bounded by Earhart Boulevard, South Claiborne Avenue, Martin Luther King Boulevard and S. Dorgenois Street; and St. Bernard Housing Development generally bounded by Gibson Street to the east, Milton and St. Denis Streets to the south, St. Bernard Avenue to the west, and Senate Street to the north.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, that phased redevelopment will occur in the Lafitte housing development and the St. Bernard housing development, where practicable, and a minimum number of units will not be demolished and will be prepared for occupancy in the next six months in the following manner: 94 units, and potentially 102 additional units at the Lafitte housing development, and 75 interim units at the St. Bernard housing development, where practicable.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, that the HUD and HANO will assure that redevelopment will begin immediately after the completion of targeted demolitions.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, HUD will provide the Mayor, the Council President and the Budget Committee Chair with detailed financing plans, signed development contracts, and MOUs with each affected resident council prior to the start of demolition.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, that the Council will solicit local input into the redevelopment process and work with HUD to ensure equitable restructuring of the board of directors of HANO to include a HUD representative, the Mayor or his designee and a public housing resident.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, that the Department of Safety and Permits shall be authorized to issue the necessary demolition permits for the aforementioned request to demolish Lafitte, C.J. Peete, B.W. Cooper, and St. Bernard Housing Developments.

THE FOREGOING MOTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION OF THEREOF AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Carter, Clarkson, Fielkow, Head, Hedge-Morrell, Midura, Willard-Lewis - 7

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

AND THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED

New Orleans City Council

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Council Continues Effort to Move Towards New Public-Private Partnership Model of Economic Development for the City of New Orleans

News Release

February 27, 2008

Contact:
Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
(504) 658-1082
rjpursell@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - February 27, 2007 - Today, at the New Orleans City Council's Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee meeting, the City Council continued to move forward in the establishment of a new public-private model of economic development for the City of New Orleans.

As part of this effort, the Council announced, in conjunction with the Office of Recovery and Development Administration (ORDA) and a working group of private economic development stakeholders, that the City of New Orleans is soliciting the opinions of local and regional business stakeholders on a variety of issues affecting the business climate in New Orleans.

A survey, to be used towards the development of a public-private economic development model for the City, was sent to over 100 key economic development stakeholders and is available online at www.nocitycouncil.com.

Council President Arnie Fielkow, chair of the Council's Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee said, "I urge all stakeholders who have an interest in the economic future of New Orleans to complete this survey. It is critical, as this City moves towards a public-private model for economic development, that we receive input from all sectors of our economy. This step will assist us in establishing a new economic development organization and ensuring that every business and citizen has a voice in this process."

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC), an internationally respected nonprofit membership organization with more than 4,500 members dedicated to raising the profile of the economic development profession, is assisting in facilitating the implementation of the appropriate public-private model. The IEDC developed the survey in consultation with city agencies and private economic development stakeholders and will utilize the responses received in its efforts. The survey must be completed by March 12, 2008.

In August 2007, the New Orleans City Council passed Resolution R-07-381 urging the adoption of a "best practices" assessment of New Orleans' economic development strategy and structure with recommendations for the implementation of a new economic development strategy. In November 2007, the Council received and reviewed an economic development model developed by the RAND Corporation, and endorsed a public-private partnership economic model for New Orleans.

A working group of various city agencies and private economic development stakeholders, including the New Orleans City Council, ORDA, Downtown Development District, Louisiana Small Business Development Center - Greater New Orleans Region, The Horizon Initiative, New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, New Orleans Black Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Asian Chamber of Commerce, New Orleans Business Council, Greater New Orleans, Inc. and others have been working closely together over the last several months to guide the public-private model's design and implementation. IEDC is charged with obtaining and analyzing the input of local economic stakeholders, and providing recommendations and implementation expertise towards the development of the public-private model.

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Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding Unveils New Transparency Website

Release Date: February 25, 2008

For Immediate Release

Contact: Press Office

(202) 572-8890

New Orleans, LA -- The Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), today unveiled a major initiative on government transparency.

The new Transparency Initiative is a web-based mapping tool that provides the public with accurate, up-to-date information on the status of public assistance funding that goes toward the rebuilding effort in the Gulf Coast.

Established by FEMA and the Office of Gulf Coast Rebuilding, the Public Assistance Transparency website (www.FEMA.gov/gcro and www.dhs.gov/gulfcoastrebuild) will make it easier to distinguish between responsibilities at every level of government.

"We are happy to provide the citizens of the Gulf Coast with this valuable resource for tracking the flow of public assistance funding into their local school systems," said Acting Associate Deputy Administrator for FEMA's Gulf Coast Recovery Office Jim Stark.

"Using this website, families can pinpoint where schools are in the rebuilding process and use this knowledge to make their own recovery decisions," Stark said.

The first phase, unveiled today at the Dr. Martin Luther King Charter School in New Orleans, Louisiana, focuses on mapping recovery schools in New Orleans, so that parents, teachers and local leaders will know the status of individual schools in their community.

"We are honored that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School was selected as the location to unveil the Transparency Initiative web tool," said Doris Hicks, Principal of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School.

"This important initiative brings greater accountability to everyone involved in rebuilding our schools and will go a long way in equipping parents, educators and students with invaluable information as we seek to improve our schools and continue to move forward together," Hicks said.

Tulane University President, Scott Cowen said, "This website is a step in the right direction to help families make important decisions based on which schools are open and the status of the ones that aren't. This tool also provides greater transparency in the process of rebuilding our public schools."

Today's unveiling of the education component, is the first phase in what's to come for each sector of the recovery and rebuilding process. Federal staff conducted a demonstration of the interactive map that allows the user to zoom in to find individual projects at the neighborhood scale.

"This initiative marks a critical step forward by infusing a greater level of transparency in the rebuilding process, providing helpful information to parents, teachers, and all New Orleanians," said Paul Pastorek, State Superintendent of the New Orleans Public Schools.

"We are very pleased to partner with Federal Coordinator Don Powell, his office and FEMA on this project," Pastorek said.

"We have always maintained that government functions best when it operates in a manner that is open to scrutiny from the people," said Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding Regional Director Marc Roy.

"Information sharing with the state and local government will be a critical component in this effort, and we look forward to the continued partnership," Roy said.

The Office of the Federal Coordinator sought feedback and assistance from a number of Federal agencies in the development of the site including the Government Accountability Office (GAO), The Office of Management and Budget (OMB), as well as education establishments such as The Mercatus Center at George Mason University, and local stakeholders including The Cowan Institute for Public Education Initiatives at Tulane University and New Schools for New Orleans. Information and features on the site will be updated to reflect feedback from interested parties as the site develops further.

Over the last two years, the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding has been engaged in facilitating and streamlining various components of the recovery effort, providing key federal support and resources to local leaders, and reinforcing the federal government's commitment to the people of the Gulf Coast.

www.dhs.gov/gulfcoastrebuild

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NOLA Council News

February 29, 2008 Vol.1, No.4

<i>Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell Recognizes District “D” Revitalization Efforts</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Council President Fielkow Continues New Orleans International Economic Development Expansion with Trip to Panama</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Community Cultural Organizations Update Council Special Arts and Culture Committee</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Council Secures State Commitment to Address New Orleans Mental Health Issues.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Council Passes Resolution Supporting Efficient Use of Law Enforcement Resources</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Council Passes Resolution Supporting Streamlined Tax Appeal Process</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Council Holds Executive Session Addressing Security Plan & Pending Litigation.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Council Honors Life of NOPD Detective.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Statement Regarding Charter Communications' Rejection of Cox Sports Television's Latest Offer</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Council Urges Governor and Legislature to Give Confidentiality Protections & Subpoena Power to Offices of Inspector General & Ethics Boards, Requests Formal Investigation to Resolve Hornets Games Cablecast Dispute & Honors the Memory of NOPD Officer Nicola Cotton.....</i>	<i>10</i>

Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell Recognizes District “D” Revitalization Efforts

(February 26, 2008)



\$20 Million “Project Home Again” Housing Initiative

Barnes & Noble Chairman Leonard Riggio’s family foundation announced “Project Home Again,” a \$20 million housing initiative focusing on the Gentilly neighborhood.

District “D” Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, “We are very grateful to the Riggio family for their generosity and for choosing to build their first 20 homes in Gentilly.”

“Project Home Again” will build 20 homes specifically for former Gentilly residents to meet the ongoing need to provide quality single-family housing. These homes will be energy efficient, raised above the minimum elevation guidelines, and will meet or exceed all new building code requirements.

Holy Cross School Groundbreaking Ceremony

District “D” Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell gathered with students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff and neighbors for the Holy Cross School groundbreaking ceremony.

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, “We would like to welcome Holy Cross to our neighborhood and are honored to be the new home for the Holy Cross Tigers.”

A 30-foot, blue-and-gold piling – appropriately named “Tiger Spirit” - was driven into the foundation of Holy Cross’ new home. The blue-and-gold pile featured signatures of the 2008 senior class.

Due to flooding during by Hurricane Katrina, Holy Cross decided to relocated from its original Ninth Ward campus to its new Gentilly location. This project marks the first new school construction in the City since the hurricane.

Council President Fielkow Continues New Orleans International Economic Development Expansion with Trip to Panama

(February 25, 2008)



Recently, City Council President Arnie Fielkow went on a three-day trade visit to Panama to participate in meetings with key Panamanian government officials, business leaders and U.S. Embassy officers to discuss economic development opportunities for the City of New Orleans.

"One of my biggest goals as a public servant is to grow and diversify our local economy by re-establishing New Orleans' international presence. The trip to Panama is but one of many efforts on behalf of the City of New Orleans to pursue international economic opportunities," said Council President Fielkow.

The trip to Panama City, Panama, which occurred in mid-February, was organized in anticipation of the 2014 widening of the Panama Canal. The addition of a third canal will significantly increase the volume of cargo handled by the Panama Canal, and represents a significant opportunity for New Orleans to grow its cargo volume through the Port of New Orleans. Additionally, the visit enhanced the existing economic relationships with the country of Panama and her surrounding neighbors.

To view complete News Release [click here](#).

Community Cultural Organizations Update Council Special Arts and Culture Committee

(February 25, 2008)



During a recent Special Arts and Culture Committee meeting, representatives from New Orleans cultural organizations appeared before the Committee to brief committee members on community activities and cultural projects under way throughout the City.

Cultural organizations represented at the meeting included the Contemporary Arts Center, the Delta Festival Ballet Company and the New Orleans Buffalo Soldiers. A representative from each organization presented the Committee with background information on the organization and an update on organization's current cultural projects and community activities. Each representative expressed their organization's dedication and commitment to the community and the preservation of the City's cultural history.

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, Chair of the Special Arts and Culture Committee, offered the Committee's support to each organization and expressed her gratitude to the organizations for their cultural contributions to the City.

Council Secures State Commitment to Address New Orleans Mental Health Issues

(February 26, 2008)



Recently, the Department of Health and Hospitals, under the new leadership of Secretary Alan Levine, unveiled a plan to address the mental health crisis in New Orleans. The plan includes several components advocated for by District “A” Councilmember Shelley Midura and the City Council’s Special Committee on Mental Health. Levine’s proposal will direct approximately \$1.9 million strictly to New Orleans and its critically underserved mentally ill.

Councilmember Midura said, “This is a big win for New Orleans, for public health, and public safety. We have fought hard for these changes and I am thankful to Secretary Levine and Governor Jindal for their commitment to deliver. I am encouraged not only by the swiftness of action, but by the willingness to listen to those on the front lines of this crisis on the street as well as in City Hall.”

The plan features both long and short term objectives including Assertive Community Treatment teams, housing subsidies for individuals transitioning back into the community after treatment, legislative changes, and additional mental health staff for Orleans Parish Prison to name a few.

To view complete News Release [click here](#).

Council Passes Resolution Supporting Efficient Use of Law Enforcement Resources

(February 21, 2008)



The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-08-90 formally requesting the Louisiana State Legislature adopt legislation giving law enforcement officers discretion to issue a summons rather than make a custodial arrest in response to a misdemeanor offense or non-violent municipal offense.

This Resolution reflects the recommendation by the Vera Institute of Justice, NOPD Superintendent Warren Riley and the New Orleans Police Department to expand the use of summonses and reduce custodial arrests for minor criminal offenses.

The Council emphasized that it is in the best interest of the citizens of New Orleans for the police department to focus its law enforcement efforts on the apprehension of violent criminals.

To view complete News Release [click here](#).

Council Passes Resolution Supporting Streamlined Tax Appeal Process

(February 21, 2008)



The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-08-88 requesting the New Orleans legislative delegation and the Louisiana State Legislature support the necessary changes in legislation governing the tax appeal process to remove the Board of Review from the appeal process and permit property owners to appeal assessments directly to the Louisiana Tax Commission.

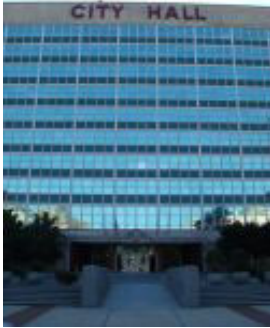
This Resolution reflects the Council's belief that the Louisiana Tax Commission has the expertise and ability to more efficiently deal with the high volume process and that taxpayers would best be served by removing the Board of Review from the tax appeal process.

To meet statutory deadlines in 2007, the New Orleans City Council found it necessary to employ a private firm to manage the nearly six thousand appeals received at a cost of approximately \$1.6 million to New Orleans taxpayers.

To view complete News Release [click here](#).

Council Holds Executive Session Addressing Security Plan & Pending Litigation

(February 21, 2008)



The Council held an Executive Session to address the City Hall Security Plan and pending litigation. Due to the confidentiality of both issues, they were taken up in Executive Session closed to the public.

City Hall Security Plan Briefing

Attention was paid today in Executive Session to the continuing City Hall Security Plan. Colonel Terry Ebbert of the City of New Orleans Office of Homeland Security briefed the Council on the City Hall Security Plan. Colonel Ebbert will continue to coordinate and implement security measures as they are developed and funded.

Pending Litigation

In Executive Session today City Councilmembers individually decided that it is their policy not to comment on pending litigation. All inquiries regarding pending litigation will be referred to the City Attorney.

To view complete News Release [click here](#).

Council Honors Life of NOPD Detective

(February 21, 2008)



Councilmembers joined to honor the life of New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Detective Thelonious A. Dukes. The City Council passed Resolution R-08-85, co-authored by Councilmember James Carter and Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, honoring New Orleans Police Department Detective Thelonious A. Dukes for his valiant service to his community during his nineteen years as an NOPD officer.

“We know the police department is still grieving for the loss of this courageous detective - we support you with our prayers and we support you with our love,” said District “E” Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.

The Council, along with the community, mourned the loss of Detective Dukes and sent its condolences, thoughts and prayers to his family, friends and fellow officers and shared in the knowledge that Detective Dukes’s service was well done.

To view complete News Release [click here](#).

Statement Regarding Charter Communications' Rejection of Cox Sports Television's Latest Offer

(February 20, 2008)



City Council President Arnie Fielkow and Council Cable & Telecommunications Committee Chair Councilman James Carter issued the following joint statement regarding Charter Communications' rejection of the offer made by Cox Sports Television yesterday:

"Yesterday in the best interest of the public, Cox Sports Television (CST) put forth two options to Charter Communications. Today, we are extremely disappointed to learn of Charter Communications' refusal to accept the latest good faith offer made by CST yesterday.

Charter's refusal to accept this latest offer is another blow to not only Charter's North Shore and other Louisiana customers who are unable to watch the Hornets on television, but to the recovery of the entire New Orleans region. The Hornets are a vital asset to this City and our region, and it is truly unconscionable that many of their fans on the North Shore and elsewhere in the state of Louisiana are blocked from watching them on television by Charter.

We will continue to support our St. Tammany colleagues in their efforts to work with Charter to ensure the broadcast of Hornets basketball games on the North Shore and elsewhere in the State of Louisiana.

To view complete Joint Statement [click here](#).

Council Urges Governor and Legislature to Give Confidentiality Protections & Subpoena Power to Offices of Inspector General & Ethics Boards, Requests Formal Investigation to Resolve Hornets Games Cablecast Dispute & Honors the Memory of NOPD Officer Nicola Cotton

(February 7, 2008)



The New Orleans City Council passed a resolution urging the Governor and the legislature give broader confidentiality protections and subpoena power in the Offices of Inspector General and Ethics Boards in jurisdictions across Louisiana. The Council also requested a formal investigation begin to resolve the New Orleans Hornets Cablecast Dispute in St. Tammany. Councilmembers joined to

honor the life of New Orleans Police Department Officer Nicola Cotton who was killed in the line of duty earlier this month.

Supports Protections for the Offices of Inspector General and Ethics Boards

The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-08-69 urging the Governor and the State Legislature take action to improve, strengthen and protect local, parish and municipal Offices of Inspector General (OIG) and Ethics Boards.

Specifically, the Council requested that the Governor and Legislature provide local OIGs and Ethics Boards with state court subpoena power, confidentiality protections for those under investigation and broad jurisdiction over all entities and individuals engaged in activities affecting the integrity of local government.

Councilmember Midura said, "We have been working hard to develop a strong agenda to bring forward in Baton Rouge during the Special Session. I am so grateful to all of the Councilmembers for signing on to this very important Resolution."

Requests Formal Investigation to Resolve Hornets Games Cablecast Dispute in St. Tammany

The Council passed Motion M-08-66 authorizing the Special Development Projects & Economic Development and Cable & Telecommunications Committees to begin investigations that may be necessary to assure the cablecast of New Orleans Hornets games in St. Tammany Parish and throughout the region.

The Motion asks that the Council Committees jointly report the results of their investigations and recommendations to the Council by March 6, 2008. The Motion also urges the governing authorities of Lafourche, Tangipahoa and Terrebonne Parishes to join with the New Orleans City Council and St. Tammany Parish Council to undertake appropriate actions to require the cablecast of New Orleans Hornets games within each of their respective jurisdictions.

Honors the Life of NOPD Officer

The City Council passed Resolution R-08-67 honoring the life of New Orleans Police Department Officer Nicola Cotton for her selfless sacrifice and intense commitment to protecting and serving the citizens of New Orleans.

Councilmember James Carter said, "We wanted to give special recognition to this young officer who tragically lost her life in the line of duty."

The Council, along with the community, mourned the loss of Officer Cotton and sent its condolences, thoughts and prayers to her family, friends and fellow officers and shared in the knowledge that Officer Cotton's service was well done.

To view complete News Release [click here](#).

Council President Fielkow Continues New Orleans International Economic Development Expansion with Trip to Panama

News Release

February 25, 2008

Contact:
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City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - February 25, 2008 - Recently, City Council President Arnie Fielkow went on a three-day trade visit to Panama to participate in meetings with key Panamanian government officials, business leaders and U.S. Embassy officers to discuss economic development opportunities for the City of New Orleans.

"New Orleans was once a premier international City for commerce and trade, but we have lost that distinction to other Gulf Coast cities over the last 30 years. One of my biggest goals as a public servant is to grow and diversify our local economy by re-establishing New Orleans' international presence. The trip to Panama is but one of many efforts on behalf of the City of New Orleans to pursue international economic opportunities," said Council President Fielkow.

The trip to Panama City, Panama, which occurred in mid-February, was organized in anticipation of the 2014 widening of the Panama Canal. The addition of a third canal will significantly increase the volume of cargo handled by the Panama Canal, and represents a significant opportunity for New Orleans to grow its cargo volume through the Port of New Orleans. Additionally, the visit enhanced the existing economic relationships with the country of Panama and her surrounding neighbors. Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow addressed the following four key issues:

- ***Expansion of the Panama Canal by 2014:*** The canal expansion project, called the 'Third Set of Locks Project,' will provide tremendous opportunities for New Orleans. The Panama Canal Authority proposed the project, and it was approved by Panamanian citizens in a national referendum by 76.8% of the vote

on October 22, 2006. The project will double the canal's capacity and allow for greater trade and economic opportunities between New Orleans and Latin America. Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow met with Panama Canal officials to discuss the Port of New Orleans and the anticipated shared economic benefits of the expansion of the Panama Canal.

- ***Growing Trade between the Port of New Orleans and the Manzanillo International Terminal:*** Council President Fielkow met with Mr. Juan Carlos Croston, Vice President of Marketing for Manzanillo International Terminal [MIT]. MIT is the largest major trans-shipment terminal in Latin America, allowing steamship lines to transfer containers from ships on the Atlantic side of Panama via rail and canal to the Pacific side. SSA Marine, the company that operates the Napoleon Street Wharf of the Port of New Orleans, also operates MIT which provides a solid existing partnership between New Orleans and Panama upon which to build. Fielkow's discussions focused on how New Orleans can capitalize on this existing relationship, and grow our import/export business with Panama and the rest of Latin America.
- ***Expanding Opportunities in the Colon Free Zone:*** The Colon Free Zone [CFZ] is the largest free trade zone in the Americas and the second largest in the world, behind Hong Kong. It receives more than 250,000 visitors per year, has roughly 2,000 companies operating within its boundaries, and generates exportation and re-exportation goods valued at more than US \$6.5 billion. The CFZ offers free movement of goods and complete exemption from tax on imports and re-exports. Due to its geographic location, the CFZ is a major player in channeling goods from large industrialized countries to consumer markets in Latin America. Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow met with senior executives of the Colon Free Zone User's Association to discuss growing the Zone's relationship with New Orleans and also the viability of such a free trade zone in New Orleans.
- ***Establishing New Orleans and Panama City as "Sister Cities":*** Council President Fielkow met with the Honorable Juan Carlos Navarro, Mayor of Panama City, and discussed the many similarities between New Orleans and Panama City - including the fact that Panama City is in the midst of their own rebuilding effort. Additionally, New Orleans already has strong ties to Panama City through existing trade, commerce and educational relationships. A "sister city" designation for New Orleans and Panama City would be a natural result of their strong relationship, and would further cement their ties.

Additionally, Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow held meetings with the Honorable Hector Aleman, who heads foreign affairs for the National Assembly of Panama, and with U.S. Ambassador to Panama William A. Eaton. These meetings involved extensive discussion of the pending Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the United States and Panama. This FTA is currently pending before Congress.

"International trade is entering a period of tremendous growth and potential, particularly due to the Free Trade Agreement currently before the U.S. Congress. New Orleans must seize on its historical international ties and geographic location in order to capitalize on this economic trend and grow our local economy, and I am confident that our recent City initiatives are a significant step in the right direction," added Fielkow.

The trip to Panama was organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Embassy in Panama, the City of New Orleans' Office of International Relations and the Honorable Erich Rodriguez, Consul General of Panama.

The trip to Panama is part of a larger effort by Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow in partnership with Lisa Ponce de Leon and the City of New Orleans' Department of International Relations, the Port of New Orleans and the World Trade Center of New Orleans - to expand New Orleans' international presence and economic development opportunities. In addition to the Panama trip, Fielkow has led other international initiatives including an official New Orleans delegation to Mexico City which led to the opening of a Mexican Consulate in New Orleans; a meeting with the Ambassador of Greece to discuss establishing a Greek-American Chamber of Commerce; a meeting with the Ukrainian Ambassador to the U.S. to discuss the opening of an honorary consulate in the city; and participation in the 2007 City of New Orleans Diplomatic Mission to Washington, D.C. which met with sixteen foreign embassies to grow trade opportunities for New Orleans.

New Orleans City Council

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Council Secures State Commitment to Address New Orleans Mental Health Issues

News Release

February 26, 2008

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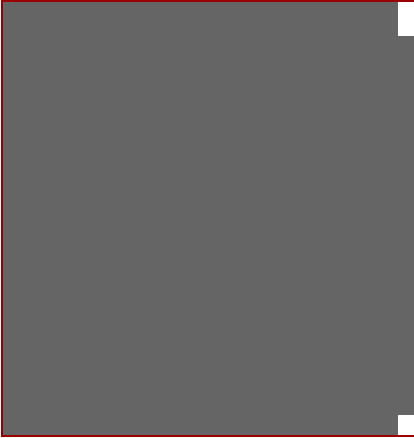
[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - February 26, 2008 - Today the Department of Health and Hospitals, under the new leadership of Secretary Alan Levine, unveiled a plan and funding to address the mental health crisis in New Orleans. The plan, which includes several components that Councilmember Shelley Midura and the City Council's Special Committee on Mental Health have advocated for, has both long and short term objectives.

The short term objectives include Assertive Community Treatment teams, Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) teams, housing subsidies for individuals transitioning back into the community after treatment, and crisis respite services. In all, Levine's proposal will direct approximately \$1.9 million strictly to New Orleans and its critically underserved mentally ill.

The longer term objectives, most to be executed within the next fiscal year, include legislative changes, additional mental health staff for Orleans Parish Prison, and Crisis Intervention Training for NOPD officers to better equip them to deal with the mentally ill.

"This is a big win for New Orleans, for public health, and public safety," said Councilmember Midura. "We have fought hard for these changes and I am thankful to Secretary Levine and Governor Jindal for their commitment to deliver. The proposal the Secretary outlined includes many components that I and my colleagues, Councilman Fielkow in particular, have been advocating for. Over the past few weeks we have had several conversations with the Secretary and his staff and I am encouraged not only by the swiftness of action, but by the willingness to listen to those on the front lines of this crisis on the street as well as in City Hall."



In her letter of February 12, 2008 to Secretary Levine, Councilmember Midura identified the need for:

- Community-based support services
- Creation of a FACT team
- Legislation strengthening Assisted Outpatient Treatment (Kendra's Law)

The plan released today included all of these items.

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Council Continues Effort to Move Towards New Public-Private Partnership Model of Economic Development for the City of New Orleans

News Release

February 27, 2008

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[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - February 27, 2007 - Today, at the New Orleans City Council's Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee meeting, the City Council continued to move forward in the establishment of a new public-private model of economic development for the City of New Orleans.

As part of this effort, the Council announced, in conjunction with the Office of Recovery and Development Administration (ORDA) and a working group of private economic development stakeholders, that the City of New Orleans is soliciting the opinions of local and regional business stakeholders on a variety of issues affecting the business climate in New Orleans.

A survey, to be used towards the development of a public-private economic development model for the City, was sent to over 100 key economic development stakeholders and is available online at www.nocitycouncil.com.

Council President Arnie Fielkow, chair of the Council's Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee said, "I urge all stakeholders who have an interest in the economic future of New Orleans to complete this survey. It is critical, as this City moves towards a public-private model for economic development, that we receive input from all sectors of our economy. This step will assist us in establishing a new economic development organization and ensuring that every business and citizen has a voice in this process."

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC), an internationally respected nonprofit membership organization with more than 4,500 members dedicated to raising the profile of the economic development profession, is assisting in facilitating the implementation of the appropriate public-private model. The IEDC developed the survey in consultation with city agencies and private economic development stakeholders and will utilize the responses received in its efforts. The survey must be completed by March 12, 2008.

In August 2007, the New Orleans City Council passed Resolution R-07-381 urging the adoption of a "best practices" assessment of New Orleans' economic development strategy and structure with recommendations for the implementation of a new economic development strategy. In November 2007, the Council received and reviewed an economic development model developed by the RAND Corporation, and endorsed a public-private partnership economic model for New Orleans.

A working group of various city agencies and private economic development stakeholders, including the New Orleans City Council, ORDA, Downtown Development District, Louisiana Small Business Development Center - Greater New Orleans Region, The Horizon Initiative, New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, New Orleans Black Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Asian Chamber of Commerce, New Orleans Business Council, Greater New Orleans, Inc. and others have been working closely together over the last several months to guide the public-private model's design and implementation. IEDC is charged with obtaining and analyzing the input of local economic stakeholders, and providing recommendations and implementation expertise towards the development of the public-private model.

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Council Passes Resolutions Supporting Efficient Use of Law Enforcement Resources & Streamlined Tax Appeal Process

Council Holds Executive Session Addressing City Hall Security Plan & Pending Litigation & Honors the Life of NOPD Detective Thelonious A. Dukes

News Release

February 21, 2008

Contents

Supports Efficient Use of Law Enforcement Resources

Supports Streamlined Tax Appeal Process

Holds Executive Session

Honors Life of NOPD Detective

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell

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[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - February 21, 2008 - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed resolutions supporting efficient use of law enforcement resources and a streamlined tax appeal process.

The Council held an Executive Session to address the City Hall Security Plan and pending litigation. Councilmembers also joined to honor the life of New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Detective Thelonious A. Dukes.

Supports Efficient Use of Law Enforcement Resources



The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-08-90 formally requesting the Louisiana State Legislature adopt legislation giving law enforcement officers discretion to issue a summons rather than make a custodial arrest in response to a misdemeanor offense or non-violent municipal offense.

This Resolution reflects the recommendation by the Vera Institute of Justice, NOPD Superintendent Warren Riley and the New Orleans Police Department to expand the use of summonses and reduce custodial arrests for minor criminal offenses.

The Council emphasized that it is in the best interest of the citizens of New Orleans for the police department to focus its law enforcement efforts on the apprehension of violent criminals.

Reducing the number of custodial arrests for misdemeanors will decrease the financial burden on the City associated with incarceration and permit the police department to direct its resources more efficiently.

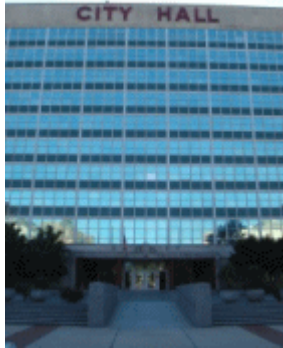


Supports Streamlined Tax Appeal Process

The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-08-88 requesting the New Orleans legislative delegation and the Louisiana State Legislature support the necessary changes in legislation governing the tax appeal process to remove the Board of Review from the appeal process and permit property owners to appeal assessments directly to the Louisiana Tax Commission.

This Resolution reflects the Council's belief that the Louisiana Tax Commission has the expertise and ability to more efficiently deal with the high volume process and that taxpayers would best be served by removing the Board of Review from the tax appeal process.

To meet statutory deadlines in 2007, the New Orleans City Council found it necessary to employ a private firm to manage the nearly six thousand appeals received at a cost of approximately \$1.6 million to New Orleans taxpayers.



Holds Executive Session

Today the City Council held an Executive Session to address the City Hall Security Plan and pending litigation. Due to the confidentiality of both issues, they were taken up in Executive Session closed to the public.

City Hall Security Plan Briefing

Attention was paid today in Executive Session to the continuing City Hall Security Plan.

Colonel Terry Ebbert of the City of New Orleans Office of Homeland Security briefed the Council on the City Hall Security Plan. Colonel Ebbert will continue to coordinate and implement security measures as they are developed and funded.

Pending Litigation

In Executive Session today City Councilmembers individually decided that it is their policy not to comment on pending litigation. All inquiries regarding pending litigation will be referred to the City Attorney.



Honors Life of NOPD Detective

The City Council passed Resolution R-08-85 honoring New Orleans Police Department Detective Thelonious A. Dukes for his valiant service to his community during his nineteen years as an NOPD officer.

The Council, along with the community, mourned the loss of Detective Dukes and sent its condolences, thoughts and prayers to his family, friends and fellow officers and shared in the knowledge that Detective Dukes's service was well done.

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Joint Statement from City Council President and Council Cable & Telecommunications Committee Chair Regarding Charter Communications' Rejection of Cox Sports Television's Latest Offer

Statement

February 20, 2008

Contact:
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[New Orleans
City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - February 20, 2008 - Today, City Council President Arnie Fielkow and Council Cable & Telecommunications Committee Chair Councilman James Carter issued the following joint statement regarding Charter Communications' rejection of the offer made by Cox Sports Television yesterday:

"Yesterday in the best interest of the public, Cox Sports Television (CST) put forth two options to Charter Communications. Today, we are extremely disappointed to learn of Charter Communications' refusal to accept the latest good faith offer made by CST yesterday.

Charter's refusal to accept this latest offer is another blow to not only Charter's North Shore and other Louisiana customers who are unable to watch the Hornets on television, but to the recovery of the entire New Orleans region. The Hornets are a vital asset to this City and our region, and it is truly unconscionable that many of their fans on the North Shore and elsewhere in the state of Louisiana are blocked from watching them on television by Charter. It is critical, especially given the recent agreement between the Hornets and the State of Louisiana establishing attendance thresholds, that fans be able to view Hornets games on television and witness not only the outstanding on-court product but also the promotional and entertainment benefits being provided by the Hornets franchise. Television is essential for the Hornets to reach the attendance numbers required in the current agreement between the Hornets and the State of Louisiana if we, as a community, are to avoid having the franchise potentially renegotiate or, worst case, exit the market next year.



We will continue to support our St. Tammany colleagues in their efforts to work with Charter to ensure the broadcast of Hornets basketball games on the North Shore and elsewhere in the State of Louisiana. Additionally, we remain hopeful, even at this late hour, that Charter will come to the table and reach an agreement with CST. Further, we will continue to support CST, the Hornets and the NBA's efforts to also pursue satellite coverage for Hornets games."

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**Council Urges Governor and Legislature to
Give Confidentiality Protections and Subpoena Power
to Offices of Inspector General & Ethics Boards
In Local Jurisdictions Across Louisiana
& Requests Formal Investigation to Resolve
Hornets Games Cablecast Dispute in St. Tammany**

Honors the Memory of New Orleans Police Officer Nicola Cotton

News Release

February 7, 2008

Contents

Supports Protections for the
Offices of Inspector General and
Ethics Boards

Requests Formal Investigation
to Resolve Hornets Games
Cablecast Dispute

Honors Life of NOPD Officer

Contact:

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Council Chief of Staff
(504) 658-1082

rjpursell@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - February 7, 2008 - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed a resolution urging the Governor and the legislature give broader confidentiality protections and subpoena power in the Offices of Inspector General and Ethics Boards in jurisdictions across Louisiana. The Council also requested a formal investigation begin to resolve the New Orleans Hornets Cablecast Dispute in St. Tammany. Councilmembers joined to honor the life of New Orleans Police Department Officer Nicola Cotton who was killed in the line of duty earlier this month.

Supports Protections for the Offices of Inspector General and Ethics Boards



The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-08-69 urging the Governor and the State Legislature take action to improve, strengthen and protect local, parish and municipal Offices of Inspector General (OIG) and Ethics Boards.

Specifically, the Council requested that the Governor and Legislature provide local OIGs and Ethics Boards with state court subpoena power, confidentiality protections for those under investigation and broad jurisdiction over all entities and individuals engaged in activities affecting the integrity of local government. The Resolution also called for the Governor and Legislature to require full disclosure of potential conflicts and a procedure for recusal of Ethics Review Board members.

This Resolution reflects the Council's belief in strengthening the independence and increasing protections for Offices of Inspector General to ensure the integrity of government. The Council has been continuously working with members of the Orleans legislative delegation to put forward a strong and united agenda for the Special Session on ethics called by Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal.

Councilmember Midura said, "We have been working hard to develop a strong agenda to bring forward in Baton Rouge during the Special Session. I am so grateful to all of the Councilmembers for signing on to this very important Resolution."

Requests Formal Investigation to Resolve Hornets Games Cablecast Dispute in St. Tammany



The Council passed Motion M-08-66 authorizing the Special Development Projects & Economic Development and Cable & Telecommunications Committees to begin investigations that may be necessary to assure the cablecast of New Orleans Hornets games in St. Tammany Parish and throughout the region.

The Motion asks that the Council Committees jointly report the results of their investigations and recommendations to the Council by March 6, 2008. The Motion also urges the governing authorities of Lafourche, Tangipahoa and Terrebonne Parishes to join with the New Orleans City Council and St. Tammany Parish Council to undertake appropriate actions to require the cablecast of New Orleans Hornets games within each of their respective jurisdictions.

The Motion follows a joint task force meeting held February 6, 2008 by the New Orleans City and St. Tammany Parish Councils to work towards a resolution of the broadcast dispute.

The New Orleans City Council passed a resolution in January requesting the Council's Special Development Projects & Economic Development and the Cable & Telecommunications Committees work with the St. Tammany Parish Council, representatives from the New Orleans Hornets, Cox Communications / Cox Sports Television and Charter Communications to return broadcasts of New Orleans Hornets basketball games to the North Shore.

Honors the Life of NOPD Officer



The City Council passed Resolution R-08-67 honoring the life of New Orleans Police Department Officer Nicola Cotton for her selfless sacrifice and intense commitment to protecting and serving the citizens of New Orleans.

Councilmember James Carter said, "We wanted to give special recognition to this young officer who tragically lost her life in the line of duty."

The Council, along with the community, mourned the loss of Officer Cotton and sent its condolences, thoughts and prayers to her family, friends and fellow officers and shared in the knowledge that Officer Cotton's service was well done.

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Media Advisory

February 4, 2008

New Orleans City & St. Tammany Parish Councils Schedule Joint Task Force Meeting to Discuss Issues and Options Concerning Cox/Charter Cable & Hornets Cablecast Dispute

- What:** A Joint Task Force meeting will be held to discuss issues and options concerning Cox/Charter Cable and New Orleans Hornets Cablecast dispute.
- Who:** The New Orleans City and St. Tammany Parish Councils
- When:** Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.
- Where:** City Council Chamber
- Contact:** Ron Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Office: (504) 658-1082
rjpursell@cityofno.com

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NOLA Council News

February 29, 2008 Vol.1, No.4

<i>Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell Recognizes District “D” Revitalization Efforts</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Council President Fielkow Continues New Orleans International Economic Development Expansion with Trip to Panama</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Community Cultural Organizations Update Council Special Arts and Culture Committee</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Council Secures State Commitment to Address New Orleans Mental Health Issues.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Council Passes Resolution Supporting Efficient Use of Law Enforcement Resources</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Council Passes Resolution Supporting Streamlined Tax Appeal Process</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Council Holds Executive Session Addressing Security Plan & Pending Litigation.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Council Honors Life of NOPD Detective.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Statement Regarding Charter Communications' Rejection of Cox Sports Television's Latest Offer</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Council Urges Governor and Legislature to Give Confidentiality Protections & Subpoena Power to Offices of Inspector General & Ethics Boards, Requests Formal Investigation to Resolve Hornets Games Cablecast Dispute & Honors the Memory of NOPD Officer Nicola Cotton.....</i>	<i>10</i>

Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell Recognizes District “D” Revitalization Efforts

(February 26, 2008)



\$20 Million “Project Home Again” Housing Initiative

Barnes & Noble Chairman Leonard Riggio’s family foundation announced “Project Home Again,” a \$20 million housing initiative focusing on the Gentilly neighborhood.

District “D” Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, “We are very grateful to the Riggio family for their generosity and for choosing to build their first 20 homes in Gentilly.”

“Project Home Again” will build 20 homes specifically for former Gentilly residents to meet the ongoing need to provide quality single-family housing. These homes will be energy efficient, raised above the minimum elevation guidelines, and will meet or exceed all new building code requirements.

Holy Cross School Groundbreaking Ceremony

District “D” Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell gathered with students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff and neighbors for the Holy Cross School groundbreaking ceremony.

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, “We would like to welcome Holy Cross to our neighborhood and are honored to be the new home for the Holy Cross Tigers.”

A 30-foot, blue-and-gold piling – appropriately named “Tiger Spirit” - was driven into the foundation of Holy Cross’ new home. The blue-and-gold pile featured signatures of the 2008 senior class.

Due to flooding during by Hurricane Katrina, Holy Cross decided to relocated from its original Ninth Ward campus to its new Gentilly location. This project marks the first new school construction in the City since the hurricane.

Council President Fielkow Continues New Orleans International Economic Development Expansion with Trip to Panama

(February 25, 2008)



Recently, City Council President Arnie Fielkow went on a three-day trade visit to Panama to participate in meetings with key Panamanian government officials, business leaders and U.S. Embassy officers to discuss economic development opportunities for the City of New Orleans.

"One of my biggest goals as a public servant is to grow and diversify our local economy by re-establishing New Orleans' international presence. The trip to Panama is but one of many efforts on behalf of the City of New Orleans to pursue international economic opportunities," said Council President Fielkow.

The trip to Panama City, Panama, which occurred in mid-February, was organized in anticipation of the 2014 widening of the Panama Canal. The addition of a third canal will significantly increase the volume of cargo handled by the Panama Canal, and represents a significant opportunity for New Orleans to grow its cargo volume through the Port of New Orleans. Additionally, the visit enhanced the existing economic relationships with the country of Panama and her surrounding neighbors.

To view complete News Release [click here](#).

Community Cultural Organizations Update Council Special Arts and Culture Committee

(February 25, 2008)



During a recent Special Arts and Culture Committee meeting, representatives from New Orleans cultural organizations appeared before the Committee to brief committee members on community activities and cultural projects under way throughout the City.

Cultural organizations represented at the meeting included the Contemporary Arts Center, the Delta Festival Ballet Company and the New Orleans Buffalo Soldiers. A representative from each organization presented the Committee with background information on the organization and an update on organization's current cultural projects and community activities. Each representative expressed their organization's dedication and commitment to the community and the preservation of the City's cultural history.

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, Chair of the Special Arts and Culture Committee, offered the Committee's support to each organization and expressed her gratitude to the organizations for their cultural contributions to the City.

Council Secures State Commitment to Address New Orleans Mental Health Issues

(February 26, 2008)



Recently, the Department of Health and Hospitals, under the new leadership of Secretary Alan Levine, unveiled a plan to address the mental health crisis in New Orleans. The plan includes several components advocated for by District “A” Councilmember Shelley Midura and the City Council’s Special Committee on Mental Health. Levine’s proposal will direct approximately \$1.9 million strictly to New Orleans and its critically underserved mentally ill.

Councilmember Midura said, “This is a big win for New Orleans, for public health, and public safety. We have fought hard for these changes and I am thankful to Secretary Levine and Governor Jindal for their commitment to deliver. I am encouraged not only by the swiftness of action, but by the willingness to listen to those on the front lines of this crisis on the street as well as in City Hall.”

The plan features both long and short term objectives including Assertive Community Treatment teams, housing subsidies for individuals transitioning back into the community after treatment, legislative changes, and additional mental health staff for Orleans Parish Prison to name a few.

To view complete News Release [click here](#).

Council Passes Resolution Supporting Efficient Use of Law Enforcement Resources

(February 21, 2008)



The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-08-90 formally requesting the Louisiana State Legislature adopt legislation giving law enforcement officers discretion to issue a summons rather than make a custodial arrest in response to a misdemeanor offense or non-violent municipal offense.

This Resolution reflects the recommendation by the Vera Institute of Justice, NOPD Superintendent Warren Riley and the New Orleans Police Department to expand the use of summonses and reduce custodial arrests for minor criminal offenses.

The Council emphasized that it is in the best interest of the citizens of New Orleans for the police department to focus its law enforcement efforts on the apprehension of violent criminals.

To view complete News Release [click here](#).

Council Passes Resolution Supporting Streamlined Tax Appeal Process

(February 21, 2008)



The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-08-88 requesting the New Orleans legislative delegation and the Louisiana State Legislature support the necessary changes in legislation governing the tax appeal process to remove the Board of Review from the appeal process and permit property owners to appeal assessments directly to the Louisiana Tax Commission.

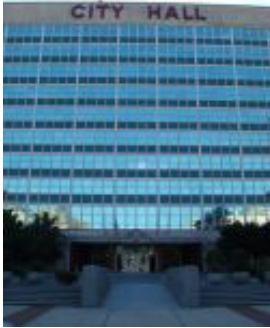
This Resolution reflects the Council's belief that the Louisiana Tax Commission has the expertise and ability to more efficiently deal with the high volume process and that taxpayers would best be served by removing the Board of Review from the tax appeal process.

To meet statutory deadlines in 2007, the New Orleans City Council found it necessary to employ a private firm to manage the nearly six thousand appeals received at a cost of approximately \$1.6 million to New Orleans taxpayers.

To view complete News Release click [here](#).

Council Holds Executive Session Addressing Security Plan & Pending Litigation

(February 21, 2008)



The Council held an Executive Session to address the City Hall Security Plan and pending litigation. Due to the confidentiality of both issues, they were taken up in Executive Session closed to the public.

City Hall Security Plan Briefing

Attention was paid today in Executive Session to the continuing City Hall Security Plan. Colonel Terry Ebbert of the City of New Orleans Office of Homeland Security briefed the Council on the City Hall Security Plan. Colonel Ebbert will continue to coordinate and implement security measures as they are developed and funded.

Pending Litigation

In Executive Session today City Councilmembers individually decided that it is their policy not to comment on pending litigation. All inquiries regarding pending litigation will be referred to the City Attorney.

To view complete News Release [click here](#).

Council Honors Life of NOPD Detective

(February 21, 2008)



Councilmembers joined to honor the life of New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Detective Thelonious A. Dukes. The City Council passed Resolution R-08-85, co-authored by Councilmember James Carter and Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, honoring New Orleans Police Department Detective Thelonious A. Dukes for his valiant service to his community during his nineteen years as an NOPD officer.

“We know the police department is still grieving for the loss of this courageous detective - we support you with our prayers and we support you with our love,” said District “E” Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.

The Council, along with the community, mourned the loss of Detective Dukes and sent its condolences, thoughts and prayers to his family, friends and fellow officers and shared in the knowledge that Detective Dukes’s service was well done.

To view complete News Release [click here](#).

Statement Regarding Charter Communications' Rejection of Cox Sports Television's Latest Offer

(February 20, 2008)



City Council President Arnie Fielkow and Council Cable & Telecommunications Committee Chair Councilman James Carter issued the following joint statement regarding Charter Communications' rejection of the offer made by Cox Sports Television yesterday:

"Yesterday in the best interest of the public, Cox Sports Television (CST) put forth two options to Charter Communications. Today, we are extremely disappointed to learn of Charter Communications' refusal to accept the latest good faith offer made by CST yesterday.

Charter's refusal to accept this latest offer is another blow to not only Charter's North Shore and other Louisiana customers who are unable to watch the Hornets on television, but to the recovery of the entire New Orleans region. The Hornets are a vital asset to this City and our region, and it is truly unconscionable that many of their fans on the North Shore and elsewhere in the state of Louisiana are blocked from watching them on television by Charter.

We will continue to support our St. Tammany colleagues in their efforts to work with Charter to ensure the broadcast of Hornets basketball games on the North Shore and elsewhere in the State of Louisiana.

To view complete Joint Statement [click here](#).

Council Urges Governor and Legislature to Give Confidentiality Protections & Subpoena Power to Offices of Inspector General & Ethics Boards, Requests Formal Investigation to Resolve Hornets Games Cablecast Dispute & Honors the Memory of NOPD Officer Nicola Cotton

(February 7, 2008)



The New Orleans City Council passed a resolution urging the Governor and the legislature give broader confidentiality protections and subpoena power in the Offices of Inspector General and Ethics Boards in jurisdictions across Louisiana. The Council also requested a formal investigation begin to resolve the New Orleans Hornets Cablecast Dispute in St. Tammany. Councilmembers joined to

honor the life of New Orleans Police Department Officer Nicola Cotton who was killed in the line of duty earlier this month.

Supports Protections for the Offices of Inspector General and Ethics Boards

The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-08-69 urging the Governor and the State Legislature take action to improve, strengthen and protect local, parish and municipal Offices of Inspector General (OIG) and Ethics Boards.

Specifically, the Council requested that the Governor and Legislature provide local OIGs and Ethics Boards with state court subpoena power, confidentiality protections for those under investigation and broad jurisdiction over all entities and individuals engaged in activities affecting the integrity of local government.

Councilmember Midura said, "We have been working hard to develop a strong agenda to bring forward in Baton Rouge during the Special Session. I am so grateful to all of the Councilmembers for signing on to this very important Resolution."

Requests Formal Investigation to Resolve Hornets Games Cablecast Dispute in St. Tammany

The Council passed Motion M-08-66 authorizing the Special Development Projects & Economic Development and Cable & Telecommunications Committees to begin investigations that may be necessary to assure the cablecast of New Orleans Hornets games in St. Tammany Parish and throughout the region.

The Motion asks that the Council Committees jointly report the results of their investigations and recommendations to the Council by March 6, 2008. The Motion also urges the governing authorities of Lafourche, Tangipahoa and Terrebonne Parishes to join with the New Orleans City Council and St. Tammany Parish Council to undertake appropriate actions to require the cablecast of New Orleans Hornets games within each of their respective jurisdictions.

Honors the Life of NOPD Officer

The City Council passed Resolution R-08-67 honoring the life of New Orleans Police Department Officer Nicola Cotton for her selfless sacrifice and intense commitment to protecting and serving the citizens of New Orleans.

Councilmember James Carter said, "We wanted to give special recognition to this young officer who tragically lost her life in the line of duty."

The Council, along with the community, mourned the loss of Officer Cotton and sent its condolences, thoughts and prayers to her family, friends and fellow officers and shared in the knowledge that Officer Cotton's service was well done.

To view complete News Release [click here](#).

Council Youth & Recreation Committee Moves Forward on NORD Reform

News Release

March 5, 2008

Contact:
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[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - March 5, 2008 - Today, at the New Orleans City Council's Youth and Recreation Committee meeting, the first step towards the potential reform of the New Orleans Recreation Department [NORD] was announced. The Greater New Orleans After-School Partnership [GNOAP] is in possession of a grant that it has chosen to use toward a survey of recreation in the City and some of the "best practices" around the country. Upon the completion of the survey in 90-120 days, the Youth and Recreation Committee, in conjunction with the full City Council, intends to initiate reform steps for NORD.

"Children in New Orleans deserve the best - in education, healthcare and recreation. NORD has been doing a good job in fixing storm-ravaged facilities and offering recreation programs to kids, but for decades the department has not been funded or supported at the level it deserves," said Council President and Youth and Recreation Committee Chair Arnie Fielkow. "The 'best practices' survey by the Greater New Orleans After-School Partnership will help identify key areas for reform, and will ultimately allow our City's recreation opportunities to flourish and grow like never before. The current inequities in programs and facilities are glaring, and it is my sincere hope that every child in New Orleans will soon be able to access the same quality fields and programs that only a few are able to enjoy right now."

Specifically, the study commissioned by GNOAP will examine the governance mechanisms and funding streams of NORD. Additionally, similar recreation models throughout the country will be studied to give context to the current recreation system in New Orleans. GNOAP will contract with professional consultants, who have a vast amount of experience in parks and recreation, to conduct the independent study.

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Media Advisory

March 5, 2008

NORD Reform Moving Forward

- What:** New Orleans City Council Youth and Recreation Committee Meeting
- Who:** Gina Warner - Greater New Orleans After-School Partnership
Richard Horton - Bucher, Willis and Ratcliff, Inc.
- When:** Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.
- Where:** City Council Chamber
- Background:** The New Orleans City Council recognizes that parks, playgrounds and Recreation programs provide a multitude of benefits to participants, their communities, crime prevention, the economy and the environment. The Council also believes that standards can be developed to ensure cost-effective, responsive, accountable, and sustainable delivery of high-quality recreation programming for the entire community. As a result the body has drafted and passed 2 motions calling for a comprehensive "best practices" strategic assessment analyzing all aspects of recreation in New Orleans to be commissioned and submitted to the Council's Youth and Recreation Committee for review and comment.
- Councilmember-at-Large and chair of the Youth and Recreation Committee, Arnie D. Fielkow, has taken the lead on NORD's potential reform. He has partnered with Gina Warner of the Greater New Orleans After-School Partnership (GNOAP) to fund the assessment. GNOAP is in possession of a grant that it has chosen to use toward an assessment of recreation facilities within the city and some of the "best practices" around the country. Upon the completion of the assessment, the Youth and Recreation Committee, in conjunction with the full Council, intends to initiate reform steps for NORD.
- Contact:** Kate Schneiderman
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**Council Supports Human Relations Commission,
Passes Resolution Supporting Port of New Orleans &
Addresses Business Recovery Grant & Loan Program Progress**

News Release

March 6, 2008

Contents

Supports Human Relations
Commission
Supports Port of New Orleans
Addresses Business Recovery
Grant & Loan Program Progress

Contact:

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[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - March 6, 2008 - Today, the New Orleans City Council supported the Human Relations Commission and passed Resolution R-08-108 urging approval of the 2008 legislative package of the Port of New Orleans. The Council also addressed the Louisiana Economic Development Department's Business Recovery Grant & Loan Program progress.

Supports Human Relations Commission



The Human Relations Commission's (HRC) 2007 Report "We Believe in One New Orleans" was presented today before the Council. The report provided insight into HRC's efforts to engage the community and outlined twelve recommendations

Members of Human Relations Commission aimed at alleviating human

relations challenges in the City.

During 2007, the HRC conducted monthly community "listening sessions." These listening sessions provided a forum for cultural group leaders to discuss their contributions and their perceptions of respect and inclusion of diverse groups in New Orleans.

Representatives from numerous cultural groups, including the Hispanic, Vietnamese, Arab American and religious communities to name a few, provided the Council with descriptions of the most prevalent concerns expressed by their group during the "listening sessions."

The 2007 Report includes twelve recommendations developed by the HRC to resolve existing human relations challenges and promote awareness and respect for all cultural groups in the City. The recommendations focus on local business, housing, police relations, education of minority students, and the role of elected officials to name a few.

The Council expressed their gratitude to the HRC for the time and effort put forth in the development of the report and proposed the creation of a task force dedicated to acting on the Commission's twelve recommendations in a timely fashion.

Supports Port of New Orleans



The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-08-108 urging the Louisiana Legislature and Governor Jindal to approve the 2008 legislative package of the Port of New Orleans.

Gary LaGrange from the Port of
Port of New Orleans Presentation

New Orleans appeared before the Council today to discuss improvements to the Port and trade opportunities in the Panama Canal.

The Council emphasized that approval of these projects is essential to the vitality of the Port, to the recovery of New Orleans and to the creation of new and increased economic opportunities for the citizens of New Orleans.

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "We need to take action now and take advantage of this critical opportunity for New Orleans to become the gateway to the America's."

This Resolution reflects the Council's strong support of the Port of New Orleans' legislative package. The package includes the following items:

- Commitment for \$250 million for Napoleon Container Terminal Phase 2 which will allow the Port to develop a three berth twenty acre complex to be incorporated into the Port's existing container terminal and will enable the port to secure the long term commitment of one of the world's largest container carriers by expanding terminal capacity by 45%.
- Port Priority funding request: \$6 million for improvements to the Port's France Road Container Terminal to support the development of Latin American trade through the vessel services provided by Seaboard Marine.
- Capital Outlay Request: \$14 million for cruise terminal boarding structures at Julia Street and Poland Avenue Cruise Terminals, essential to attracting the next generation of cruise vessels.
- Approval of a tax credit for Louisiana shippers for imported and exported cargo through Louisiana Ports.
- Approval of a bill to forgive bond debt loan to local governments which was provided not only to the Port but to municipalities, parishes and other local governmental entities to aid in their post Katrina recovery.
- Support for the Port's request to the State Bond Commission to give final approval for the Cold Storage project and Poland Avenue Cruise Terminal.

Addresses Business Recovery Grant & Loan Program



The Council received an update from the Louisiana Economic Development Department on the progress of the Louisiana Business Recovery Grant and Loan Program.

Michael Hecht, Director of Business Recovery Services for the Louisiana Economic Development Department, provided the Council with a report on the Business Recovery Services for successes of Phase

One of the program.

Michael Hecht, Director of
the Louisiana Economic
Development Department

Hecht also briefed the Council on the launch of Phase Two of the program and discussed steps going forward.

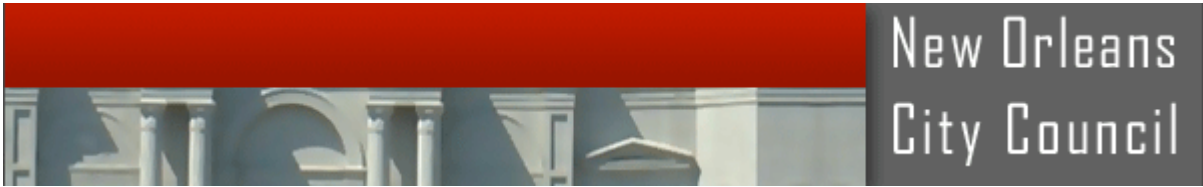
Hecht emphasized the department's efforts to simplify the grant and loan process - citing the numerous changes that have been made to streamline Phase Two of the small business grant program, including modifying program guidelines to include more worthy businesses.

As Phase Two commences, Hecht assured the Council that the Economic Development Department will work with the community through a series of outreach and information sessions to ensure that local business owners are informed about the grant program and necessary steps to participate.

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City Council's Efforts Yield New Cox-DISH Network Agreement For Broadcast of New Orleans Hornets Games

News Release

March 10, 2008

Contact:

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[New Orleans
City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - March 10, 2008 - Today on the steps of City Hall, Council President Arnie Fielkow and District "C" Councilmember James Carter, along with representatives from St. Tammany Parish Council, Cox Sports Television (CST) and the New Orleans Hornets, announced the outcome of their persistent collaborative efforts to resolve the Hornets, North Shore and Gulf Coast broadcast dispute.

Cox Sports Television has signed a broadcast deal with DISH Network to carry CST broadcasts of Hornets basketball games on the North Shore as well as the Gulfport/Diamondhead market in Mississippi. The agreement will apply to many areas where Charter is offered and this will be the first time that the Gulfport/Diamondhead market will receive broadcasts of the Hornets games - ultimately providing wider regional access to Hornets game broadcasts.

The agreement between CST and DISH Network is the direct result of persistent efforts throughout the past few months by the New Orleans City Council, the St. Tammany Parish Council, CST and the Hornets to resolve the franchise's broadcast dispute. This deal represents a victory for the City of New Orleans, the North Shore, the Hornets and the team's fans across the region.

Council President Fielkow, in his capacity as the Chair of the Special Projects Development & Economic Development Committee, and District "C" Councilmember Carter, in his capacity as the Chair of the Cable & Telecommunications Committee, have worked determinedly with representatives from the St. Tammany Parish Council, other parishes and broadcast companies to ensure that residents on the North Shore and elsewhere have the opportunity to watch Hornets basketball games.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "I am thrilled that an agreement has been reached between Cox Sports Television (CST) and DISH Network to carry broadcasts of Hornets games across the New Orleans region. Finally, North Shore residents will be able to watch their team like their neighbors in New Orleans. The new addition of broadcasts to the Gulfport area of Mississippi further ensures that the New Orleans Hornets can continue their already great success growing their fan base. The Hornets are a key economic and cultural asset to New Orleans, and I commend CST and DISH Network for this agreement. I also hope this satellite agreement will encourage Charter to quickly reach their own deal with CST."

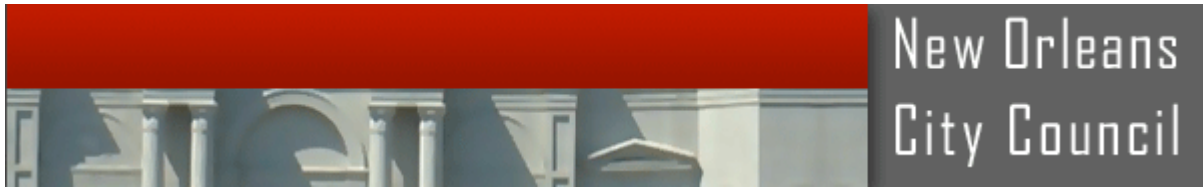
Councilmember Carter said, "I applaud Cox Communications for working so diligently to make the Hornets games available to citizens in the surrounding areas who are eager to support the team."

The City Council has been working to resolve this issue since January, when they passed a resolution requesting that the Special Development Projects & Economic Development and the Cable & Telecommunications Committees work with the St. Tammany Parish Council, representatives from the New Orleans Hornets, Cox Communications and Charter Communications to return broadcasts of New Orleans Hornets basketball games to the North Shore. The Council remains hopeful that Charter will reach an agreement with CST in the near future.

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Media Advisory

March 10, 2008

Council President Arnie Fielkow & Councilmember James Carter Will Make an Announcement Regarding Hornets Broadcasts

What: Council President Fielkow and District "C" Councilmember Carter along with representatives from Cox Sports Television and the New Orleans Hornets will make an announcement regarding Hornets broadcasts.

Who: Arnie Fielkow - New Orleans City Council President
James Carter - District "C" Councilmember and Chair, Council Cable & Telecommunications Committee
Jerry Binder - St. Tammany Parish Council Chairman
George Shinn - Owner, New Orleans Hornets
Hugh Weber - President, New Orleans Hornets
Rod Mickler - Vice President of Regional Sports, Cox Sports Television

When: Monday, March 10, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

Where: Steps of City Hall - 1300 Perdido Street
In case of rain - City Hall Foyer

Background: In January, the City Council passed a resolution requesting that the Special Development Projects & Economic Development and the Cable & Telecommunications Committees work with the St. Tammany Parish Council, representatives of the New Orleans Hornets and cable broadcast companies to return broadcasts of New Orleans Hornets basketball games to the North Shore. Since that time, all parties have been involved in good-faith negotiations to resolve the broadcasting dispute.

Contact: Kate Schneiderman
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Media Advisory

March 13, 2008

**Council President Arnie Fielkow and Councilmember Stacy Head Sponsor
Atkinson-Stern Tennis Center Redevelopment Public Input Meeting**

- WHAT:** Council President Arnie Fielkow and Councilmember Stacy Head are sponsoring a public input meeting for the Office of Recovery Development and Administration (ORDA) to present funding sources and other budget information and preliminary design plans for the high-priority Atkinson-Stern Tennis Center redevelopment project and for others in the community to provide input so that desired changes can be incorporated.
- WHO:** ORDA Deputy of Neighborhood Stabilization Anthony Faciane, Council President Arnie Fielkow and District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
- WHEN:** Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Jewish Community Center, 5342 St. Charles Ave.
- BACKGROUND:** The renovation of the Atkinson-Stern Tennis Center was identified in the New Orleans Neighborhood Revitalization Plans (Lambert Plans, November 2006) and the Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP) plans (January 2007) as a "high recovery value" project with "very high priority" because it will increase physical fitness opportunities and neighborhood public safety through lighting and foot traffic, and it was announced that "architectural rehabilitation designs are in progress."
- ORDA has long said that once preliminary designs were submitted "a public meeting [will be held] to incorporate changes to the facility based on community input." CityBusiness 1/28/08. The damage assessment was completed October 19, 2007, the design scope was due November 5, 2007 and the preliminary design phase was due on January 8, 2008.
- CONTACT:** Kate Schneiderman
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The New Orleans Food Policy Advisory Committee

March 18, 2008

Contact: Dee Boling
504.988.7410

David Adler
215.575.0444 x120

Natalie Jayroe, Co-Chair
Second Harvest Food Bank

Jay Breaux, Co-Chair
Breaux Mart Supermarkets

Sister Anthony Barczykowski
Catholic Charities

Eric Baumgartner
Louisiana Public Health Institute

Dwayne Boudreaux
Circle Foods

David Cody
Office of Recovery
and Development Administration

Jessica Elliott
Louisiana Retailers Association

Dana Eness
Urban Conservancy

Randy Fertel
Fertel Foundation

Greta Gladney
The Renaissance Project

Denny Gnesda
Supervalu

Ashley Graham
Share Our Strength Louisiana

Sandra Gunner
LA Recovery Authority
& New Orleans Chamber

Jim LeBlanc
Volunteers of America

Clayton Lester
Associated Grocers

Shaula Lovera
Hispanic Apostolate

Veda Manuel
Grow New Orleans

Richard McCarthy
marketumbrella.com

Carl Molsenbocker
LSU AgCenter

Loretta Poree
Small Business Administration

Darlene Robert
Robert Fresh Market

Sandra Robinson
New Orleans Health Department

Diego Rose
Tulane University
School of Public Health

Donald Rouse
Rouse's

Bill Rousselle
Bright Moments Public Relations

Gregory St. Etienne
Ultimate Technical Solutions, Inc.

John Weidman
The Food Trust

Michelle Whetten
Enterprise Community Partners

Gary Wood
ECD/Hope Community Credit Union

Roy Zuppardo
Zuppardo's Family Supermarket

REPORT STRESSES NEED FOR BETTER ACCESS TO FRESH, HEALTHY FOOD In New Orleans, current supply lags far behind national average

NEW ORLEANS – (March 18, 2008) The New Orleans Food Policy Advisory Committee released 10 recommendations for bringing healthy food to New Orleans. The recommendations were published in a report entitled “Building Healthy Communities: Expanding Access to Fresh Food Retail,” which explores the problem of food access in New Orleans and Louisiana, and presents ten concrete, achievable recommendations aimed at both the City and the State.

“Food Policy Advisory Committee members met a number of times over the past year to determine the main barriers to fresh food access and came up with concrete solutions specific to our region,” said Natalie Jayroe, president and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana and co-chair of the committee. “Our recommendations focus on practical actions that can be accomplished and will have a tremendous impact on residents.”

The Committee’s ten recommendations have already received the support of the New Orleans City Council. Council President Arnie Fielkow has convened a task force of committee members and city officials who are developing strategies for implementation of the recommendations.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans had 38 full-service supermarkets, which averaged about 12,000 residents per store. Today, 18 supermarkets service about 18,000 residents per store. Nationally, there are an average of 8,800 residents per supermarket.

Specific recommendations include providing tax incentives that encourage retailers to sell fresh food, launching a grocery shuttle service to help residents without cars get to full-service grocery stores, expanding federal nutrition programs in the state that enable residents to purchase more locally grown produce, and developing a state financing program to provide grants and loans to encourage development of supermarkets, grocery stores, and farmers markets in underserved areas.

To request a copy of the report or download a PDF version of it, please visit www.sph.tulane.edu/prc.

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Council Passes Resolutions Urging Reconsideration of
U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates and
Supporting Tourism & Hospitality Industry,
Hispanic Voter Registration Campaign and Bicycle Friendly New Orleans

News Release

March 20, 2008

Contents

Urges Reconsideration of U.S.
Census Bureau Population
Estimates
Supports Tourism & Hospitality
Industry
Supports Hispanic Voter
Registration Campaign
Encourages Bicycle Friendly New
Orleans

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
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[New Orleans
City Council](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

New Orleans, LA - March 20, 2008 - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed resolutions urging the U.S. Census Bureau to reconsider its low population estimates for New Orleans and supporting New Orleans' Tourism & Hospitality Industry, LatiNola Votes! Hispanic Voter Registration Campaign and a bicycle friendly New Orleans.

Urges Reconsideration of U.S. Census Bureau
Population Estimates



The Council passed Resolution R-08-139 urging the U.S. Census Bureau to reconsider its low population estimates and encouraging all efforts to provide more accurate population estimates reflecting the actual population of the City.

The U.S. Census Bureau's annual population estimate serves as a basis for determining the amount of federal funding cities receive for essential human services. The U.S. Census estimate of the New Orleans population as of July 2007 underestimates the actual population of the City by roughly 60,000 people.

An undercount of this degree would result in a loss of nearly \$56 million to the City of New Orleans over the next three years, depriving the City of funds vitally needed to supply mental health and substance abuse services, to provide care for children and the elderly and to address the homelessness problem.

This Resolution reflects the Council's belief that the low population estimate threatens to hinder New Orleans' recovery by presenting an inaccurate picture of the City and denying New Orleans the funds which are essential to recovery efforts.

Supports Tourism & Hospitality Industry



Today, representatives from the Louisiana Restaurant Association as well as the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau (NOMCVB) came before the Council to update Councilmembers on the status of the Hospitality and Tourism

NOMCVB Representatives
Industry in New Orleans.

Jim Funk, President of the Louisiana Restaurant Association presented a status report on the local Louisiana Restaurant Industry, highlighting the industry's significant progress since Hurricane Katrina.

Funk said, "The restaurant industry is a vital part of the New Orleans economy and we continue to lead recovery efforts in spite of the mounting challenges we face."

President and CEO of the NOMCVB, Steve Perry, gave a presentation on the 2008 State Legislative agenda and the Tourism and Hospitality 2008 Legislative funding request. Perry asked that the Council join the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce and Greater New Orleans Inc. in unanimous support of the funding request.

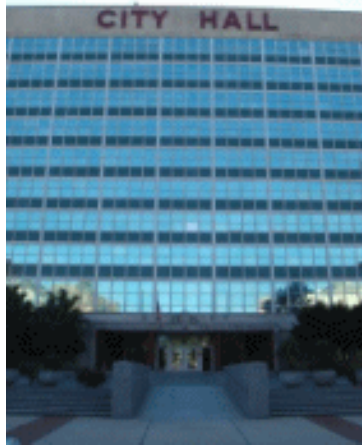
"We carry the brand of this great City to the national and international markets. You will not find a more ardent economic development partner than you will in us and we appreciate your support," said Perry.

The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-08-134 formally requesting approval by the Governor and Louisiana Legislature of the entire New Orleans Tourism and Hospitality 2008 Legislative Funding Request.

This Resolution reflects the Council's belief that the Tourism and Hospitality Industry has been the leading economic engine for the economy of New Orleans and the region, and the funding of the industry is critical to the recovery of New Orleans and the entire state of Louisiana.

The Council emphasized the importance of transitional funding to sustain effective and aggressive marketing efforts required to grow the hospitality industry and remain competitive in the national economy.

Supports Hispanic Voter Registration Campaign



The Council passed Resolution R-08-136, co-authored by Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow and Councilmember Carter, supporting the non-partisan efforts of LatiNola Votes! to increase New Orleans Hispanic citizen voter registration and participation in the electoral process.

LatiNola Votes! is a non-partisan, eight-month voter registration campaign with the goal of registering 2,000 new Hispanic voters for this fall's presidential-congressional elections. This campaign was launched by Puentes New Orleans, Inc. - a community development organization created to address the needs of New Orleans' growing Hispanic community.

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "I am very excited to support this initiative. As we continue our recovery, it is important that we hear from all of the voices in the community - the work of LatiNola Votes! is essential in this process."

This Resolution reflects the Council's belief that it is the responsibility of government to encourage full participation of all of its citizens in the election process.

The Council emphasized the importance of the Hispanic community in New Orleans' economy and culture and encouraged all eligible New Orleanians to actively participate in the democratic process and register to vote.

Encourages Bicycle Friendly New Orleans




The City Council passed Resolution R-08-135, authored by Councilmember Midura, authorizing and requesting that the Regional Planning Commission, the Mayor's Office and other City departments and agencies work together to complete and submit an application for the City of New Orleans to the League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Community Program.

Councilmember Midura The Bicycle Friendly Community Program is a national program recognizing communities for their efforts in promoting a safe and efficient bicycling environment and providing guidance for future improvements.

"This is a great program and we are proud to encourage a safe bicycle friendly environment here in New Orleans," said Midura.

The Resolution cites the work done by the City of New Orleans to encourage



a bicycle friendly community. These efforts include the City Planning Commission New Century New Orleans Transportation Master Plan's provision for a city-wide network of bicycle routes, as well as the Greater New Orleans Pedestrian & Bicycle Program's efforts to improve the bicycle and pedestrian environment of New Orleans through design workshops for engineers and planners and law enforcement officer training.

The Resolution reflects the Council's support of a bicycle friendly New Orleans and surrounding region, promoting the usage of bicycling as both a means of transportation and for recreational purposes.

New Orleans City Council

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New Orleans City Council, St. Tammany Parish Council &
Lieutenant Governor Offer New Option to Reach
Cox Sports-Charter Agreement on Hornets Broadcast Dispute

News Release

March 31, 2008

In This Email

Joint Letter to Cox Sports Television &
Charter Communications

Contact:
Kate Schneiderman
Office of
Councilmember-at-Large
Arnie Fielkow
Ph: (504) 905-9893
krschneiderman@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - March 31, 2008 - Today, New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow, St. Tammany Parish Council Chairman Jerry Binder and Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu issued a joint letter to Cox Sports Television and Charter Communications offering an independent mediator to help resolve the North Shore programming dispute involving the broadcast of New Orleans Hornets basketball games.

The letter states that New Orleans City Council President Fielkow, St. Tammany Parish Council Chairman Binder and Lieutenant Governor Landrieu request that Cox Sports Television and Charter Communications enter into immediate negotiations which would be mediated by Tulane University Sports Law Director, Gabe Feldman. The letter also requests that mediation commence within 24 hours. *(See joint letter below.)*

March 31, 2008

Mr. Greg Rigdon
Senior Vice President
Charter Communications

Mr. Rod Mickler
Vice President of Regional Sports
Cox Sports Television

Re: Charter-Cox Sports Agreement

Dear Messrs. Rigdon and Mickler:

As you are aware, the undersigned have been working for many weeks to help facilitate an agreement between Charter

Communications ("Charter") and Cox Sports Television ("Cox") with regard to the telecast of New Orleans Hornets games in Charter's marketing territory, including the New Orleans area's North Shore. While such an agreement has been reached between Cox and Dish Network for satellite coverage, Charter and Cox have been unable to reach an accord for cable telecasts.

In a March 28 Times Picayune article, both Charter and Cox expressed a continued desire to reach agreement, with Charter state director of governmental relations James A. Laurent, Jr. stating, "We're still trying to get a deal done... We're going to do everything we can to make it happen."

The undersigned are still receiving a significant number of requests from constituents asking that we continue to help facilitate an agreement between the parties. Such an agreement remains vital given the importance of the remaining regular season games available for broadcast (the Hornets are currently vying for the #1 seed in the Western Conference) and the recent accord signed between the Hornets and the State of Louisiana which involves minimum attendance thresholds and thus the need for maximum game exposure for existing and potentially new Hornets fans.

As such, and consistent with your statements, we respectfully request that Charter and Cox enter into immediate negotiations, which would be mediated at no cost by Tulane University Sports Law Director, Gabe Feldman. Dr. Feldman directs the country's foremost sports law program and is familiar with cable broadcast agreements throughout the country. He has graciously agreed to devote his time and service to this mediation this week.

Given that time is of the essence (the Hornets currently have ten remaining regular season games), we request that this mediation, which can be handled either in person or telephonically by the parties, commence within the next 24 hours. We also ask that, as decision makers for your respective companies, the two of you directly participate in this mediation.

We believe that, if the parties are sincere in desiring to reach agreement, the procedure outlined above should be acceptable and hopefully can eliminate the impasse which has now existed for many months.

We thank you for your consideration of this request and ask that you contact New Orleans City Council President Arnie D. Fielkow via e-mail at afielkow@cityofno.com to confirm your participation.



Yours very truly,

Hon. Mitchell Landrieu

Lieutenant Governor
State of Louisiana

Arnie D. Fielkow

President
New Orleans City Council

Jerry Binder

Chairman
St. Tammany Parish Council

New Orleans City Council

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Council Unveils Streaming Media Project & Supports N.O. Aviation Board, Youth Sports Complex Development at Six Flags Site, NOPD Efficiency Efforts & Domestic Violence Prevention

News Release

April 3, 2008

Contents

Unveils Streaming Media Project
Supports New Orleans Aviation Board
Supports Development of Youth Sports Complex at Six Flags Site
Commends NOPD Domestic Violence Prevention
Supports NOPD Efficiency Efforts

Contact:
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Council Chief of Staff
(504) 658-1082
rjpursell@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - April 3, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council unveiled an innovative streaming media project and passed resolutions and ordinances supporting the New Orleans Aviation Board, development of a youth sports complex at Six Flags Site and New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) efficiency efforts and domestic violence prevention efforts.

Unveils Streaming Media Project



Representatives from the Council's Cable and Telecommunications Committee unveiled Granicus - the new, innovative streaming media project that will increase public accessibility and track local government at work.

Representatives from Cable and Telecommunications Committee

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "This is a new opportunity for local government to operate at its best - with transparency, accessibility, and full disclosure."

The goal of the Council through Granicus, the streaming media solution provider, is to develop a communications system to reach displaced citizens, streamline and make more cost effective the necessary government processes related to meetings, make the business of public meetings more transparent and make the actions taken at meetings more easily available to the public.

"By being more proactive and implementing this streaming media project, this Council is sending a strong message to the rest of the world - New Orleans' commerce and government are thriving and keeping citizens in the diaspora engaged in the recovery of their city," said Cable and Telecommunications Committee Chairman, Councilmember James Carter.

This new technology is changing the way the public views and participates in the government process by providing the general public easy access to information and public documents.

Supports New Orleans Aviation Board



New Orleans Aviation Board
Representatives

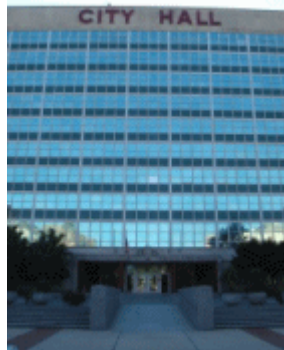
The Council passed Resolution R-08-153 authorizing the New Orleans Aviation Board to undertake construction of a consolidated rental car facility. Since Hurricane Katrina, during peak demand periods, there are fewer rental cars available than

those requested by rental car customers.

The New Orleans Aviation Board, in conjunction with rental car companies, proposed to build a four-story consolidated rental car facility. The facility will provide rental car customers with facilities on the ground floor and three additional floors containing 2,600 rental car spaces.

Construction of the four-story consolidated rental car facility will commence in December 2010.

Supports Development of Youth Sports Complex at Six Flags Site



The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-08-162 requesting that the New Orleans delegation to the Louisiana Legislature include sufficient development funding in the State Capital Outlay bill for a potential youth sports complex in eastern New Orleans.

This Resolution reflects the Council's belief that the development funding is crucial to moving this project forward and members of the Louisiana Legislature have expressed a desire to lead this effort in the current Regular Legislative Session.

The Council emphasized that a youth sports complex at the Six Flags site would be a potential economic development and recreation benefit for New Orleans and a catalyst for the recovery of eastern New Orleans.

The City has issued a Request for Proposals for a feasibility study for the development of a youth sports complex at the Six Flags site. The complex would be suitable for recreational and/or community-oriented uses that support the best and highest use of the land.

Commends Sheriff Gusman and NOPD Domestic Violence Prevention



The Council passed Resolution R-08-164 demonstrating its appreciation for Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman for his commitment to the support and protection of victims of domestic violence through the implementation of the Louisiana Automated Victim Notification System (LAVNS).

LAVNS enables domestic violence victims to easily determine when their abuser has been released from prison.

The Council also expressed their appreciation for NOPD Superintendent Warren Riley's dedication to the protection of victims of domestic violence through the implementation of accountability training.

In light of the V-Day celebrations that will be held in New Orleans, April 11-12, 2008, the Council emphasized that ending violence against women is a top priority in both the New Orleans community and the state of Louisiana.

V-Day is an organized response against violence towards women throughout the globe, with the goal of achieving a world in which women and girls live safely and freely.

Supports NOPD Efficiency Efforts




The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 26,924 to amend the Code of the City of New Orleans to add a section permitting the issuance of a written summons in place of custodial arrest for certain municipal offenses.

Specifically, the new section states that an officer shall issue a written summons rather than make a custodial arrest except when one of the following circumstances exist:

- The person does not possess identification issued by any municipal, state, territorial, federal or other governmental authority within the United States;
- The person makes a statement indicating an intent to disregard the summons or refuses to sign the summons;
- The person acts in a violent or destructive manner;
- The person is a habitual offender or an officer determines it absolutely necessary to make an arrest.

The Council also passed Ordinance Calendar No. 26,925 to establish a procedure for the issuance of a summons in response to traffic offenses for individuals who have outstanding traffic attachments, and to provide for various penalties to be assigned to individuals who fail to appear in traffic court.



Criminal Justice Committee Chairman, Councilmember James Carter said, "Today, in cooperation with the New Orleans Police Department, the City Council passed legislation that supports Chief Riley's efforts to reduce the number of arrests for minor municipal offenses. This effort will improve efficiency in the police department, and will allow officers to focus on arresting violent offenders thereby enhancing public safety."

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Media Advisory

April 11, 2008

**District "B" Councilmember Head & District "C" Councilmember Carter
To Outline Central City Anti-Violence Community Collaborative**

WHAT: District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head and Council Criminal Justice Committee Chair District "C" Councilmember James Carter will hold a press conference to outline a Central City anti-violence community collaborative.

Councilmembers are expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Central City Partnership. The goal of the collaborative is to raise awareness of Central City criminal activity, create support for the Council's Criminal Justice Committee activities and continue working together with other community organizations as well as the Sixth District Police.

WHO: District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
District "C" Councilmember James Carter, Council Criminal Justice Committee Chair
Major Robert Bardy, Sixth District Police Officer
Audrey Browder, Central City Partnership Chairperson
Barbara Lacen-Keller, Central City Partnership Comeback Committee

WHEN: Monday, April 14, 2008
10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Sixth District Police Station
1930 Martin Luther King Blvd.
(Between S. Rampart St. and Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.)

CONTACT: Barbara Lacen-Keller
Director of Constituent Services
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
Ph: (504) 253-1364
Email: blacenkeller@cityofno.com

New Orleans City Council

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Councilmember-At-Large Clarkson to Travel to Washington, D.C. With Regional Planning Commission

News Release

April 15, 2008

Contact:
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Constituent Affairs /
Special Projects
Office of Councilmember-at-
Large Jacquelyn B. Clarkson
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estrachan@cityofno.com

New Orleans
City Council



New Orleans, LA - April 15, 2008 - Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, representing the Mayor and the City of New Orleans, will travel to Washington, D.C. along with Jefferson Parish Councilmember Thomas Capella, former St. Bernard Parish President Charles Ponstein, Plaquemines Parish President Bill Nungesser and St. Tammany Parish President Kevin Davis, on behalf of the Regional Planning Commission (RPC). Councilmember-at-Large

Clarkson will highlight priority issues for New Orleans including full funding by the federal government of the 100-year flood protection plan.

The RPC representatives will address the Louisiana Congressional Delegation as well as other congressional leaders to discuss the urgency of regional disaster recovery needs.

"I am proud to represent my city as part of this regional coalition in Washington, D.C.," said Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson.

During the two day trip, the metropolitan area delegation will meet with members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to address federal requests made on behalf of Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines and St. Tammany parishes. They will also discuss key issues including the transportation needs of their respective parishes and supplemental funding by FEMA for immediate infrastructure capital needs of the Sewerage and Water Board.

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**Council Authorizes Retention of Special Counsel,
Supports Regional Transportation Plans,
Addresses Healthcare Challenges and
Receives Cultural Report**

News Release

April 17, 2008

Contents

Authorizes Retention of Special
Counsel

Supports Regional
Transportation Plans

Addresses Healthcare
Challenges

Receives Cultural Report from
New Orleans African American
Museum

Contact:
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Council Chief of Staff
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rjpursell@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

New Orleans, LA - April 17, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council passed a motion authorizing retention of Special Counsel for itself, as well as a resolution supporting regional transportation plans. The Council also addressed healthcare challenges in the City and received a cultural report from the New Orleans African American Museum of Art, Culture and History.

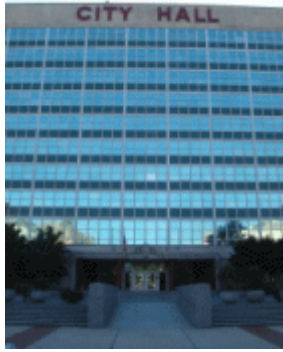


**Authorizes Retention of Special Counsel for
the Council**

The Council passed Motion M-08-186, co-authored by Councilmembers Carter, Midura, Willard-Lewis and Hedge-Morrell, authorizing and requesting the Council President to sign a professional services contract to retain Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar as Special Counsel to the New Orleans City Council.

Competitive Selection Committee Chair Councilmember James Carter said, "We are excited as a Council to make this announcement and look forward to working together with Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar."

The Motion reflects the unanimous recommendation of the firm by the Council's Competitive Selection Committee. The Committee engaged in a thorough evaluation of several firms' proposals and interviewed the selected firm before making the recommendation.



Supports Regional Transportation Plans

The Council passed Resolution R-08-183, co-authored by Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow and Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson, in support of Regional Planning Commission (RPC) Resolution 08-2007.

RPC Resolution 08-2007 calls upon the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the Louisiana Legislature to appropriate up to \$20 million for the phased acquisition of approximately 12.0 miles of the East-West Corridor for future transportation purposes, consistent with the approved Metropolitan and Statewide Transportation Plans.

Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow said, "The Council is in full support of the Regional Planning Commission's Metropolitan and Statewide Transportation Plans - we recognize the importance of highway and mass transit improvements and will continue to work to meet the transportation needs in the East-West Corridor."

The East-West Corridor links the River Parishes, Jefferson Parish and Orleans Parish to the New Orleans Central Business District. Various transportation studies conducted over the past thirty years within the East-West Corridor have concluded that highway and mass transit improvements are necessary to meet growing transportation mobility, travel demands, and evacuation needs.



Addresses Healthcare Challenges

The Dean of Tulane University Medical School, Ben Sachs, came before the Council to brief Councilmembers on healthcare challenges in New Orleans.

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "We as a Council want to ensure that we provide the highest quality of care for our region."

Ben Sachs, Tulane University
Medical School Dean

Sachs highlighted healthcare challenges such as shortage of healthcare physicians in the future and hospital funding to name a few. He also presented the benefits of implementing neighborhood health centers in New Orleans.

"Neighborhood health centers become the glue of a community and allow communities to heal themselves," said Sachs.

Receives Cultural Report from New Orleans African American Museum



New Orleans African American
Museum Representatives

Representatives from the New Orleans African American Museum of Art, Culture and History came before the Council to give an overview of the museum and introduce the upcoming exhibit "A Celebration of Faith: Henriette Delille and the Sisters of the Holy Family."

"A Celebration of Faith" pays tribute to the Sisters of the Holy Family, the second oldest Catholic religious order for women of color in the United States. The exhibit charts the order's establishment in 1842 in New Orleans and its ongoing charitable endeavors.

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "We are very excited and honored to have an exhibit of this caliber featured at the New Orleans African American Museum of Art, Culture and History."

The New Orleans African American Museum is dedicated to protecting, preserving, and promoting through education the history, art and communities of African Americans in New Orleans and the African diaspora.

The exhibit will open on April 30th and remain on view through August 17th. The museum is located at 1418 Governor Nicholls Street.

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District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell Addresses Successes and Challenges of NOLA Public Education

News Release

April 18, 2008

Contact:
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[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - April 18, 2008 - The New Orleans City Council Education Committee, in partnership with the Scott S. Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives at Tulane University and the Greater New Orleans Education Foundation, officially released the 2008 *State of Public Education in New Orleans* report.

The report provides information regarding the progress of the current system of schools, based on available data as well as public opinion. The report also identifies several challenges facing New Orleans public schools.

Council Education Committee Chair and District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "We are very excited about the progress that has been made so far and look forward to addressing the remaining challenges. It is not only our goal, but also our responsibility, to improve public education for our children."

Click [here](#) to view the 2008 *State of Public Education in New Orleans* report.

New Orleans City Council

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Media Advisory

April 18, 2008

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head and Dr. Edward Blakely To Host Neighborhood Biking Tour

- What:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head and Dr. Edward Blakely, joined by members of the Freret neighborhood association, will host a neighborhood biking tour showcasing the future and on-going development of District "B."
- Who:** Dr. Edward Blakely, Executive Director for Recovery Management
Councilmember Stacy Head, District "B"
Robert Wolterman, Ochsner Baptist Vice President of Operations
- When:** Saturday, April 19, 2008
10:30 a.m.
- Where:** Ochsner Hospital
(Located on the corner of Napoleon Ave. and Magnolia St.)
- Click [here](#) to view map of biking tour.
- Contact:** Jason Abate
Chief of Staff
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
Phone: (504) 473-4953
Email: jabate@cityofno.com

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Council President Fielkow, the Jeremiah Group, ACORN & ACT
Sponsor Baton Rouge Listening Session
Featuring NOLA Recovery Director Dr. Ed Blakely

News Release

April 28, 2008

Contact:
Kate Schneiderman
Office of
Councilmember-at-Large
Arnie Fielkow
Ph: 504-905-9893
krschneiderman@cityofno.com

New Orleans
City Council

New Orleans, LA - April 28, 2008 - Council President Arnie Fielkow, the Jeremiah Group, ACORN, All Congregations Together (ACT) and Recovery Director Dr. Ed Blakely are hosting a listening session for displaced New Orleans residents currently living in the Baton Rouge area on Tuesday, April 29th from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The session will be held in the Metropolitan Council Chambers located at 222 Saint Louis Street, Room 364, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow said, "I know that many people are still considering whether to return to New Orleans, and it is up to the City to give them the information to make that critical decision."

He continued, "The session will feature recovery updates given by Dr. Blakely, as well as give us a chance to hear about the most pressing issues and concerns of displaced residents. I will then take those concerns back to New Orleans to continue addressing them."

All New Orleans residents currently living in the Baton Rouge area are strongly encouraged to attend the session to hear about recovery projects and share their stories and concerns with Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow and Dr. Blakely.

For more information, please contact Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow's office at (504) 658-1060.

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Office of Inspector General Operations Logistics Being Addressed

News Release

April 29, 2008

Contact:
Kate Schneiderman
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Arnie Fielkow
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[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - April 29, 2008 - In order to address the logistical and operational issues currently hampering the work of the Office of Inspector General (OIG), City Council President Arnie Fielkow held a meeting on Friday, April 25th with key stakeholders including Inspector General Robert Cerasoli, Chair of the Ethics Review Board Father Kevin Wildes and Chief Administrator's Office (CAO) personnel Courtney Bagneris and Jay Palestina.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "It is time to get the Office of Inspector General fully staffed and operational so that it can begin to do its job. Our City has important issues that must be addressed by the Inspector General sooner rather than later and we cannot afford to wait any longer for bureaucratic issues to be worked out. Friday's meeting was very productive and I am optimistic that we put procedures in place to address any present and future logjams."

According to Councilmember Fielkow, several key decisions were made including assurances by the CAO personnel that computers and phones for immediate hires would be available in two weeks and the remainder of the computers and phones for all staff positions would be available within 30-45 days.

In addition, the CAO personnel agreed to provide written monthly status reports to the Budget Committee on the status of the OIG and were designated as point persons to address any and all issues the OIG brings to the City in regard to logistical needs.

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Media Advisory

April 30, 2008

Council to Recognize NOPD Command Staff For Outstanding Service During Hurricane Katrina

What: As New Orleans approaches the third anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the City Council will formally acknowledge the New Orleans Police Department's (NOPD) heroic efforts and issue proclamations to those members of the NOPD who served during Hurricane Katrina and its tumultuous aftermath.

This will be the first of several Council meetings at which officers will be recognized, beginning with NOPD Command Staff and followed by the recognition of officers from each police district at subsequent meetings.

Who: Members of the NOPD Command Staff

When: Thursday, May 1, 2008
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber
City Hall
1300 Perdido Street
New Orleans, LA 70112

Contact: Kimberly Parker
Director of Legislation and Communications
Office of District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Phone: (504) 450-8271
Email: kmparker@cityofno.com

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**NOPD Superintendent Riley to Present
1st Monthly Community Policing Report
At Council Meeting**

News Release

April 30, 2008

Contact:
Kate Schneiderman
Office of
Councilmember-at-Large
Arnie Fielkow
Ph: 504-905-9893
krschneiderman@cityofno.com

New Orleans
City Council

New Orleans, LA - April 30, 2008 - At tomorrow's regular Council meeting, NOPD Superintendent Warren Riley will present the first monthly community policing report. Council President Arnie Fielkow requested Superintendent Riley's appearance.

Superintendent Riley's presentation tomorrow marks the beginning of monthly reports to the City Council to discuss the NOPD's short-term tactical initiatives to combat crime. These monthly reports will also provide updates regarding the implementation of recommendations from Dr. Lee Brown's community policing report.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "I thank Superintendent Riley for agreeing to come before the Council every month to update the community on current tactics to improve community policing. The Council and the public looks forward to a candid report."

Superintendent Riley is expected to make his presentation at approximately 11:00 a.m. in the City Council Chamber.

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Property Tax Rolls to Open in Orleans Parish

Appeals Process Outlined

News Release

July 31, 2008

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082

rjpursell@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - July 31, 2008 - Tomorrow August 1, 2008, the property tax rolls will open in Orleans Parish. Assessment lists will be open for public inspection from August 1st to August 15th in the Assessors Offices on the fourth floor of City Hall located at 1300 Perdido Street.

According to Council Budget Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, this is a detailed and complex process - that is why we have attempted to simplify it by providing a list of frequently asked questions and other important information that can be immediately accessed online.

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "To ensure that the public is fully informed and that the process runs smoothly it is vital that accurate and accessible information be provided."

The New Orleans City Council, through its website www.neworleanscitycouncil.com, will provide detailed information on the Property Tax Assessments and Appeals process.

Click [here](#) for detailed information regarding your Property Tax Assessments and Appeals process in Orleans Parish.

To accommodate citizens waiting to meet with their Assessors on regular workdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. between August 1st and August 15th, the City Council has authorized the use of seating in the City Council Chamber.

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**Council Supports NOPD Community Policing Initiatives,
Addresses Blight Prevention Efforts &
Honors NOLA's 1st African American Mayor**

News Release

May 1, 2008

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
rjpursell@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - May 1, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council supported the New Orleans Police Department's (NOPD) community policing initiatives and addressed the blight prevention efforts of the NOPD and the Office of Recovery and Development Administration. The Council also honored the 30th anniversary of the inauguration of New Orleans' first African American Mayor, Dutch Morial.



Supports NOPD Community Policing Initiatives

New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Superintendent Warren Riley, accompanied by NOPD Assistant Superintendent Marlon Defillo and NOPD Deputy Superintendent Anthony Cannatella, appeared before the Council today to make a presentation on NOPD's current crime prevention initiatives.

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "I greatly appreciate Superintendent Riley for agreeing to come before the Council to update the community on current tactics to improve community policing."

Superintendent Riley's appearance marks the beginning of monthly reports to the City Council to discuss the NOPD's short-term tactical initiatives to combat crime.

These monthly reports will also provide updates regarding the implementation of recommendations from Dr. Lee Brown's community policing report.



NOPD and ORDA Representatives

Addresses NOPD Blight Prevention Efforts

Representatives from the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) and the Office of Recovery and Development Administration (ORDA) came before the Council today to brief Councilmembers on the NOPD blighted housing list.

At the request of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, NOPD Superintendent Warren Riley presented the list of blighted houses that are crime hot spots in order for ORDA to make it a priority.

Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson said, "We are working to aggressively fight blight and crime in the City and we will continue to work collaboratively with these groups in our efforts. We appreciate all of your hard work and are anxious to see results."

Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson requested that representatives from NOPD, ORDA and the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority report on the status of the blighted housing list at the regular Council meeting on June 5th.



Sybil Morial

Honors First African American Mayor of New Orleans

The Council passed Resolution R-08-202 honoring the 30th anniversary of Dutch Morial's inauguration as the first African American Mayor of the City of New Orleans.

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis said, "We are honored today to recognize this very significant anniversary of the inauguration of New Orleans' first African American Mayor. The Honorable Ernest N. Morial was an outstanding hero and leader - a great servant of the people and of this City."

The Council presented Sybil Morial, the widow of the late Dutch Morial, with a leather-bound family record album and a resolution declaring May 1, 2008 as Ernest N. "Dutch" Morial Day. Sybil Morial also received a proclamation from Mayor Ray Nagin.

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District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
Statement Regarding 311

Statement

May 1, 2008

Contact:
Seung Hong
Office of District "A"
Councilmember Shelley
Midura
Office: (504) 658-1013
Cell: (504) 202-5267
shong@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - May 1, 2008 - District "A"
Councilmember Midura made the following statement in today's City Council meeting regarding her stance on the administration's request for additional 311 funding:

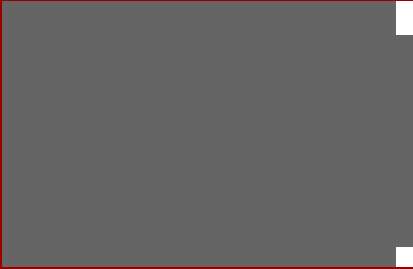
"I am resistant to supporting \$180,000 in public funding for a 311 program that has not yet developed a compelling plan for success. I question whether it makes sense to spend this amount of money until the larger structural and systemic issues are resolved.

We have got to plug the leaks and right the ship first. Ordering new furniture for the Titanic would not have made a lot of sense. I do not see how it makes a lot of sense here either. Until we resolve 311's core issues I am not going to support this kind of funding.

New Orleanians are looking for effective government. If we're going to spend \$28 million in taxpayer dollars on the 311 system, it had better work. It had better effectively address city service requests and constituent complaints. It had better have a tracking and delivery system that is transparent and accessible to constituents. But at this point it does not.

Thus, I cannot in good conscience support spending this many public dollars on a broken program. I do not fault the 311 workers who are only doing the job they were asked to do. I do however believe in holding accountable the architects of a system that is not working.

We have a governmental responsibility to our citizens to allocate their tax dollars responsibly and wisely to the greatest extent possible. In fact, this idea is fundamental to the concept of democratic governance. Our power and authority derives from our agreement and commitment to wise stewardship in the public interest.



I do not see how this \$180,000 in funding appropriately serves the public interest. However, I do see how it may have strategic value for the system architects in separating funding on a piecemeal basis. But that is not going to be enough for me to support it."

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Announcement

May 2, 2008

Dear Friends,

Pep Boys is back in Eastern New Orleans!

I want to personally invite each of you to attend the Grand Re-Opening of Pep Boys store in New Orleans East. This will be a two days full of great sales, food, entertainment, and giveaways. This will be the first and only Pep Boys store re-opening in Eastern New Orleans.

When: Saturday May 3, 2008 from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Ribbon Cutting will start at 7:00 a.m.

Sunday May 4, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Where: 12200 I-10 Service Road

See you there,

Cynthia Willard-Lewis

Council President Fielkow to Host "Constituent Coffees" for NOLA Citizens

News Release

May 6, 2008

Contact:
Kate Schneiderman
Office of
Councilmember-at-Large
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Ph: 504-905-9893
krschneiderman@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)



New Orleans, LA - May 6, 2008 - West Bank residents of New Orleans will have the opportunity to discuss key issues related to the City's recovery and general quality of life during a "Constituent Coffee" with Council President Arnie Fielkow on Friday, May 9, 2008.

Friday's "Constituent Coffee" is the first in a series of informal monthly morning gatherings around New Orleans hosted by Councilmember Fielkow. Each meeting will take place at a neighborhood coffee house or meeting space where citizens can stop by and speak with Councilmember Fielkow.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "My job is to represent every citizen of New Orleans and so I am holding these casual meetings across the City so citizens can speak with me in an accessible way. I understand that coming to City Hall can be burdensome for many people, so I am making every effort to be at a convenient neighborhood location every month. I look forward to all the West Bank residents stopping by at the first 'Constituent Coffee' this Friday morning."

The "Constituent Coffee" on Friday, May 9, 2008 will be held at Tout de Suite Coffee House in Algiers, located at 347 Verret Street on the corner of Verret and Alix Streets. The meeting will last from 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. "Constituent Coffees" are free and open to the public.

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Media Advisory

May 7, 2008

Councilmember Willard-Lewis to Attend State Public Hearing on Chef Menteur Landfill

- What:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard Lewis will attend a Public Hearing on wastewater at Chef Menteur Landfill. The hearing is being held by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ). New Orleans East residents, religious and community leaders and environmentalists will be present to voice their concerns.
- Who:** Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Representatives
District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
New Orleans East Residents and Community Leaders
- When:** Thursday, May 8, 2008
6:30 p.m.
- Where:** Mary Queen of Vietnam Church
Parish Hall
5069 Willowbrook Drive
New Orleans, LA 70129
- Contact:** Mimi-Cristien Nguyen
Legislative and Policy Research
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
Phone: (504) 658-1050
Cell: (504) 251-3476
Email: mcnguyen@cityofno.com

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District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell To Travel to Phoenix with NOLA Delegation Re. Golf Course Restoration

News Release

May 7, 2008

Contact:
Jared C. Brossett
Chief-of-Staff
Office of District "D"
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[New Orleans
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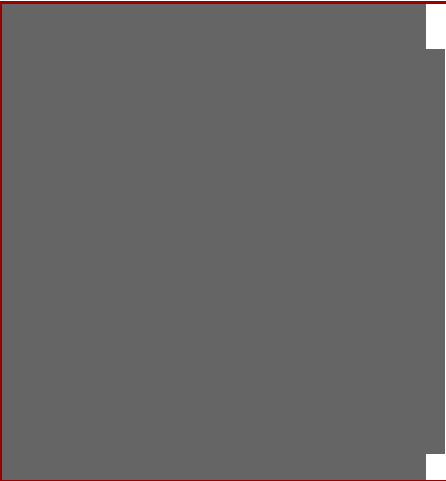
New Orleans, LA - May 7, 2008 - District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell along with Recovery Director Dr. Ed Blakely will lead a delegation of New Orleans city officials and community representatives from the Office of Recovery Management, New Orleans Redevelopment Authority and the Department of Parks and Parkways to meet with members of the City of Phoenix administration to discuss the restoration of the Joseph M. Bartholomew, Sr. Memorial Golf Course.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "Hurricane Katrina decimated the golf course, clubhouse and turf of the Joseph M. Bartholomew, Sr. Memorial Golf Course. I appreciate the support and initiative the people of Phoenix have undertaken to rebuild this historic landmark in the Ponchartrain Park neighborhood. I look forward to continuing the sister-city relationship we have developed with the City of Phoenix."

The New Orleans delegation will meet with members of the Phoenix administration on May 8-10, 2008 to discuss specifics relative to equipment, costs, phasing and the construction management of the golf course. A preliminary assessment of cost estimates has been compiled by the City of Phoenix Assessment Team.

During the three-day visit, the New Orleans delegation will also take tours of the parks and golf courses throughout the City of Phoenix.

In 2007, Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon and Phoenix City Councilmember Michael Johnson traveled to New Orleans to explore ways they could support the needs of the community. The City of Phoenix formed an alliance with the City of New Orleans and partnered with Freeport McMoRan to assist in raising funds for the redevelopment of the Joseph M. Bartholomew, Sr. Memorial Golf Course.



Joseph M. Bartholomew, Sr. Memorial Golf Course

The Joseph M. Bartholomew, Sr. Memorial Golf Course received its name from Joseph M. Bartholomew, an African American golf course architect. In the 1920's he was sent to New York by a wealthy Metairie Golf Club member to study golf course architecture. Upon his return, he built his first golf course, the Metairie Golf Course.

Following the construction of the 18-hole course, he proceeded to build a number of other courses throughout the city of New Orleans, including City Park No. 1, City Park No. 2, and the Pontchartrain Park courses. He also built courses throughout southeast Louisiana and one in the state of Mississippi.

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Media Advisory

May 7, 2008

Councilmember Willard-Lewis to Attend State Public Hearing on Chef Menteur Landfill

- What:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard Lewis will attend a Public Hearing on wastewater at Chef Menteur Landfill. The hearing is being held by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ). New Orleans East residents, religious and community leaders and environmentalists will be present to voice their concerns.
- Who:** Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Representatives
District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
New Orleans East Residents and Community Leaders
- When:** Thursday, May 8, 2008
6:30 p.m.
- Where:** Mary Queen of Vietnam Church
Parish Hall
5069 Willowbrook Drive
New Orleans, LA 70129
- Contact:** Mimi-Cristien Nguyen
Legislative and Policy Research
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
Phone: (504) 658-1050
Cell: (504) 251-3476
Email: mcnguyen@cityofno.com

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Council Continues Efforts to Increase Government Transparency

News Release

May 14, 2008

Contact:
Jason Abate
Office of District "B"
Councilmember Stacy Head
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jabate@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)



New Orleans, LA - May 14, 2008 - At tomorrow's regular Council meeting, District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head is expected to introduce two pieces of legislation that would allow the public to review all professional services contracts issued by the City.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "Professional services contracts should be available to the public in an easily accessible format. We have looked at other municipalities in the region, such as the City of Kenner, who have managed to provide their constituents with a user-friendly list of their current contracts."

The legislation further expands the Council's efforts to increase government transparency and emphasizes the importance of providing constituents with information about the use of public funds.

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News Release

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Announcement

May 13, 2008

Central City Community Job Fair

- WHAT:** "Walk it Out to Work it Out" Central City Community Job Fair
- WHO:** Sponsored by:

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
Central City Partnership Comeback Committee
New Orleans Police Department, Sixth District
Dryades YMCA
- WHEN:** Saturday, May 17, 2008
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Dryades YMCA
2220 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.
(At the corner of Jackson Ave. and Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.)
- CONTACT:** Barbara Lacen-Keller
Director of Constituent Services
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
Office: (504) 658-1020
Cell: (504) 253-1364
Email: blacenkeller@cityofno.com

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**Council Continues Investigation of Mayor's Office of Technology,
Supports Green Building, Addresses Road Home Program
& Elects New Council President and Vice President**

News Release

May 15, 2008

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New Orleans, LA - May 15, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council continued the investigation of the Mayor's Office of Technology, supported the Green Building Program and addressed the inequities of the Road Home Program. The Council also elected the new Council President and Vice President.

Continues Investigation of Mayor's Office of Technology



The Council passed Motion M-08-255 initiating an investigation of the operations of the Mayor's Office of Technology regarding contractual obligations and budget expenditures for the 311 system and crime cameras.

Councilmembers and Council staff have repeatedly requested information, documentation and testimony from the Mayor's Office of Technology over the past several months.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "I still have many questions that have gone unanswered and so I will continue the open investigation of the Mayor's Office of Technology."

The Council requested specific information and documentation including the following:

- All expenditures for crime camera installation and maintenance in 2007
- Budgeted and expected expenditures for installation and maintenance of crime cameras in 2008
- All contracts related to installation and maintenance of crime cameras in 2007 and 2008
- All expenditures for 311 services in 2007
- Budgeted and expected expenditures for 311 services in 2008
- All contracts related to 311 service for 2007 and 2008
- Testimony from the Director of the Mayor's Office of Technology

Supports Green Building Program



Global Green Representative
Linda Stone

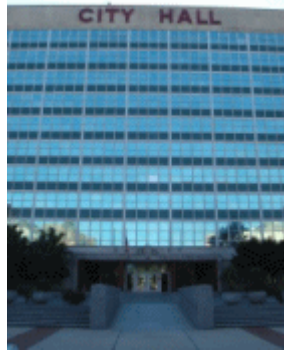
The Council passed Resolution R-08-246 supporting the Green Building Program and requesting a report and recommendations from the Administration concerning this Resolution and the Green Building Program.

The City reviewed the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system and determined it to be the most suitable standard to achieve a meaningful level of green building in City buildings and in private sector development.

The Green Building Program includes various requirements and actions including that all new public schools constructed in the City be designed, constructed and certified at the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Certification Level; that all major renovations be designed and constructed according to the City's criteria for green schools; and that the impact of school districts operations on the environment be minimized.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "Our children deserve to grow and learn in a healthy environment. This program will improve the quality of life for New Orleanians."

Addresses Road Home Program



The Council passed Resolution R-08-263 strongly urging the adoption of SB 740 (Road Home Program Applicants Bill of Rights) and addressing many inequities of the Road Home Program.

The Road Home Program Applicants Bill of Rights aims to correct many of the problems being experienced by Road Home applicants by providing these citizens with certain rights.

The Council also emphasized its support of the Citizen's Road Home Action Team (CHAT) to establish a Road Home Bill of Rights.

Elects New Council President and Vice President



Councilmember-at-Large
Clarkson

The Council passed Motions M-08-244 and M-08-245 providing for the election of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson as Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow as Council Vice President.

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "I am honored to serve as City Council President and I look forward to continuing the great work of this Council, leading the City in its recovery."

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "I have enjoyed my term as Council President and feel confident that Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson will be successful as the new Council President."

In accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Council, both the Council President and Council Vice President will serve one-year terms beginning June 1, 2008 and ending May 31, 2009.

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Councilmembers-At-Large Continue Regional Lobbying & Outreach Efforts in Washington, D.C.

News Release

May 16, 2008

Contact:
Kate Schneiderman
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Councilmember-at-Large
Arnie Fielkow
Ph: 504-905-9893
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The trip is a united effort between Orleans and Plaquemines Parish leadership to urge Congress and the Administration to provide additional relief for these regions.

Issues the delegation plans to address include homelessness, crime prevention, flood protection and the current Emergency Supplemental Bill for Iraq and Afghanistan which includes critical funding for our recovery.

Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow said, "It is vitally important that we, as regional leaders, continue to aggressively lobby on behalf of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in Washington, D.C. As more time goes by since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, other pressing issues will take the time and attention of the federal government. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to continue bringing our message of recovery and rebuilding to our nation's leaders."

Executive Director of the New Orleans Mission Ron Gonzales and UNITY of Greater New Orleans leaders Martha Kegel and Angela Patterson will accompany the delegation and provide added guidance on the critical issue of homelessness in New Orleans.

The regional leaders will meet with members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation as well as federal agencies, prominent national think-tanks, the Brookings Institute and the Heritage Foundation, and the Office of the Federal Coordinator to highlight critical needs in New Orleans and Plaquemines Parish.

During the three day trip, the delegation will also meet with Senators Landrieu and Vitter and Congressmen Cazayoux, Melancon, Scalise and Jefferson.

Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson said, "We will be meeting with Louisiana's two newest representatives, Congressman Steve Scalise and Congressman Don Cazayoux. Having served with both of these gentlemen in the Louisiana House, I can attest to the fact that they will strongly represent and support our region and our state. So, I am especially looking forward to representing our regional priorities to them."

Federal Coordinator General Douglass O'Dell assisted in organizing meetings with the Government Accounting Office (GAO) leadership, the Brookings Institute and Heritage Foundation leadership and the National Association of Manufacturers.

Plaquemines Parish Council Chairman Friedman said, "Representation from Plaquemines Parish and the region is a concerted effort to work together to attain the support from our delegation and bring the voice of the region to Washington D.C. Coastal restoration, levee projects, transportation, Peters road extension and the deepening of Baptiste-Collette are major issues for Plaquemines Parish and the entire region."

"We all agree that unified leadership in our lobbying efforts will aide our recovery and bring Louisiana to a new level of prosperity for all. We look forward to meeting with our Louisiana delegation along with our regional Councilmembers from New Orleans," said Plaquemines Parish Council Vice Chair Lynda Banta.

The trip is also an extension of the Fleur-de-lis Ambassador Program, founded by Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow and Tulane University President Scott Cowen, to bring the message of New Orleans' recovery to the nation's Capitol.



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Media Advisory

May 19, 2008



District "C" Councilmember James Carter To Hold District "C" Town Hall Meeting

- WHAT:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter will hold a District "C" Town Hall Meeting to discuss eliminating blight and promoting sustainable neighborhoods. Representatives from N.O.R.A. (New Orleans Redevelopment Authority) will also be present at the meeting to participate in the discussion.
- WHO:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter
N.O.R.A Representatives
- WHEN:** Wednesday, May 21, 2008
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** African American Museum
1418 Governor Nicholls Street
New Orleans, LA 70116
- CONTACT:** Kimberly Parker
Director of Legislation & Communication
Office of District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Office: 658-1031
Cell: 450-8271
Email: kmparker@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

May 19, 2008

New Orleans Playground Partnership Donates New Lawnmowers for NORD Maintenance of Playgrounds

WHAT: New Orleans City Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow joins with New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) Director Larry Barabino, Jr. to accept the donation of ten new John Deere lawnmowers for the maintenance of NORD playgrounds, thanks to a \$25,000 donation by Councilman Fielkow's Playground Partnership. The Playground Partnership received generous donations from Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Acadian Ambulance and Gordon Arata McCollam Duplantis & Eagan LLP, which went towards the purchase of the lawnmowers. Emanuel Fitch, Operations Manager of the Lowe's Home Store on Elysian Fields Avenue arranged the lawnmower purchase at cost.

WHEN: Friday, May 23, 2008
1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Norman Playground
3201 Eton Street
Algiers, LA

WHO: New Orleans Playground Partnership
Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
NORD Director Larry Barabino and NORD's Lawnmower Crew
Representatives of LOWE's Home Improvement Stores, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Acadian Ambulance, and Gordon Arata, et. al Law Firm

DIRECTIONS: Take Crescent City Connection to General DeGaulle Drive; take General DeGaulle Drive east to Kabel Drive; turn left on Kabel Drive; turn right on Berkley Drive; turn left on Eton Street and playground is on the left after a couple of blocks.

BACKGROUND: The Councilman started the New Orleans Playground Partnership in the fall of 2006 to provide necessary financial and personnel resources to assist in the cleanup and repair of damaged NORD facilities. Local and national corporations have donated over \$75,000 to the fund to date. The fund has sponsored five NORD playground cleanups and sponsored travel for more than 400 local youths to a Houston Astros baseball game.

CONTACT: Kate Schneiderman
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
Cell: 504-905-9893
krschneiderman@cityofno.com

New Orleans City Council

The New Orleans City Council is the legislative branch of New Orleans city government. The Council considers and enacts all local laws that govern the City of New Orleans. The Council also approves the operating and capital budgets for the City, as recommended by the mayor, and continually monitors revenues and expenditures for local government operations. The City Council is also the regulatory body for public utilities. It also reviews and has final say on many land use and zoning matters, as well as considers major economic development projects for the City. As a Board of Review for Orleans Parish, the Council examines appeals of property tax assessments for real estate taxes, and certifies tax rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission. Other responsibilities of the Council include overseeing the operation of the public access television in Orleans Parish.

The City Council is comprised of five districts and two councilmembers-at-large. Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow; Council Vice-President and Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura; District "B" Councilmember Stacy S. Head; District "C" Councilmember James Carter; District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.

*C. Ray Nagin, Mayor
Dr. Ed Blakely, Executive Director*

City of New Orleans Application & Submission Process for Proposed “Louisiana Cultural Product Districts”

Overview of Timelines, City & State Approval Criteria & District Benefits

ORDA APPLICATION DEADLINE:

June 2, 2008, 4:30 PM

**Applications must be in the office, not postmarked, by the
deadline**



Program Overview & Guidelines

The purpose of this document is to provide an understanding of the City of New Orleans' process for selecting proposed "Cultural Product Districts" to be submitted to the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (CRT) for final approval as part of the State of Louisiana's "Cultural Districts Program."

Through this Program, qualified ventures in areas designated as "Cultural Product Districts" can receive tax credits for affordable housing development; historic property renovation; and tax exemptions for sales of original works of art.

To take advantage of these important redevelopment tools, the **City of New Orleans must submit proposed districts to CRT no later than July 1, 2008.**

As part of the submission process, the Office of Recovery & Development Administration (ORDA) is accepting applications from entities interested in proposing areas of the City to be considered for designation as "Cultural Product Districts" and serving as District Liaison Entities, whereby the applicant would assist ORDA in marketing the District and completing business inventories and annual reports that must be submitted to CRT for each District.

This document serves as the application by which proposed areas and liaison entities will be considered. **Please submit the requested information to ORDA no later than Monday, June 2, 2008.**

For additional information about the State's Cultural Product Program and the overall State application process, please refer to: www.crt.state.la.us/culturaldistricts or contact Gaye Hamilton, 225-342-8161, gghamilton@crt.state.la.us.

Introduction

The primary goal of the Cultural Districts program is to revitalize a community by building on and creating new cultural opportunities, through unique tax incentives. As the City of New Orleans continues to rebuild, the financial tools available through this state program will compliment other recovery-based resources to redevelop or create new locally driven hubs of cultural activity throughout the City.

What is a Cultural District?

A "Cultural District" as defined by law is a district designated by a Local Governing Authority (i.e, City of New Orleans) to revitalize a community by creating a hub of cultural activity that may include affordable artist housing and work space.

By Louisiana law a Cultural District shall:

- Be geographically contiguous
- Be distinguished by cultural resources that play a vital role in the life and cultural development of a community
- Focus on a cultural anchors including major art institutions, art and entertainment businesses, and arts and cultural activities and production
- Be engaged in the promotion, preservation, and educational aspects of the arts and culture of the locale
- Contribute to the public through interpretive and educational uses

The Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism has ultimate authority in determination whether a proposed area shall be certified as a Cultural District.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS RELATED TO PROPOSING CULTURAL DISTRICTS

Who May Apply?

The City of New Orleans is authorized to designate specific geographic areas and apply to the State for that area to be certified as a Cultural District. While the City of New Orleans may delegate its authority to manage such Districts; the City is ultimately responsible for submitting applications and complying with all administrative and reporting requirements.

Who is the Certifying Authority that declares an area as a Cultural District?

The Office of Cultural Development (OCD) in the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism determines if an application conforms to the requirements and meets the criteria established by law, set forth in the rules, and described in these guidelines.

What are the benefits of an area being designated as a Cultural District?

Once a Cultural District is certified, renovations to historic structures within the district may be eligible for state historic tax credits and the sales of original, one-of-a-kind works of art are exempt from local and state sales tax. Similar programs in other states have resulted in increased occupancy, property renovations, a sense of community, increased social activity and jobs.

What technical assistance is available to residents and businesses within a Cultural District?

The Office of Cultural Development will provide information to assist residents and businesses in a Cultural District about their benefits and responsibilities.

What is the effective date of Cultural District certification?

The effective date of certification shall be the date specified in the final written notice of approval of the Cultural District.

How large should a proposed Cultural District be in size?

State law does not require a Cultural District to be a certain minimum or maximum size. However, in rendering proposals, a District should be large enough to contain a variety of structures, property owners, and institutions capable of supporting and taking advantage of available tax credits and art sales tax exemptions. Conversely, a District should be small enough to develop a sense of identity as a recognizable hub of cultural activity, while not creating excess loss of revenue to the state and local government.

MAJOR BENEFITS WITHIN CULTURAL PRODUCT DISTRICTS

State Historic Tax Credits

With certified Districts, eligibility to apply for state historic tax credits is expanded to owners of commercial and residential historic buildings within the boundaries of the District, as prescribed by the rules of the State Historic Tax Credit Program. Eligible expenses for state historic tax credits are retroactive to the date the area was approved for designation by the New Orleans City Council, and January 1, 2006 for Owner-Occupied Residential applications. Property owners seeking to utilize credits to rehabilitate historic buildings must first apply with the State Division of Historic Preservation to determine eligibility for state historic tax credits. *State Historic Tax Credit Application Forms are provided by the Division of Historic Preservation and are available online at: <http://www.crt.state.la.us/hp/taxincentives.htm>.*

Sales Tax Exemption

Effective on the first day of the month after a District is certified, within that District, no sales tax will be charged on the sale of original, one-of-a-kind works of art that meet the definition set forth in the law, defined below. All eligible vendors within a District must submit an Application for Sales Tax Collection Exemption to the Louisiana Department of Revenue, available on line at www.crt.state.la.us/culturaldistricts, in order to benefit from sales tax exemption. Vendors must shall certify the authenticity of original works of art and document the tax-exempt sale of these certified works by using the Tax Exemption Certificates provided by the Louisiana Department of Revenue, available online at www.crt.state.la.us/culturaldistricts.

A work of art is tax exempt if it is sold from an established location within a District and is:

- a. Original;
- b. One-of-kind, notwithstanding ineligible media set forth under statute and below;
- c. Visual art;
- d. Conceived and made by hand of the artist or under his direction; and
- e. Not intended for mass production, except for limited editions specified below.

Examples of *ineligible* media and products include:

- a. Performing art;
- b. Food products;
- c. Live plants, such as bonsai trees, floral arrangements, wreaths, and garlands;
- d. Music recordings; and
- e. Reproductions of original works of art

TIMELINE FOR PROPOSALS, SELECTION, & CERTIFICATION OF CULTURAL PRODUCT DISTRICTS

Step 1. June 2, 2008: Potential District Liaison Entities submit applications to ORDA, detailing proposed districts and qualifications as liaisons

Step 2. June 16, 2008: ORDA submits Resolutions to the New Orleans City Council for those areas to be submitted to the State for consideration as Cultural Districts.

Step 3. June 19, 2008: City Council adopts resolutions in support of the City of New Orleans' designated Cultural Districts.

Step 4. June 16 – June 30, 2008: The City of New Orleans, in partnership with approved Liaison Entities, prepares and submits an application to the State to certify designated areas as a Cultural District.

Step 5. By October 1, 2008: The State certifies the Cultural District or returns the application requesting more information, or declines to certify.

Step 6. Individuals may apply for tax credits for renovations of historic buildings through the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Step 7. Upon completed application, eligible vendors will not have state and local sales taxes charged on sales of eligible on-of-a-kind works of art.

Step 8. The City of New Orleans shall submit a business inventory within sixty (60) days of the date of certification as a Cultural District and annual inventory updates on December 1 of each year, beginning in 2009.

Step 9. The City of New Orleans shall submit an annual report by January 31 of each year beginning in 2009, on the impact of the Cultural District reflecting the activity of the prior calendar year.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Cultural District Name/Location**

- **District Liaison Contact Information** (Name of the primary contact person for the organization or entity seeking to serve as a marketing and inventory liaison for the proposed Cultural District)

Name:

Title: Organization (if any)

Mailing Address:

City: State: LA Zip Code:

Phone: Ext. Fax:

Email Address:

2. CULTURAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

Physical Description

Provide a written description of the proposed Cultural District using start and end points; street names and directions; and the centerline of visible physical features whenever possible, that fully describes the designated geographic area.

Other Descriptors

1. Is all or part of the proposed district included in any other district, such as a Main Street District, Downtown Development District, Historic District, etc.? If yes, please name it/them:
2. What are the prevalent architectural styles in the proposed district? (If assistance is needed to determine the prevalent architectural styles, please contact the State Office of Community Development's Division of Historic Preservation.)
3. What is the approximate age of the majority of the buildings?
4. What are the predominant types of business in the proposed district? What is the number or percent of the predominant business(es)?
5. (a) What is the zoning in the proposed district? (b) How and in what percentages is the area used (e.g., residential, commercial, governmental, etc.)?
6. Provide up to ten (10) photographs in support of this section.

Maps

Please provide the following maps. Maps should be legible, preferably 8½ by 11, but not larger than 11 by 17 inches. Maps may be in color or black and white.

1. A map precisely outlining the boundaries of the proposed Cultural District, showing major street names, a north arrow, and legible legends and labels
2. A map showing aerial view of buildings and physical features
3. Thematic map(s) illustrating population density, occupancy, or other demographic features
4. Provide map(s) showing the location of cultural, art, educational, and tourist facilities, zoning designations within the district, transportation features, primary pedestrian corridors and additional information pertinent to the proposed Cultural District

3. MANDATORY CRITERIA QUESTIONS

Cultural Districts must conform to mandatory criteria set forth in R.S. 47:305.56. Answer the questions concisely to address whether and how the proposed Cultural District is, or will be, consistent with the mandatory criteria for certification.

1. Cultural districts must be geographically contiguous. Is the district geographically contiguous? If no, please explain why the district still meets the mandatory criteria:

2. Does the district contain cultural resources (heritage, organizations, or individuals) that play a vital role in the life and cultural development of the community? If yes, name or describe them. If no, explain how it might in the future.

3. Are there cultural assets such as a major art institution, art and entertainment businesses, an area with arts and cultural activities or cultural or artisan production, year-round or seasonal? If yes, name or describe them. If no, please explain how it might in the future.

4. Is the district engaged in the promotion, preservation, and experiential aspects of the arts and culture of the locale? If yes, name or describe them. If no, please explain how it might in the future.

5. Does the district contribute to the public through interpretive and educational experiences? If yes, how? If no, please explain how it might in the future.

6. What is the potential for affordable housing for artists, workspace, studio and performance space (rental or purchase)?

4. VISION STATEMENT

Objectives Narrative

Provide a brief vision statement for the proposed Cultural District five years from the date of application. Address what the Cultural District will do with regard to the achievement of any of the objectives below.

The Narrative should be typed on one 8½ by 11 sheet, maximum 500 words.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Engage residents
- Provide a sense of community
- Serve as a gathering place
- Strengthening community partnerships
- Develop a positive image for the community

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Capitalize on cultural, economic and social assets
- Revitalize a neighborhood or area
- Enhance property values
- Stimulate the economy
- Draw tourists

ARTISTIC/CULTURAL PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

- Promote the arts and support artists
- Encourage creativity and cultural activities
- Attract artists and cultural industries workers

5. PROMOTION OF THE CULTURAL DISTRICT

Communication and Marketing Narrative

Provide a narrative that describes prior relevant experience and a proposed strategy for how the District Liaison Entity will manage communication within the Cultural District and promotion about the Cultural District addressing the items listed below.

The Narrative should be typed on one 8½ by 11 sheet, maximum 300 words.

1. Communication to residents, businesses and organizations within the Cultural District
2. Provide information about State Historic Tax Credits to property owners
3. Provide information about sales tax exemption of original works of art to vendors
4. Promote the businesses, events, and programs of the Cultural District to the public
5. Provide for networking opportunities among residents
6. Provide opportunities for planning and promoting district wide events

6. INVENTORYING & DOCUMENTING CULTURAL DISTRICT ACTIVITY

Provide a narrative that describes prior relevant experience and a proposed strategy for how the District Liaison Entity will assist the City in developing a Business Inventory of the District within sixty (60) days of State certification and prepare the Annual Report on the impact of the District.

The Narrative should be typed on one 8½ by 11 sheet, maximum 300 words.

Business Inventory

A comprehensive inventory of businesses must be created for each State certified District, within (60) days of certification and annually by December 1st of each year, beginning in 2009. The inventory shall include all active businesses that have occupational licenses and report revenue from sales of services and/or products.

Annual Reporting Requirements Beginning After Certification

By January 31 of each year beginning 2009, an annual report on the impact of each certified District must be submitted that outlines the activity of the prior calendar year and cumulative data reflecting activity since the date of the creation of the District. The report shall include information that describes: (a) Overall revenue generated in the District; (b) the impact of the tax exemption programs; and (c) the impact of the tax credit programs, and any other factors that describe the impact of the District on the community

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

By June 2, 2008:

Pleas provide only the documents, maps and photographs required or requested in the application. Other than letters of support from appropriate entities, please do not include extraneous material not specifically required or requested in the application.

Narratives and supporting documents may be attached, grouped by section and clearly labeled with section numbers.

Mail or Hand Deliver to:

Mayor's Office of Recovery & Development Administration
Attention: Andrea Mumford, Executive Administrative Assistant
Division of Policy & Administration
1340 Poydras St., Suite 1000 (10th Floor)
New Orleans, LA 70112

Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow Leads First Louisiana Delegation to International Shipping Conference in Athens

News Release

May 29, 2008

Contact:
Kate Schneiderman
Office of
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Arnie Fielkow
Ph: 504-905-9893
krschneiderman@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - May 29, 2008 - Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow announced today that he will lead the first Louisiana delegation to Posidonia 2008, the world's premier shipping industry trade show, scheduled for June 2-6, 2008 in Athens, Greece. The delegation includes the Port of South Louisiana, Louisiana Economic Development (LED), the New Orleans U.S. Export Assistance Center and several local law firms and maritime businesses. Councilman Fielkow was invited to lead the delegation by Donald van de Werken, Director of the New Orleans U.S. Export Assistance Center.

Councilman Fielkow said, "I am honored to be leading the first official Louisiana delegation to Posidonia 2008, the world's major maritime industry event. Louisiana, and in particular the City of New Orleans, is poised to recapture our preeminent position in the world of global trade and transportation."

While attending the Posidonia Exhibition, Fielkow and the Louisiana delegation will meet with the Mayor of Athens, the City Council President of Athens, the Greek Minister of Tourism, the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM). In addition, the Louisiana delegation will be the featured guests at the U.S. Ambassador's annual reception in honor of Posidonia.

"New Orleans has an incredible opportunity to capture millions of dollars of economic development with the widening of the Panama Canal in 2014 and the Posidonia conference will give us an opportunity to speak directly with those shippers and other businesses which can make it happen. This delegation is critical to showing the international maritime sector that we are open and ready for their business," said Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow.

President and CEO of the Port of New Orleans Gary LaGrange said, "Councilman Fielkow understands the importance of growing the maritime industry in New Orleans. The growth in global trade and the planned expansion of the Panama Canal in 2014 are trends that will bring increased shipping traffic to Louisiana's ports. We are pleased to have Councilman Fielkow represent New Orleans at a conference that caters to ship owners throughout the world, and we look forward to continuing to work with him to grow the region's trade prospects."

Director of the New Orleans U.S. Export Assistance Center Donald van de Werken said, "International trade creates jobs and opportunities for New Orleans and the U.S. as a whole - our city is well-positioned to tap into the economic growth generated by rising flows of U.S. exports."

The delegation to Posidonia is yet another effort by Councilman Fielkow to expand international trade opportunities for New Orleans. Fielkow has led other international initiatives including:

- February 2008 trip to Panama to visit with Panamanian and Panama Canal officials regarding the 2014 expansion of the Panama Canal
- Official New Orleans delegation trip to Mexico City which led to the reopening of a Mexican Consulate in New Orleans
- Meeting with the Ambassador of Greece to discuss establishing a Greek-American Chamber of Commerce
- Meeting with the Ukrainian Ambassador to the U.S. to discuss the opening of an honorary consulate in the city
- Participation in the 2007 City of New Orleans Diplomatic Mission to Washington, D.C. which met with sixteen foreign embassies to grow trade opportunities for New Orleans

Erin Butler-Mueller of the U.S. Department of Commerce's New Orleans U.S. Export Assistance Center and Tom Mantis of Poseidon International Maritime, Inc. organized the trip for the Louisiana delegation, with assistance from Eugene Schreiber and the World Trade Center of New Orleans.

New Orleans City Council

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Board of Review for Orleans Parish, the Council examines appeals of property tax assessments for real estate taxes, and certifies tax rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission. Other responsibilities of the Council include overseeing the operation of the public access television in Orleans Parish.

The City Council is comprised of five districts and two councilmembers-at-large. Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow; Council Vice-President and Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura; District "B" Councilmember Stacy S. Head; District "C" Councilmember James Carter; District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.

Council President Thanks New Orleans & Asks Community to Raise the Bar of Expectations

News Release

May 30, 2008

Contact:
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Ph: 504-905-9893
krschneiderman@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)



New Orleans, LA - May 30, 2008 - As Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow nears the end of his term as Council President, he offers a reflection on the past year while looking forward to facing the challenges that lie ahead.

For a full text of Councilmember Fielkow's statement click [here](#).

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Council Supports Office of Inspector General and Independent Police Monitor, Southeast Regional Airport Authority & NORD / N.O. Public Library, Addresses 311 System & Acknowledges New Council President

News Release

June 5, 2008

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
rjpursell@cityofno.com

New Orleans, LA - June 5, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council supported the Office of Inspector General and Independent Police Monitor, the Southeast Regional Airport Authority, New Orleans Recreation Department and the New Orleans Public Library. The Council also addressed the 311 System and acknowledged the new Council President.

[New Orleans City Council](#)



Inspector General
Robert Cerzanti

Supports Office of Inspector General and Independent Police Monitor

The Council adopted an ordinance placing a City Charter amendment on the October 4th ballot which, if approved by the voters, guarantees annual city funding for the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

Lead author and Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Our goal is to ensure the permanency and autonomy of the Office of Inspector General."

The charter amendment would also require a portion of the OIG's budget to be allocated to the City's Ethics Review Board and establish an Independent Police Monitor Division.

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "The New Orleans Police Department has done a tremendous job under the leadership of Superintendent Warren Riley and I appreciate all of their efforts. This is a tremendous reform step forward in improving the relationship between law enforcement and the citizens of New Orleans."



Supports Southeast Regional Airport Authority

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-282 supporting House Bill No. 1272, which creates the Southeast Regional Airport Authority.

Special Joint Airport Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "The Airport Committee supports House Bill 1272 by Representative Tucker in concept, and will continue to monitor all legislation going forward.

We will also plan public hearings and conduct a study to evaluate all information regarding the future use of our airport."

The Council's Special Joint Airport Committee met to discuss the House Bill and is in agreement with the overall intent, citing the need for improvements and access to airport facilities within the state, and supporting the establishment of a mechanism to assist in constructing, extending, repairing and maintaining airports and airport facilities.

The Resolution reflects the Council's belief that the House Bill be amended to assign the responsibilities relative to the New Orleans Louis Armstrong International Airport to the New Orleans Building Corporation (NOBC). NOBC is a Public Benefit Corporation with the purpose of owning, leasing, developing and operating properties owned by the City of New Orleans.

The Resolution also urges the plan not be allowed to move forward without a two-thirds vote of the City Council.



Colonel Sneed,
Dept. of Homeland Security

Addresses 311 System

Colonel Sneed of the Department of Homeland Security came before the Council to discuss the 311 System.

Among items discussed: the need to encourage citizens to call 311 and visit www.nolaready.info, New Orleans' evacuation plan and the 311 System's technical issues.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "We know 311 has connection problems with certain carriers, from certain locations in the City, and from non-504 area code phone numbers. These are serious concerns, especially in the event of a hurricane."

Colonel Sneed addressed the issue of connection difficulties and confirmed that this problem is currently being looked into. He offered two other numbers citizens should call for further assistance: 504-658-2299 and the toll free number 1-877-286-6431.

Colonel Sneed emphasized that there will not be shelter in New Orleans for a category 3 hurricane or higher, at which point a mandatory evacuation order will be issued.



Marine Corps Reserve

Acknowledges New Council President

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson led her first Council meeting as Council President. The new Council President's priorities were demonstrated with the Presentation of the Colors and the National Anthem being handled by the Marine Corps Reserve, and Orders of Business addressing healthcare in the City and the 311 System.

Council President Clarkson said, "I want to thank my colleagues for their cooperation and efficiency during my first meeting as Council President - I am honored to be President of this Council. We began this meeting with the Marine Corps Reserve and end with significant Charter changes - the City is ready to rebuild."

Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson introduced Motion M-08-294, providing for the creation of the Women's Committee - a new standing committee dedicated to addressing the various needs and issues facing women in New Orleans. The motion will be considered in two weeks, after advertisement, as required by law.



*New Orleans Public Library and
NORD Representatives*

Supports NORD / New Orleans Public Library

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-275 requesting that the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) work with the New Orleans Public Library to institute procedures so that when a child registers for any NORD program, the registration acts as a valid registration

for a library card.

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "We need to ensure that we provide our children with the mechanisms they need to become successful citizens. This is a wonderful program that promotes children's literacy skills."

The Council emphasized its strong belief that every child in New Orleans should have access to quality recreation programs and access to a library card to be able to take advantage of all of the information and services that the New Orleans Public Library has to offer.

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Media Advisory

June 2, 2008



Councilmember Carter to Host Algiers Flood Protection Town Hall Meeting

- WHAT:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter will host an Algiers Town Hall Meeting to discuss flood protection and hurricane preparedness in Algiers. Representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - West Bank and the New Orleans Office of Emergency Preparedness will also be present at the meeting to participate in the discussion.
- WHO:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Julie Vignes
Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - West Bank - David Bindewald
New Orleans Office of Emergency Preparedness - Matt Kalmyer
- WHEN:** Wednesday, June 4, 2008
6:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Alice Harte Elementary School
5300 Berkley Drive
New Orleans, LA 70131
(Click [here](#) for map)
- CONTACT:** Kimberly Parker
Director of Legislation & Communication
Office of District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Office: (504) 658-1031
Cell: (504) 450-8271
Email: kmparker@cityofno.com

New Orleans City Council

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Posidonia 2008: Update from Louisiana Delegation at International Shipping Conference in Athens, Greece

News Release

June 3, 2008

Contact:
Kate Schneiderman
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Councilmember-at-Large
Arnie Fielkow
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New Orleans
City Council



New Orleans, LA - June 3, 2008 -

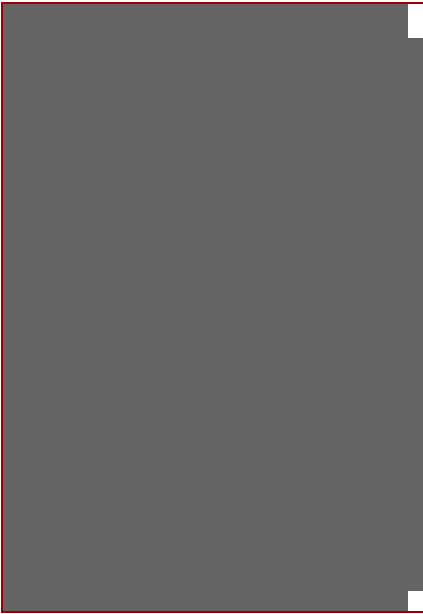
Two days into attending Posidonia 2008, the leading shipping industry conference in Athens, Greece, Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow and New Orleans U.S. Export Assistance Center Director Donald van de Werken offer an update on their activities thus far.

The Louisiana delegation includes the Port of South Louisiana, Louisiana Economic Development (LED), the New Orleans U.S. Export Assistance Center, several local law firms and maritime businesses.

As of Tuesday, June 3, 2008, the Louisiana delegation has participated in the following:

- A briefing on the Greek shipping industry by the U.S. Commercial Officer and staff
- A walk-through of the Posidonia 2008 conference showroom - including meetings with Louisiana companies such as New Orleans Marine Repair and Fabrication Company and Boland Marine as well as meetings with the Piraeus Port Authority, Maritime London, Thyssen Krupp Marine Systems and Det Norske Veritas (DNV)
- A media interview with Elnabi, the major Greek shipping industry monthly publication, on the Port of New Orleans and investment opportunities in New Orleans

This evening Councilmember Fielkow will present a "Key to the City" to U.S. Ambassador to Greece Daniel Speckhard at a reception at the Ambassador's residence hosted by Louisiana Economic Development and the Port of South Louisiana. Councilmember Fielkow will also attend an event hosted by the Restis Group, a major Greek shipowner.



Councilmember Fielkow said, "I am very encouraged by the reception our delegation has received thus far at Posidonia 2008. The international shipping industry and Greek government are very receptive to the news that Louisiana and New Orleans are open for business, and they are enthusiastic about opportunities to do business with us. The Louisiana delegation is looking forward to more successful meetings over the next few days at Posidonia 2008."

Posidonia 2008 is the leading shipping industry conference held every two years in Athens, Greece. Councilmember Fielkow was asked to lead the first Louisiana Delegation to Posidonia 2008 by New Orleans U.S. Export Assistance Center Director Donald van de Werken.

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**Council Supports Office of Inspector General and
Independent Police Monitor, Southeast Regional Airport Authority &
NORD / N.O. Public Library, Addresses 311 System &
Acknowledges New Council President**

News Release

June 5, 2008

Ronald J. Pursell
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rjpursell@cityofno.com

New Orleans, LA - June 5, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council supported the Office of Inspector General and Independent Police Monitor, the Southeast Regional Airport Authority, New Orleans Recreation Department and the New Orleans Public Library. The Council also addressed the 311 System and acknowledged the new Council President.

[New Orleans
City Council](#)



Inspector General
Robert Cerzanti

Supports Office of Inspector General and Independent Police Monitor

The Council adopted an ordinance placing a City Charter amendment on the October 4th ballot which, if approved by the voters, guarantees annual city funding for the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

Lead author and Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Our goal is to ensure the permanency and autonomy of the Office of Inspector General."

The charter amendment would also require a portion of the OIG's budget to be allocated to the City's Ethics Review Board and establish an Independent Police Monitor Division.

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "The New Orleans Police Department has done a tremendous job under the leadership of Superintendent Warren Riley and I appreciate all of their efforts. This is a tremendous reform step forward in improving the relationship between law enforcement and the citizens of New Orleans."



Supports Southeast Regional Airport Authority

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-282 supporting House Bill No. 1272, which creates the Southeast Regional Airport Authority.

Special Joint Airport Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "The Airport Committee supports House Bill 1272 by Representative Tucker in concept, and will continue to monitor all legislation going forward.

We will also plan public hearings and conduct a study to evaluate all information regarding the future use of our airport."

The Council's Special Joint Airport Committee met to discuss the House Bill and is in agreement with the overall intent, citing the need for improvements and access to airport facilities within the state, and supporting the establishment of a mechanism to assist in constructing, extending, repairing and maintaining airports and airport facilities.

The Resolution reflects the Council's belief that the House Bill be amended to assign the responsibilities relative to the New Orleans Louis Armstrong International Airport to the New Orleans Building Corporation (NOBC). NOBC is a Public Benefit Corporation with the purpose of owning, leasing, developing and operating properties owned by the City of New Orleans.

The Resolution also urges the plan not be allowed to move forward without a two-thirds vote of the City Council.



Colonel Sneed,
Dept. of Homeland Security

Addresses 311 System

Colonel Sneed of the Department of Homeland Security came before the Council to discuss the 311 System.

Among items discussed: the need to encourage citizens to call 311 and visit www.nolaready.info, New Orleans' evacuation plan and the 311 System's technical issues.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "We know 311 has connection problems with certain carriers, from certain locations in the City, and from non-504 area code phone numbers. These are serious concerns, especially in the event of a hurricane."

Colonel Sneed addressed the issue of connection difficulties and confirmed that this problem is currently being looked into. He offered two other numbers citizens should call for further assistance: 504-658-2299 and the toll free number 1-877-286-6431.

Colonel Sneed emphasized that there will not be shelter in New Orleans for a category 3 hurricane or higher, at which point a mandatory evacuation order will be issued.



Marine Corps Reserve

Acknowledges New Council President

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson led her first Council meeting as Council President. The new Council President's priorities were demonstrated with the Presentation of the Colors and the National Anthem being handled by the Marine Corps Reserve, and Orders of Business addressing healthcare in the City and the 311 System.

Council President Clarkson said, "I want to thank my colleagues for their cooperation and efficiency during my first meeting as Council President - I am honored to be President of this Council. We began this meeting with the Marine Corps Reserve and end with significant Charter changes - the City is ready to rebuild."

Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson introduced Motion M-08-294, providing for the creation of the Women's Committee - a new standing committee dedicated to addressing the various needs and issues facing women in New Orleans. The motion will be considered in two weeks, after advertisement, as required by law.



*New Orleans Public Library and
NORD Representatives*

Supports NORD / New Orleans Public Library

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-275 requesting that the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) work with the New Orleans Public Library to institute procedures so that when a child registers for any NORD program, the registration acts as a valid registration

for a library card.

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "We need to ensure that we provide our children with the mechanisms they need to become successful citizens. This is a wonderful program that promotes children's literacy skills."

The Council emphasized its strong belief that every child in New Orleans should have access to quality recreation programs and access to a library card to be able to take advantage of all of the information and services that the New Orleans Public Library has to offer.

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Media Advisory

June 6, 2008

July 1st Temporary Housing Removal FAQ

On July 1, the City's Department of Safety and Permits will resume enforcement of the portions of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance regarding the installation and occupancy of trailers, travel trailers and recreational vehicles as temporary housing in Orleans Parish.

Click [here](#) for more information and a list of frequently asked questions regarding temporary housing removal.

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Posidonia 2008: NOLA Opportunities Heightened for Trade & Increased Collaboration with Greece

News Release

June 10, 2008

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[New Orleans
City Council](#)



Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow Presents
"Key to the City" to Athens City Council
President Theodoros Bechrakis

New Orleans, LA - June 10, 2008 - The first Louisiana delegation to Posidonia 2008, the world's premier international shipping industry conference, concluded its week long trip to Greece on Sunday. The delegation led by Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow included representatives from the New Orleans U.S. Export Assistance Center, the Port of South

Louisiana, Louisiana Economic Development (LED) and several local law firms and businesses.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "This trip represents a significant step towards solidifying commercial and tourism ties with Greece. The Greek shipping industry is one of the largest in the world and our delegation was received warmly by Greek officials and major international shipowners who welcomed the news that New Orleans is ready for their business."

During the bi-annual, week-long conference in Athens, the Louisiana delegation met with the Greek Foreign Ministry; the City Council President of Athens; Mayor Panagiotis Fasoulas of Piraeus (a former player in the NBA); the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM); and Travel Plan, one of Greece's largest tour operators in North America. The discussions ranged from formalizing close ties between Greece and New Orleans - such as reopening the Greek Consulate, to cementing an official "sister city" relationship between Athens and New Orleans. Tourism, investment opportunities and the New Orleans and South Louisiana ports were also major points of discussion.

The Louisiana delegation also sponsored a reception hosted by the U.S. Ambassador to Greece, where guests included leading Greek shipowners, government officials and Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago.

Additionally, the delegation attended events as the guests of major Greek shipowners such as Tsakos Shipping and the Restis Group. The Union of Greek Shipowners also hosted the Louisiana group at its reception which is considered to be the most prestigious event of Posidonia 2008. During the event, Councilmember Fielkow and delegation members were able to introduce leading shipowners to investment opportunities in New Orleans' maritime and real estate sectors.

"Over and over the delegation was thanked for bringing information on New Orleans to Posidonia regarding all of our investment and tourism opportunities. It is vital to continue spreading the message that New Orleans is a world-class city as we look towards expanding and strengthening our local economy through our growing worldwide presence," said Tom Mantis of Poseidon International Maritime.

Erin Butler-Mueller of the U.S. Department of Commerce's New Orleans U.S. Export Assistance Center and Tom Mantis of Poseidon International Maritime, Inc. organized the trip for the Louisiana delegation, with assistance from Eugene Schreiber and the World Trade Center of New Orleans.

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Councilmember Willard-Lewis, Mayor Nagin and
Family Advocacy & Neighborhood Services
Host 1st "Seniors Screen for Life" Post-Katrina

News Release

June 18, 2008

Contact:
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[New Orleans
City Council](#)



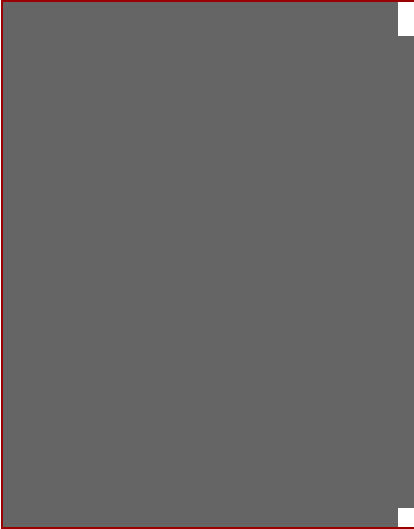
New Orleans, LA - June 18, 2008 - District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis and Mayor C. Ray Nagin, in conjunction with Family Advocacy & Neighborhood Services (FANS), will host the first "Seniors Screen for Life" post-Katrina.

Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "The 'Seniors Screen for Life' is an event where we can honor our seniors for their wisdom and contributions to the growth and development of our beloved city. We are providing our citizens with an opportunity to attend a comprehensive event, where fun and relaxation are joined with the opportunity to interact with health and city agencies that impact the daily lives of our senior community."

"Seniors Screen for Life" is free and open to all senior citizens and provides free health screenings including blood pressure, eye, ear and cholesterol screenings.

Representatives from various organizations and companies including Cox Communications, Entergy New Orleans, American Association of Retired Persons, Excelth, Regional Transit Authority, Council On Aging, Emergency Medical Services, Unity Home Health, Peoples Health and Montgomery Watson Harza Global will be available to address issues and concerns relevant to the senior community.

Senior citizens are invited to enjoy a free lunch and entertainment provided by Charmaine Neville, Kermit Ruffins and Sharon Martin, as well as patriotic costume and dance contests.



The event will be held on Friday, June 27th from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Crystal Palace Ballroom located at 10020 Chef Menteur Highway in New Orleans East.

All senior citizens that are ADA Certified Riders can call the RTA at (504) 827-7433 to schedule a ride to this event.

FANS is a non-profit corporation that focuses on providing enrichment skills and information to children, senior citizens and families who live in District E of New Orleans.

For more information, please contact the office of Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis at (504) 658-1050.

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Media Advisory

June 18, 2008



Councilmember Head to Lead Central City Youth Against Violence March & Nicola Cotton Memorial Dedication

What: District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head in collaboration with the Central City Partnership/Comeback Committee, the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) 6th District and the Mahalia Jackson Early Childhood and Family Education Foundation host the ninth annual Central City Youth Against Violence March to promote and encourage non-violence among the youth in the community.

The March will begin at City Hall and end at the Mahalia Jackson School where a Kaboom Playground will be dedicated to NOPD Officer Nicola Cotton, who was killed in the line of duty in Central City. The event is open to the public and the dedication will be followed by a family day featuring food, entertainment, guest speakers and other family activities.

Who: District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
Central City Partnership/Comeback Committee
New Orleans Police Department 6th District
Mahalia Jackson Early Childhood and Family Education Foundation

When: Saturday, June 21, 2008
March begins at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Begins: Steps of City Hall
1300 Perdido Street

Ends: Mahalia Jackson School
2400 Jackson Avenue

Contact:

Barbara Lacen-Keller

Director of Constituent Services
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head

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Cell: (504) 253-1364

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Media Advisory

June 18, 2008



Councilmember Midura Joins Green Light New Orleans' Energy Efficient Biking Initiative

- What:** Utility Committee Chair District "A" Councilmember Midura will join Green Light New Orleans Executive Director Andi Hoffmann for Green Light New Orleans' Energy Efficient Biking Initiative. Community members and visiting volunteers will ride bicycles throughout New Orleans to install energy efficient light bulbs in scheduled homes.
- Who:** Utility Committee Chair District "A" Councilmember Midura
Green Light New Orleans Executive Director Andi Hoffmann
- When:** Saturday, June 21st
2:00 p.m.
- Where:** Cabrini Park (Located on Dauphine and Barracks Streets)
Click [here](#) for map.
- Background:** Green Light New Orleans is a nonprofit charitable and environmental organization actively working towards reducing carbon emissions and the burden of rising energy bills by helping low and fixed income households in the City of New Orleans and the surrounding parishes make the switch from incandescent light bulbs to energy efficient compact fluorescent lights. For more information visit www.greenlightneworleans.org.
- Contact:** Seung Hong
Chief of Staff
Office of District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
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Email: shong@cityofno.com

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Council Extends Districts "D" & "E" FEMA Trailer Removal Deadline, Addresses World Trade Center Lease Agreement, Supports Green Jobs Act & Energy Efficiency Grant Program and Honors Colonel Terry Ebbert

News Release

June 19, 2008

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rjpursell@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - June 19, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council addressed the World Trade Center lease agreement, extended Districts "D" and "E" FEMA trailer removal deadline and supported the Green Jobs Act and Energy Efficiency Grant Program. The Council also honored Colonel Terry Ebbert, Director of Homeland Security.



*Councilmember Willard-Lewis and
Councilmember Hedge-Morrell*

***Extends Districts "D" & "E" FEMA
Trailer Removal Deadline***

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,029 temporarily suspending, for a three-month period, all relevant provisions of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) to allow the temporary placement of Temporary Housing Structures on private property affected by Hurricane Katrina in Council Districts "D" and "E."

The provisions of the Ordinance, co-authored by District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis and District "C" Councilmember James Carter, will not apply to property located within Central Business Districts and Vieux Carre Historic Districts.

District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "This ordinance will give these individuals, who in many instances have endured much trauma and agony for their determination to rebuild their homes, additional time they need to complete these matters. Residents have coped with many issues since the storm and they should not be faced with the possibility of being evicted."

The Ordinance specifies that trailers and travel trailers may be placed on public or private property with the permission of the owners after all necessary permits have been obtained from the Department of Safety and Permits.



Representatives of WTC, NOBC and Full Spectrum

Addresses World Trade Center Lease Agreement

Representatives from the World Trade Center (WTC) of New Orleans, the New Orleans Building Corporation (NOBC) and Full Spectrum, the selected developer for the World Trade Center building, appeared before the

Council to address the WTC lease agreement and provide Councilmembers with additional details regarding the terms and conditions of the lease.

Chair of the Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "The WTC is a vital part of our future. It is imperative that we as the Council be well informed so that we can vote in a responsible manner."

The Councilmembers requested a detailed briefing regarding the details of the lease. The Council also emphasized the importance of ensuring the utmost accuracy in a timely fashion.

Supports Green Jobs Act & Energy Efficiency Grant Program



Councilmember Midura

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-325, authored by Councilmember Shelley Midura, calling upon the Senate and the House of Representatives to fully fund the Green Jobs Act and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program in the 2009 Appropriations Bill.

The Green Jobs Act of 2007 pledged \$125 million in federal funding for "green" jobs training and the creation of "pathways out of poverty" for low-income adults.

Chair of the Utilities Committee District "A" Councilmember Midura said, "Energy efficiency is a core priority for the City of New Orleans - the creation of "green" jobs will open the door to a larger market for sustainable energy development and job expansion."

A fully funded Green Jobs Act and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program would make \$2 million of grants available to cities and local governments like New Orleans to engage in strategies to improve energy efficiency.



Colonel Terry Ebbert

Honors Colonel Terry Ebbert

The Council honored Colonel Terry Ebbert, Director of Homeland Security, for his hard work and dedication to the City of New Orleans.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Colonel Ebbert is a valuable asset to this City. Though it saddens us to say goodbye, we will celebrate the fact that he decided to retire in New Orleans and call us home - he is truly an American hero."

The Council presented Colonel Ebbert with a proclamation expressing the Council's gratitude and appreciation for his years of service in the New Orleans community.

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**Council Extends Districts "D" & "E" FEMA Trailer Removal Deadline,
Addresses World Trade Center Lease Agreement, Supports Green Jobs Act &
Energy Efficiency Grant Program and Honors Colonel Terry Ebbert**

News Release

June 19, 2008

Ronald J. Pursell
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New Orleans, LA - June 19, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council addressed the World Trade Center lease agreement, extended Districts "D" and "E" FEMA trailer removal deadline and supported the Green Jobs Act and Energy Efficiency Grant Program. The Council also honored Colonel Terry Ebbert, Director of Homeland Security.



*Councilmember Willard-Lewis and
Councilmember Hedge-Morrell*

***Extends Districts "D" & "E" FEMA
Trailer Removal Deadline***

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,029 temporarily suspending, for a three-month period, all relevant provisions of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) to allow the temporary placement of Temporary Housing Structures on private property affected by Hurricane Katrina in Council Districts "D" and "E."

The provisions of the Ordinance, co-authored by District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis and District "C" Councilmember James Carter, will not apply to property located within Central Business Districts and Vieux Carre Historic Districts.

District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "This ordinance will give these individuals, who in many instances have endured much trauma and agony for their determination to rebuild their homes, additional time they need to complete these matters. Residents have coped with many issues since the storm and they should not be faced with the possibility of being evicted."

The Ordinance specifies that trailers and travel trailers may be placed on public or private property with the permission of the owners after all necessary permits have been obtained from the Department of Safety and Permits.



Representatives of WTC, NOBC and Full Spectrum

Addresses World Trade Center Lease Agreement

Representatives from the World Trade Center (WTC) of New Orleans, the New Orleans Building Corporation (NOBC) and Full Spectrum, the selected developer for the World Trade Center building, appeared before the

Council to address the WTC lease agreement and provide Councilmembers with additional details regarding the terms and conditions of the lease.

Chair of the Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "The WTC is a vital part of our future. It is imperative that we as the Council be well informed so that we can vote in a responsible manner."

The Councilmembers requested a detailed briefing regarding the details of the lease. The Council also emphasized the importance of ensuring the utmost accuracy in a timely fashion.

Supports Green Jobs Act & Energy Efficiency Grant Program



Councilmember Midura

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-325, authored by Councilmember Shelley Midura, calling upon the Senate and the House of Representatives to fully fund the Green Jobs Act and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program in the 2009 Appropriations Bill.

The Green Jobs Act of 2007 pledged \$125 million in federal funding for "green" jobs training and the creation of "pathways out of poverty" for low-income adults.

Chair of the Utilities Committee District "A" Councilmember Midura said, "Energy efficiency is a core priority for the City of New Orleans - the creation of "green" jobs will open the door to a larger market for sustainable energy development and job expansion."

A fully funded Green Jobs Act and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program would make \$2 million of grants available to cities and local governments like New Orleans to engage in strategies to improve energy efficiency.



Colonel Terry Ebbert

Honors Colonel Terry Ebbert

The Council honored Colonel Terry Ebbert, Director of Homeland Security, for his hard work and dedication to the City of New Orleans.

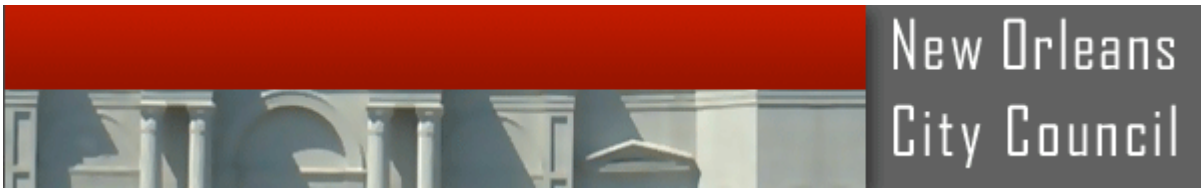
Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Colonel Ebbert is a valuable asset to this City. Though it saddens us to say goodbye, we will celebrate the fact that he decided to retire in New Orleans and call us home - he is truly an American hero."

The Council presented Colonel Ebbert with a proclamation expressing the Council's gratitude and appreciation for his years of service in the New Orleans community.

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Media Advisory

June 19, 2008

**Council Committees to Address
Youth & Recreation and Economic Development
In Two Sessions on Friday Morning**

What: New Orleans City Council Youth and Recreation Committee meeting to address New Orleans Recreation Department playgrounds status including the reopening of group trailer sites and Tulane University's "Youth Impact" Summer Camp

When: Friday, June 20, 2008
9:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who: Committee Chairman Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
Representatives from NORD; Office of Recovery, Development and Administration (ORDA); FEMA and the Mayor's office

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

What: New Orleans City Council Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee meeting to address the progress of the public-private economic development partnership, a review of the Economic Development Advisory Council (EDAC) and the Medical Center of Louisiana - New Orleans (MCLNO) business plan

When: Friday, June 20, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who: Committee Chairman Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
Representatives from Downtown Development District and ORDA

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

Contact: Kate Schneiderman
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
Ph: (504) 905-9893
Email: krschneiderman@cityofno.com

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**Council Committees Addressing
Youth & Recreation and Economic Development
Send Resolutions to Special Council Meeting Set for June 26**

News Release

June 20, 2008

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New Orleans, LA - June 20, 2008 - Today, Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow led two committee hearings, Youth & Recreation and Special Development Projects & Economic Development, to discuss critical issues facing New Orleans. Two Resolutions were passed out of the committees and are scheduled to be taken up at a Special City Council meeting on Thursday, June 26, 2008.

Youth & Recreation

The Committee addressed the delayed return of FEMA-run group trailer sites to their original condition as parks and playgrounds for local children and other residents. A panel comprised of City Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, representatives from FEMA, Parks and Parkways, the New Orleans Recreation Department, the Office of Recovery Development and Administration, and children's advocate Babs Johnson testified about the delays in restoring the trailer sites.

Youth & Recreation Committee Chair Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow commented, "We need to move heaven and earth to get these playgrounds open this summer. This is more than a recreation issue, this is about criminal justice, health care and educational opportunities for our kids."

The panel testified that initial delays in receiving Road Home rebuilding funds necessitated keeping the group trailer sites open but that current delays are the result of questions regarding how FEMA will restore the playgrounds to their pre-Katrina condition, including a debate over laying sod versus seeding the fields for grass. All parties agreed that immediate action needs

to be taken to expedite the restoration process.

Councilmember Fielkow continued, "There is no reason why all fourteen parks and playgrounds previously used as FEMA group trailer sites cannot be laid with sod now, and the playgrounds re-opened by July so our children can have safe and clean places to play. This should be one of the highest priorities for FEMA and the City. The time for debates is over. "


As a result of today's hearing, the Youth and Recreation Committee passed Resolution R-08-346 confirming that all fourteen parks and playgrounds previously used for placement of group trailer sites should be immediately sodded, with work to be commenced no later than Thursday, June 26, 2008 and the parks and playgrounds to be re-opened for use no later than thirty (30) days from commencement (July 26, 2008). The Resolution is scheduled to come before the full City Council on Thursday, June 26, 2008.

Special Development Projects & Economic Development

At today's Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee meeting, the Committee heard testimony from Belinda Littlewood of the Office of Recovery Development and Administration, and other stakeholders, regarding the progress being made in establishing a proposed public-private economic development partnership.

Resolution R-08-329 was taken up by the Committee expressing support for the new partnership and urging the City of New Orleans to pursue a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the to-be-determined public-private economic development entity in order to facilitate its formal implementation. The Resolution is scheduled to be taken up at the Special City Council meeting on Thursday, June 26, 2008.

Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee Chair Councilmember Fielkow said, "Today, the Committee again expressed its support for the formation of a new public-private economic development partnership. The Committee expects to receive a formal and final report within the next two weeks from the International Economic Development Council which will be followed by additional public hearings so that further public input can be received. As expressed in the Mayor's State of the City Address last month, it is hoped that this new partnership can be up and running by early 2009.



Today's actions in the Committee represent one more important step towards improving our City's economic development efforts. A diverse group of public, private and community stakeholders has worked diligently over the last year towards meeting this goal."

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Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow Statement Regarding House Supplemental Appropriations Bill

Statement

June 20, 2008

Contact:
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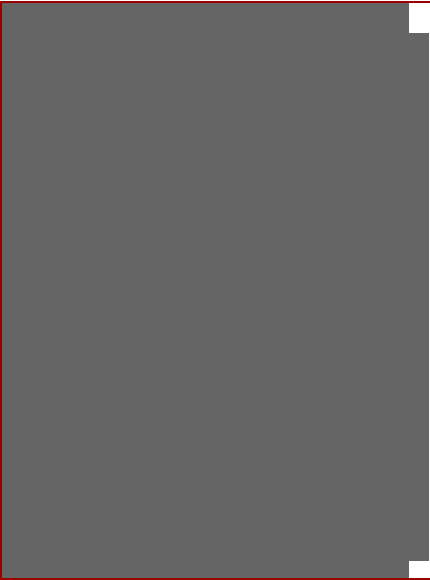
New Orleans, LA - June 20, 2008 - Last night, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that includes critical funding for supportive housing vouchers for mentally and physically disabled residents on the Gulf Coast.

The New Orleans City Council has aggressively advocated for funding of these supportive housing vouchers. Last month, Councilmembers-at-Large Arnie Fielkow and Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, along with UNITY of Greater New Orleans and the New Orleans Mission, lobbied in Washington D.C. as a follow-up to past trips for the passage of supportive housing vouchers and other critical recovery needs for the City of New Orleans.

Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow said, "I am very appreciative that the House of Representatives passed a Supplemental Appropriations Bill which provides funding for supportive housing vouchers - an urgent need to protect our most vulnerable New Orleanians. Regrettably, the House Bill left out other important domestic spending provisions that are essential to our recovery and future such as a fair and equitable state and local cost-share payment arrangement for federal flood protection, as well as necessary funding for Gulf Coast hospitals and criminal justice needs."

While in Washington, Councilmembers Fielkow and Clarkson met with House and Senate members to urge them to support the Senate version of the Supplemental Appropriations Bill, which includes:

- 100-year levee protection with a 30-year state and local cost-share payment arrangement
- Financial support for our local hospitals
- Financial support for local criminal justice programming
- Financial support for 3,000 permanent supportive housing vouchers



Fielkow continued, "While we are thankful for the funding and support our leaders in Washington have provided to New Orleans, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to remind them that while Hurricane Katrina may have been a natural disaster, the failing levee protection system was a man-made one and many of the issues we face in our recovery are a direct result of that failure."

He went on to say, "Our federal government made funding promises to us and we will continue to hold them accountable for those promises. Full funding for our recovery needs is critical and time-sensitive and I urge our federal delegation to support those needs as the Appropriations Bill moves back to the Senate and on to the President."

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Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow
Statement Regarding Agreement to
Return FEMA Trailer Sites to Previous Recreational Uses

Statement

June 23, 2008

Contact:
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New Orleans, LA - June 23, 2008 - Today, Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow issued the following statement regarding the agreement reached today between FEMA and the City of New Orleans whereby FEMA will begin to sod all New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) playfields that housed FEMA group trailer sites:

"I am very pleased that, in concurrence with the Resolution passed out of the Youth & Recreation Committee hearing last Friday, FEMA today agreed to sod and maintain all fields throughout the City which previously housed FEMA group trailer sites. As emphasized during last Friday's Committee hearing, it was important that this sodding, which can be done quicker than the seeding of grass, be done in all NORD parks and playgrounds throughout the City which housed FEMA group trailer sites.

The agreement reached today will hopefully allow our NORD parks and playgrounds to be reopened in an expedited fashion for the benefit of our kids. This reopening will not only provide additional recreational outlets, but also immensely help our City in the areas of crime prevention and physical and mental health.

Equally important to this development, I also ask that FEMA expeditiously restore or replace all of the other damaged items necessary for a quality recreational facility. This includes the restoration or replacement of all fencing, backstops and other equipment that was damaged during the fields' conversion to FEMA group trailer sites.

I would like to thank Babs Johnson and the other community activists from around the City who supported our Committee's efforts and were instrumental in the agreement which was reached today."

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Statement

June 23, 2008

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell Statement Regarding the Passing of Justice Revius Ortique

New Orleans, LA - June 23, 2008 - The passing of Justice Revius Oliver Ortique, Jr. is a great loss for the citizens of New Orleans. On behalf of the Morrell Family and staff, our hearts extend to his wife, daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. Justice Ortique was a profound presence in my life and the life of my family members.

A pioneer of the civil rights movement, he worked to improve race relations in the City and around the country. Recognizing his impartial and unselfish approach, he was appointed to numerous boards and commissions by five U.S. Presidents. He served his community honestly and with distinction and his influence and compassion will be felt individually and collectively for generations to come.

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Statement

June 23, 2008

New Orleans City Council Statement Regarding the Passing of Justice Revius Ortique

New Orleans, LA - June 23, 2008 - We are deeply saddened by the death of Justice Revius Oliver Ortique, Jr., a Louisiana civil rights icon. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

As we mourn the loss of Justice Ortique, we are mindful of his outstanding work. The Justice was an inspiration and a model for all of us who choose public service. His integrity and commitment to the New Orleans community was unmatched.

As a Lawyer, Community Activist, District Judge, the first African American Justice elected to the Louisiana Supreme Court and the Chairman of the New Orleans Aviation Board - he led by example representing all of the people of New Orleans in a balanced, unselfish and thoughtful manner.

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Media Advisory

June 25, 2008

Councilmember Willard-Lewis, Mayor Nagin and Family Advocacy & Neighborhood Services Host 1st "Seniors Screen for Life" Post-Katrina

What: District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis and Mayor C. Ray Nagin, in conjunction with Family Advocacy & Neighborhood Services (FANS), will host the first "Seniors Screen for Life" post-Katrina.

"Seniors Screen for Life" is free and open to all senior citizens and provides free health screenings including blood pressure, eye, ear and cholesterol screenings. This event also includes free lunch and entertainment provided by Charmaine Neville, Kermit Ruffins and Sharon Martin, as well as patriotic costume and dance contests.

Who: District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
Mayor C. Ray Nagin
Representatives from Cox Communications, Entergy New Orleans, American Association of Retired Persons, Excelth, Regional Transit Authority, Council On Aging, Emergency Medical Services, Unity Home Health, Peoples Health and Montgomery Watson Harza Global

When: Friday, June 27, 2008
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

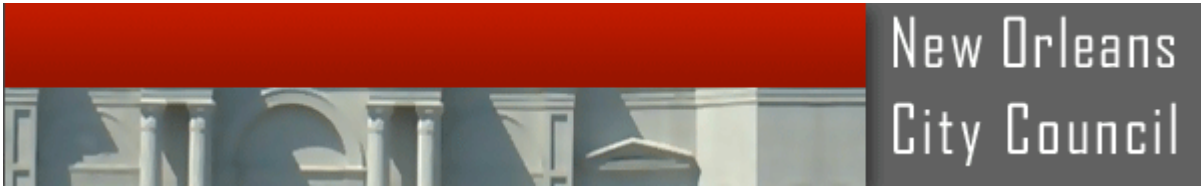
Where: Crystal Palace Ballroom
10020 Chef Menteur Highway

Contact: Candice Richards
Chief of Staff
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
Phone: (504) 658-1050
Cell: (504) 201-6996
Email: crichards@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

June 25, 2008

**Special Council Meeting to Address
Cultural Districts, Recovery Report,
Public-Private Partnership and NORD Playgrounds**

What: New Orleans City Council Special Council Meeting to address the following items:

- Resolutions in support of applications to the State of Louisiana for creation of certain cultural and/or other districts throughout the City
- Recovery Report of Dr. Edward Blakely, Executive Director of the Office of Recovery and Development Administration
- Resolution relative to the establishment of a public-private partnership for economic development in New Orleans
- Resolution relative to New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) playgrounds

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

When: Thursday, June 26, 2008
1:00 p.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Contact: Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
Email: rjpursell@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

June 26, 2008

Temporary Housing Removal Meeting

- WHAT:** Office of Recovery and Development Administration and New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation will host a community meeting to explain to the public temporary housing issues - trailer removal process, case management assistance and other recovery resource information.
- WHEN:** Friday, June 27, 2008
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** City Council Chamber
- CONTACT:** Dianna Beasley
Center Administrator
Ph: (504) 570-4203
Email: dbeasley@cityofno.com

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**Budget Committee Addresses Classified Pay Plan,
Supports Community Health Centers &
Committee Chair Receives Distinguished Budget Award**

News Release

June 26, 2008

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Mayor Nagin, Councilmember Hedge-Morrell
and Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Hatfield

New Orleans, LA - June 26, 2008 - Today Budget Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell led a Budget Committee meeting to address amendments to the Classified Pay Plan as well as the creation of community-based health centers. Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, along with the Administration, received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Approves Amendments to Classified Pay Plan

The Committee passed a Motion to be taken up at the regular Council meeting on July 10th, co-authored by Councilmembers Hedge-Morrell, Fielkow, Head and Clarkson approving an amendment to the Classified Pay Plan which sets new hiring rates for job classification groups effective July 1st, August 1st, September 1st, October 1st and November 1st.

The job classification groups are as follows:

Effective July 1, 2008: Administrative Support, Airport Administrative Support, Recreation Series, Health Series, Emergency Medical Technician Series, Mosquito Control and Finance.

Effective August 1, 2008: Trade/Maintenance, Aviation Trade/Maintenance, Sewerage and Water Board Facilities Maintenance, Sewerage and Water Board Networks Maintenance and Sewerage and Water Board Inspectional.

Effective September 1, 2008: Security, Safety and Permit Inspectional and Airport Transportation.

Effective October 1, 2008: Office of Municipal Investigation, Mosquito Control Specialty, Museum, Parking Control and Storekeeping.

Effective November 1, 2008: Information Technology, Library Positions and Professional, Attorney Series, Capital Project Series, Engineering Series and Airport Professional Series.

The Chief Administrative Officer has certified that funds are included in the City's 2008 budget to implement the proposed amendment.

Supports Community Health Centers

The Committee passed a Resolution to be taken up at the regular Council meeting on July 10th, co-authored by Councilmembers Hedge-Morrell, Fielkow, Head and Clarkson, in support of community-based health centers and their expansion throughout the New Orleans area

Budget Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "These community health centers are an important addition to the City. These centers will make healthcare more accessible to all our citizens."

Tulane University School of Medicine is planning to rise to the next level by working with community leaders to build model community health centers that will encourage the restoration of neighborhoods. The Council urges the Administration to begin searching for funding for these centers.

The Council also supported the formation of a task-force to be comprised of Tulane University's School of Medicine, Chief Administrative Office, and the Health Department to work collaboratively and identify the needs to establish the community-based health centers

Receives Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

At a press conference today at City Hall, representatives from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the U.S. and Canada presented the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the City of New Orleans. Budget Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, along with Mayor C. Ray Nagin and Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Brenda G. Hatfield were present to accept the prestigious award.

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "I want to thank everyone for their hard work. This award represents the entire Budget process and goes to show that hard work is rewarded."

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. A panel of independent reviewers examined the City's budget document presented to the New Orleans City Council in November 2007 for the current fiscal year.

In order to receive the award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines determining that the City's budget served as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device.



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**Council Supports Public/Private Economic Development Partnership,
Playground Development & Creation of Cultural Districts**

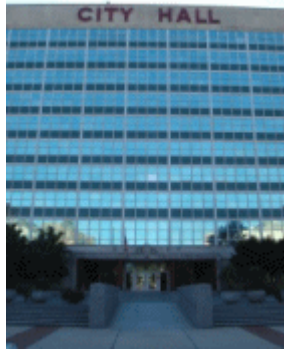
News Release

June 26, 2008

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
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New Orleans, LA - June 26, 2008 - At today's Special Council Meeting, the New Orleans City Council supported a public/private economic development partnership, playground development and the creation of cultural districts.

[New Orleans
City Council](#)



Supports Public/Private Economic Development Partnership

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-329 expressing the Council's support of a public/private economic development partnership.

Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee Chair

Councilmember Fielkow said, "This public-private partnership is another important step toward improving economic development efforts in our City."

The Council also requested the Mayor, in conjunction with the Council's Special Projects and Economic Development Committee, to initiate discussions with interested parties and stakeholders regarding a detailed and comprehensive Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City and an appropriate private entity to establish a public/private economic development partnership in New Orleans.



Supports Playground Development

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-346 which states that FEMA should immediately undertake the removal of all utilities or other hindrances in connection with parks and playgrounds previously used for placement of group trailer sites.

The Resolution also states that all 14 parks and playgrounds should be immediately sodded with work to be commenced no later than Thursday, June 26, 2008 and should be re-opened for use no later than thirty days from commencement of sodding.

Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson said, "Getting these playgrounds up-and-running is of the utmost importance. It is imperative that we provide clean venues and healthy activities for the children of this City."

This resolution reflects the Council's belief that New Orleans youth and citizens alike continue to be deprived of the usage of parks and playgrounds and immediate actions need to be taken to expedite the restoration process.



Supports Creation of Cultural Districts

The Council passed Resolutions R-05-348, R-05-350, R-05-351, R-05-352, R-05-353, R-05-354, R-05-355, R-05-356 and R-05-357 in support of the creation of various cultural districts around the City.

The creation of Cultural Districts is part of Act 298 of the 2007 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature which authorizes Local Governing Authorities to create Cultural Districts as a mechanism for community revitalization through the creation of hubs of cultural activity.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "We are in full support of the creation of these Cultural Districts. New Orleans is known for its diversity and we are proud to help showcase the many culturally rich areas of the City."

The City of New Orleans supports and endorses the submission of applications to the LDCRT, Office of Cultural Development to designate the following as state-certified Cultural Districts:

- Bayou Road & African American Heritage Cultural District
- Downtown Development District
- Downtown Rampart-Basin Street Corridor
- French Quarter Cultural District
- Gentilly / Pontchartrain Park Cultural District
- Lincoln Beach Cultural District
- Lower Ninth Ward Cultural District
- Museum-City Park Cultural District
- Saint Claude Corridor Cultural District
- Viet Village Cultural District

At the June 19th regular Council meeting, the Council passed Resolutions in support of the following Cultural Districts as well:

- Freret-Claiborne Cultural District
- Lafitte Greenway 'New City' Cultural District
- Lower Garden District Cultural District
- Magazine Street Gallery Cultural District
- Oak Street Music & Art Corridor Cultural District
- Old Algiers Cultural District
- Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard Cultural District

The Resolutions reflect the Council's support of the creation, administration and promotion of all of the Cultural Districts, and the Council encouraged all affected citizens and businesses to support and promote activities consistent with the purposes of these Cultural Districts.

The Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (LDCRT), Office of Cultural Development is authorized to develop criteria for cultural districts and determine whether or not a proposed Cultural District meets those criteria.

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Media Advisory

June 27, 2008

**Councilmember Willard-Lewis Joins Office of Recovery in
Code Sweep of Wimbledon & Castle Manor Subdivisions
& Surrounding Area in New Orleans East**

What: District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis will join the Office of Recovery Development Authority - Code Enforcement for a code sweep of the Wimbledon and Castle Manor subdivisions and surrounding areas of Lake Forest Blvd., Bundy Rd., Dwyer Blvd., Crowder Blvd., and Chef Menteur Hwy.

Who: District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
Code Enforcement Representatives Barry Cromarite and Winston Reid
Safety and Permits Representatives Paul Mays and Terry Willis

When: Saturday, June 28, 2008
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (*weather permitting*)

Where: Begins: Lake Forest Blvd. at the entrance of the Wimbledon subdivision
Ends: Chef Menteur Hwy. and Crowder Blvd.

Background: The purpose of the code sweep is to cite and identify buildings that are not up to the City's code as well as identify properties that present zoning issues and also identify properties that are considered to be an eminent health violation or in eminent danger of collapse.

Contact: Terrica White
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
Ph: (504)296-6318
Email: TSWhite@cityofno.com

David Grumberg
Office of Code Enforcement
Ph: (504) 915-2315

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Media Advisory

July 3, 2008

**Governmental Affairs Committee to Address
Charter Change Re: Force of Law & Open Meetings Law Legislation
In Session on Monday Morning**

What: New Orleans City Council Governmental Affairs Committee meeting to address a Charter change relative to the City Planning Commission and the City's Master Plan acquiring force of law, as well as legislation regarding the Open Meetings Law

When: Monday, July 7, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who: Committee Chair District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
Representatives from the Bureau of Governmental Research and Tulane University

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

Contact: Seung Hong
Office of District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
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Cell: (504) 451-3992
Email: shong@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

July 7, 2008

REVISED

Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee To Address Establishment of Trade Office in Panama & Updates on Fresh Food Access & New Orleans Film Office In Session on Tuesday Morning

What: New Orleans City Council Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee meeting to address the establishment of a Southeast Louisiana Trade Office in Panama, an update from the New Orleans Food Policy Advisory Committee on fresh food access in Orleans Parish and an economic impact update from the New Orleans Film Office

When: Tuesday, July 8, 2008
9:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who: Committee Chair Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

Contact: Kate Schneiderman
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
Ph: (504) 658-1063
Cell: (504) 905-9893
Email: krschneiderman@cityofno.com

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Illegal Dumping Task Force
Initiated by Councilmember Willard-Lewis

News Release

July 8, 2008

Contact:
Candice Richards
Chief of Staff
Office of
District "E" Councilmember
Cynthia Willard-Lewis
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crichards@cityofno.com

New Orleans
City Council

New Orleans, LA - July 8, 2008 - Today, District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis and City officials announced the formation of an Illegal Dumping Task Force that will focus on strengthening code enforcement of illegal dumping in the industrial areas of the City, specifically New Orleans East. The Task Force's mission will also emphasize the review of current local and state legislation and policies regarding illegal dumping and enforcement.

Within 24 hours of today's announcement a physical assessment of the targeted area will begin. The Task Force will concentrate initial efforts by issuing warnings to violators on Old Gentilly Road.

On July 16th, the City Council Recovery Committee will address illegal dumping issues and discuss current legislation regarding enforcement.

"The impact of blatant illegal dumping threatens public health and public safety, and is unsightly and demoralizing to our recovering communities. These actions hinder our efforts to attract new businesses and revitalize the City's recovering economy. We want to send a message that this behavior will not be tolerated," said Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.

Prior to the storms of 2005, illegal dumping, un-permitted dump sites and piles of unregulated automobile salvage waste had been a growing problem in New Orleans East. Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, during which the City was inundated with more than 30 millions tons of storm related debris, the challenge of enforcement has been heightened.

"Revitalizing our City requires that we preserve our green space, including parks, playgrounds and all public spaces. We need citizens to assist us by reporting those businesses or individuals who violate our property and threaten the public health and public safety of our community," said Dr. Ed Blakely, Director of the Office of Recovery Development and Administration.

Current Litter and Illegal Dumping Ordinances

New Orleans City Council Ordinance # 22601, authored by Councilmember Willard-Lewis, addresses the City's waste collection and disposal process and increases penalties for violations. The Ordinance also increases penalties for littering and illegal dumping.

The City's current Municipal Code Article V, Section 66-282 (littering, and dumping of specific materials) addresses the various facets of the illegal dumping problems and provides policy directions. The Municipal Code provides a maximum fine after the third offense of \$500 for construction related debris and \$5,000 for solid waste, community service of no less than 20 seven-hour days and imprisonment for no more than 180 days.

Motor vehicles used or intended to be used to transport or in any manner facilitate a violation can be impounded and are subject to forfeiture, with varying degrees of exceptions that weaken the enforcement intent.

Dumping on vacant lots is covered in the Municipal Code in Section 82-410 and the maximum fine is \$500.

The Illegal Dumping Task Force will include the following City Departments:

The New Orleans City Council Sanitation and Environmental Affairs Committee

New Orleans City Council District E

New Orleans Sanitation Department

New Orleans Health Department

New Orleans Police Department (NORD)

Office of Recovery Development and Administration (ORDA)

New Orleans Department of Code Enforcement

Mayor Office of Environmental Affairs

New Orleans Fire Department

Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff's Office

New Orleans Department of Safety and Permit

Citizens can report illegal dumping activities by calling the City Information Hotline at 311 or (504) 658-2299.

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**Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow & Governmental Affairs Committee
Initiate Reforms Calling for a More Transparent
Competitive Selection Process for City Contracts**

News Release

July 7, 2008

Contact:

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Arnie Fielkow
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[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - July 7, 2008 - Today, at the City Council's Governmental Affairs Committee meeting, three pieces of legislation authored by Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow were introduced and endorsed by the Committee, subject to review by the City Council's legal counsel, that will begin a course of comprehensive reforms in the competitive selection process for professional service contracts.

This legislation ensures further openness and transparency by both the Executive and Legislative branches of City Government by making the professional service contracting process conform to Louisiana open meetings laws.

Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow said, "New Orleans has made great strides recently in making our local government more transparent and open when conducting its business on behalf of the public. However, as it pertains to the critical competitive selection process for professional service contracts, I feel we can go further as it relates to creating a more open and transparent procurement process and thus instilling further confidence among our citizenry."

For over a decade, various good government and citizen groups have called for reforms to the City's competitive bid process. In 1995, local voters adopted City Charter revisions which require a competitive selection process for issuing professional service contracts.

In 2002, the Bureau of Governmental Research (BGR) asked for comprehensive reforms in the competitive selection process for professional service contracts. In 2006, both the Mayor's "Bring New Orleans Back" Commission and "Forward New Orleans: A Set of Principles" from the New Orleans Business Council called for a standardized and transparent professional services contracting process.

The following three pieces of legislation were endorsed at today's Governmental Affairs Committee meeting, subject to review by the City Council's special counsel law firm Herman, Herman, Katz and Cotlar:

- An Ordinance requiring that the Executive Branch of City Government, through its professional service contracting process, comply with the Louisiana open meetings laws. Additionally, the Ordinance mandates that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) be a key part of the open meetings process going forward.
- A Motion which mandates that the City Council, in its professional service contracting process, also fully comply with the Louisiana open meetings laws.
- A Resolution, suggested by the OIG, creating a six month time period for the OIG to review and recommend broader contracting and procurement reforms. Inspector General Robert Cerasoli will report his findings to the Council's Governmental Affairs Committee within six months.

Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow said, "If we are to truly turn a corner in how New Orleans conducts its public business, it is critically important that the contracting process be as open and transparent as possible, and that citizens have the right and opportunity to participate. New Orleans, post-Katrina, continues to face many challenges and the most effective use of our limited public funds needs to be of paramount importance. The public has been demanding this kind of reform for years and, like the creation of the Ethics Review Board and Office of Inspector General which the City Council successfully implemented, it is high time that our local government follow through on the public's requests."

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News Release

July 8, 2008

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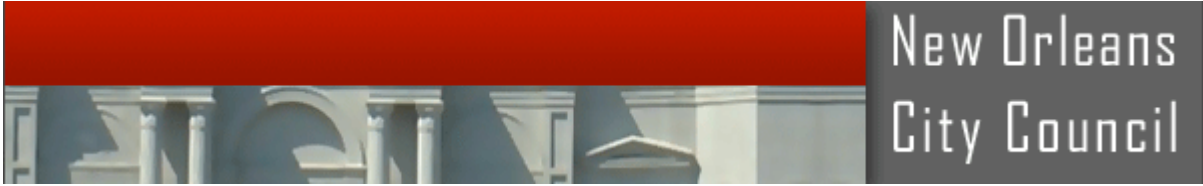
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**Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee
Supports Opening of Regional Trade Office in Panama
To Position Southeast Louisiana for Panama Canal Expansion**

News Release

July 8, 2008

Contact:

Kate Schneiderman
Office of
Councilmember-at-Large

Arnie Fielkow
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New Orleans, LA - July 8, 2008 - At today's Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee meeting, the Committee, led by Chair Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow, unanimously supported a Resolution calling for the establishment of a Southeast Louisiana Trade Office in Panama.

The expansion of the Panama Canal by 2014 presents an unprecedented economic growth opportunity for the Ports of New Orleans and Southeast Louisiana, but immediate action must be taken in order to reap the benefits. The Port of Houston has recently opened a trade development office in Panama and other southern ports such as Gulfport, Mobile, Miami and Charleston will all be competing for increased business as a result of the Panama Canal expansion.

Councilmember Fielkow, who participated in a trade mission to Panama in February, said, "A Panama-based trade office would allow us to not only be in the best position to reap the benefits of the Panama Canal expansion, but also to more effectively capture the ever-growing Central American trade business. Time is of the essence and the opening of such a regional trade office will put us on the ground and at the forefront of this tremendous economic development opportunity."

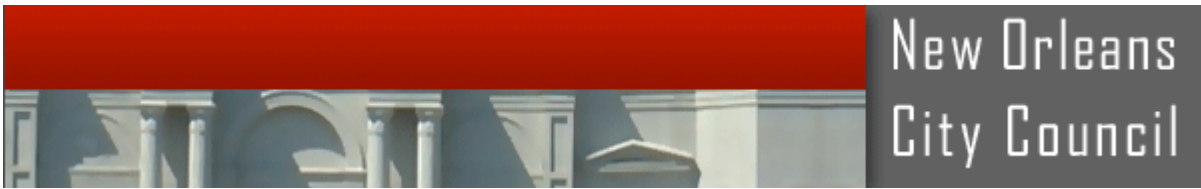
The Resolution asks the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) to lead the effort to establish a Southeast Louisiana Trade Office in Panama and immediately initiate strategic planning regarding the opening of such an office, including regional cost-sharing and the development of goals and objectives for a regional trade office. The RPC, at their regular meeting held after the Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee meeting today, decided to study the issue further after a regional trip to Panama scheduled for next week.

"Ensuring the long-term success of our Ports - one of our region's key industries - is of paramount importance. We cannot sit back and let other states grow at our expense," said Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow.

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Media Advisory

July 9, 2008

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session
Thursday, July 10th at 10 a.m.
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

What: Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Ordinance to call an election for November 4th to consider amendments to the Home Rule Charter relative to the City Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning adjustments and to give the Master Plan the force of law
- Ordinance establishing a temporary moratorium on all new permits for all alcohol establishments in the Lower Ninth Ward, including restaurants, bars, grocery stores and liquor stores, from the Industrial Canal to the St. Bernard Parish line and from the Mississippi River to Florida Avenue
- Ordinance in support of establishing an Independent Police Monitoring Division within the Office of Inspector General
- Ordinance in support of meter fare for taxi cabs, including disabled friendly taxis, to include an additional \$2.00 gasoline surcharge per each completed trip
- Ordinance in support of assisting and rebuilding the City's police, fire and other necessary government buildings
- Resolution in support of the Energy Smart New Orleans energy efficiency programs
- Presentation on the logistical status of the Office of Inspector General
- Presentation on the "Project Let Me Read" campaign to replenish book collections of school libraries devastated by Hurricane Katrina

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

When: Thursday, July 10, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Contact: Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
Email: rjpursell@cityofno.com

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The Council also received presentations on the "Project Let Me Read" campaign and a report from Dr. Edward Blakely on the status of the City's recovery.

Includes Force of Law in Master Plan



*Councilmember-at-Large
Clarkson*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,019, authored by Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, to call an election for November 4, 2008 to consider amendments to the Home Rule Charter relative to the City Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning adjustments and to give the Master Plan the force of law.

The purpose of including force of law in the Master Plan is to simplify and clarify the zoning and planning process in the City of New Orleans to allow for economic development and further progress.

Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson said, "Providing a consistent and transparent zoning process will attract more businesses to New Orleans. This Master Plan will send a message to the world that we are serious about rebuilding and redevelopment."

Voters will approve or reject the proposal to amend the City Charter Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

Establishes Temporary Moratorium on Alcohol Permits in Lower Ninth Ward



Councilmember Willard-Lewis

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,057, authored by District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, to establish a temporary moratorium on all new permits for all alcohol establishments in the Lower Ninth Ward.

The moratorium includes restaurants, bars, grocery stores and liquor stores, within District "E" in the area bounded by the Industrial Canal to the St. Bernard Parish line and from the Mississippi River to Florida Avenue.

Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "This moratorium is an important measure in preserving the neighborhoods and communities in the Lower Ninth Ward. We are working to do everything we can to assist in the recovery of the historic Lower Ninth Ward community."

Supports Creation of Independent Police Monitoring Division



Councilmember Carter

The Council unanimously passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,032 supporting the establishment of an Independent Police Monitoring Division within the Office of Inspector General.

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "This Independent Police Monitoring Division will be an objective third party focused on addressing citizen concerns and promoting accountability and transparency."

The Independent Police Monitoring Division's duties and responsibilities include: monitoring the operations of the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) particularly in the areas of civilian complaints, internal investigations and discipline; assessing the quality and timeliness of NOPD investigations; and ensuring NOPD accountability, transparency and responsiveness to the community it serves.

Supports Energy Smart New Orleans



Councilmember Midura

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-366 on the report of the Energy Smart New Orleans facilitation process and proposed Energy Smart New Orleans Energy Efficiency Program.

The Energy Smart Plan's elements include: community education, delivery of energy efficiency measures to homes and small businesses, weatherization, energy efficiency training and certification for contractors and builders.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "We must take action to reduce energy consumption and improve efficiency. The purpose of the Energy Smart Plan is to reduce the cost of energy and foster the development of a new green industry in the City of New Orleans."

The Resolution reflects the Council's belief that the Energy Smart Plan concept is consistent with and capable of fulfilling the Council's commitment to energy efficiency and the development of a viable energy efficiency program, as part of the City's comprehensive long-term energy policy.

The Council directed its Advisors to take the necessary steps to implement the Energy Smart Plan concept including the development of a proposed Request for Proposals and evaluation criteria.

Addresses Logistical Status of Office of Inspector General



Inspector General Robert Cerasoli & Courtney Bagneris & Jay Palestina from the Chief Administrative Office

Inspector General Robert Cerasoli and Courtney Bagneris and Jay Palestina from the Chief Administrative Office appeared before the Council to discuss the logistical status of the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "The OIG is of vital importance to the City of New Orleans. We want to ensure that the OIG is equipped with all necessary tools and resources in order to operate successfully and efficiently."

Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow requested that the OIG submit a monthly report to the Council regarding logistical set-up details. The Council also emphasized the importance of completing the set-up of the OIG in a timely fashion.

Supports School Board Millage



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-382, authored by District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, supporting and encouraging the passage of the 2009 Education Millage.

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "Millages have been an important source of revenue for the Orleans Parish Public School system and the Recovery School District for more than 50 years. We are in full support of New Orleans schools and this is an important step in their recovery."

The Millage will provide funding for textbooks and technology, competitive teacher salaries, repairs and maintenance and pre-k and drop out programs. This is a renewal of an existing millage and will not raise taxes.

Voters will be called upon to vote on the Education Millage on Saturday, July 19, 2008.

Addresses City-Wide Recovery Items

The Council passed the following Resolutions and Ordinances addressing several city-wide recovery items:

- Resolution R-08-384, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow, Clarkson, Midura, Head, Carter, Hedge-Morrell and Willard-Lewis, encouraging the formation of a coalition of disaster impacted Gulf Coast and Midwest communities to petition the federal government for appropriate funding and assistance to rebuild and restore affected communities
- Ordinance Calendar No. 27,034, co-authored by Councilmembers Willard-Lewis, Clarkson, Carter and Hedge-Morrell, in support of meter fare for taxi cabs, including disabled friendly taxis, to include an additional \$2.00 gasoline surcharge per each completed trip to assist drivers in combating rising gas prices
- Ordinance Calendar No. 27,059, authored by Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson, in support of assisting and rebuilding the City's police, fire and other necessary government buildings

The Council also received presentations on the following:

- The "Project Let Me Read" campaign to replenish book collections of school libraries devastated by Hurricane Katrina
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Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow Arranges \$72,000 Donation to New Orleans Mission

News Release

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New Orleans, LA - July 11, 2008 - Today, Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow presented the New Orleans Mission with cash and furniture valued at \$72,000. The donations were contributed by Howard Acquisitions LLC, a subsidiary of Plainfield Asset Management, LLC, owners of the Plaza Tower at 1001 Howard Avenue, and by Councilmember Fielkow through funds provided to Councilmembers by Harrah's Casino.

The furniture - valued at \$58,000 - includes couches, coffee tables, chairs, kitchen cabinets and granite counter tops, dining room sets, a writing desk, chests, televisions, art work, glassware and bar stools which the Mission will use at their facilities. In addition Howard Acquisitions donated \$10,000 to the Mission.

"Plainfield wants to be a part of New Orleans' recovery and is firmly committed to helping the City rebuild," said Thomas Walper, Plainfield Partner and Head of Corporate Restructuring. "We look forward in participating with other worthwhile community endeavors in the future. We applaud the New Orleans Mission for its beneficial work in the community, which is a major contribution to rebuilding New Orleans," Walper concluded.

"The Board, staff and clients of the New Orleans Mission truly appreciate the support of corporate partners such as Plainfield, Councilman Fielkow and our other elected officials," said Bennett Powell, New Orleans Mission Board President. "Hurricane Katrina devastated our facilities. We have relied on a diverse group of individuals, churches, businesses, foundations and government agencies not only to rebuild but to expand our facilities," said Mission Executive Director Ron Gonzales.

"When Plainfield asked who could best benefit from their donation, I knew the New Orleans Mission was a worthwhile recipient," said Councilmember Fielkow. "The New Orleans Mission provides much needed services including housing, case management, clothing and free meals to thousands of men and women each month," he continued. "I am also pleased to donate \$5,000 to help the Mission fulfill their goals," Fielkow concluded.

Located at 1130 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, the New Orleans Mission is the largest private service provider for the homeless in New Orleans. A member of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, the New Orleans Mission operates a comprehensive program that includes an Emergency Over-Night Shelter for Men, a Discipleship Program for Men, an Overnight Shelter for Single Women, Transitional Housing for Families, and a Day Center featuring laundry, showers, case management and storage for belongings.

Several supportive agencies including Traveler's Aid, the Veterans Administration and Celebration Hope also have offices at the Mission. Celebration Hope offers free mental health and substance abuse counseling. The Mission provides shelter for up to 160 men, women and children each night. Many evenings the Mission is full and must turn people away.

The New Orleans Mission lost its roof and entire contents during Hurricane Katrina. "We placed our faith in God and He answered our prayers," said Gonzales. "With the help of many individuals, we raised more than \$2 million from the country of Qatar, the National Federal Home Loan Bank Foundation, and churchgoers all across America," he continued. "The majority of our previous donors are gone and we still need new sources of funding to keep our programs operating," said Powell. The Mission's annual operating budget is \$780,000.

The City of New Orleans has contracted with the Mission to provide community outreach and shelter services. "We are proud of the important role the Mission has played with other partnering agencies to find more stable housing for those living in Duncan Plaza or under the Claiborne Avenue overpass," said Councilmember Fielkow.

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"The Board, staff and clients of the New Orleans Mission truly appreciate the support of corporate partners such as Plainfield, Councilman Fielkow and our other elected officials," said Bennett Powell, New Orleans Mission Board President. "Hurricane Katrina devastated our facilities. We have relied on a diverse group of individuals, churches, businesses, foundations and government agencies not only to rebuild but to expand our facilities," said Mission Executive Director Ron Gonzales.

"When Plainfield asked who could best benefit from their donation, I knew the New Orleans Mission was a worthwhile recipient," said Councilmember Fielkow. "The New Orleans Mission provides much needed services including housing, case management, clothing and free meals to thousands of men and women each month," he continued. "I am also pleased to donate \$5,000 to help the Mission fulfill their goals," Fielkow concluded.

Located at 1130 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, the New Orleans Mission is the largest private service provider for the homeless in New Orleans. A member of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, the New Orleans Mission operates a comprehensive program that includes an Emergency Over-Night Shelter for Men, a Discipleship Program for Men, an Overnight Shelter for Single Women, Transitional Housing for Families, and a Day Center featuring laundry, showers, case management and storage for belongings.

Several supportive agencies including Traveler's Aid, the Veterans Administration and Celebration Hope also have offices at the Mission. Celebration Hope offers free mental health and substance abuse counseling. The Mission provides shelter for up to 160 men, women and children each night. Many evenings the Mission is full and must turn people away.

The New Orleans Mission lost its roof and entire contents during Hurricane Katrina. "We placed our faith in God and He answered our prayers," said Gonzales. "With the help of many individuals, we raised more than \$2 million from the country of Qatar, the National Federal Home Loan Bank Foundation, and churchgoers all across America," he continued. "The majority of our previous donors are gone and we still need new sources of funding to keep our programs operating," said Powell. The Mission's annual operating budget is \$780,000.

The City of New Orleans has contracted with the Mission to provide community outreach and shelter services. "We are proud of the important role the Mission has played with other partnering agencies to find more stable housing for those living in Duncan Plaza or under the Claiborne Avenue overpass," said Councilmember Fielkow.

Howard Acquisitions acquired the Plaza Tower in a public foreclosure sale in July, 2007. Plainfield Asset Management, LLC was founded in February 2005. The firm manages investment capital for institutions and high net worth individuals based in the United States and abroad. Plainfield currently employs over 150 people in its offices in Greenwich, Connecticut.

For more information about the New Orleans Mission call (504) 523-2116 or log on to www.neworleansmission.org.

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Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow, NORD and New Orleans Zephyrs Organize Field Trip for Summer Campers to Zephyr Field

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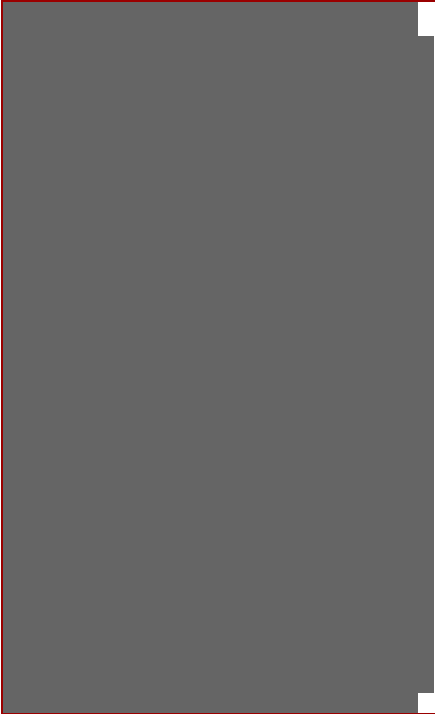
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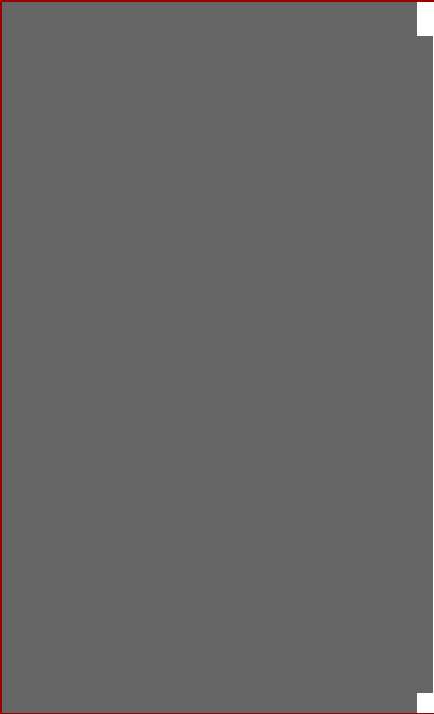
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Statement

July 18, 2008

**Councilmember James Carter, Chairman of Criminal Justice Committee,
Calls Special City Council Criminal Justice Committee Meeting
to Address Recent Police Misconduct**



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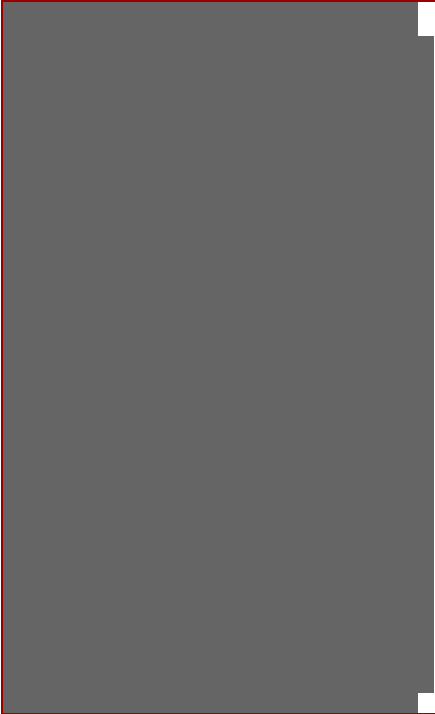
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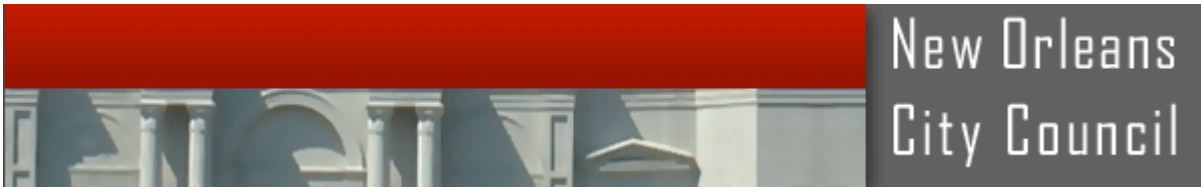
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Media Advisory

July 22, 2008

**Criminal Justice Committee
To Address New Orleans Police Department Misconduct
In Special Session on Wednesday Afternoon**

What: New Orleans City Council Criminal Justice Committee special meeting to address recent allegations of New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) police misconduct and the Council's efforts to address this issue

When: Wednesday, July 23, 2008
12:00 p.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who: Committee Chair District "C" Councilmember Carter
Council President & Committee member Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson
Committee member District "A" Councilmember Midura
Inspector General Robert Cerasoli

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

Contact: Nadiene Van Dyke
Chief of Staff
Office of District "C" Councilmember James Carter
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Email: nhvandyke@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

July 22, 2008

**Recovery Committee in Session on Wednesday Afternoon
To Address Reports from New Orleans Affordable Homeownership,
New Orleans Redevelopment Authority and
Office of Recovery and Development Administration**

What: The New Orleans City Council Recovery Committee will address the following:

- New Orleans Affordable Homeownership (NOAH) status report
- New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) lawsuits files on adjudicated properties' and status report of the Lot Next Door Program
- Office of Recovery and Development Administration (ORDA) status report

When: Wednesday, July 23, 2008
2:00 p.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who: Council President & Committee Co-Chair Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson
Committee Co-Chair District "E" Councilmember Willard-Lewis
Committee Member District "A" Councilmember Midura
Committee Member District "B" Councilmember Head
Committee Member District "C" Councilmember Carter
Committee Member District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell
New Orleans Affordable Homeownership representative Tonya Darden
Executive Director of Office of Recovery and Development Administration Dr. Blakely

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

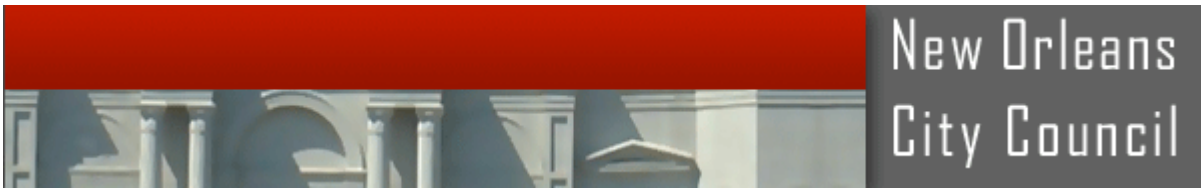
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Media Advisory

July 22, 2008

**Youth & Recreation Committee
To Address New Orleans Recreation Department Reform Study
In Session on Wednesday Morning**

What: New Orleans City Council Youth & Recreation Committee meeting to address the "Best Practice Study of Municipal Recreations Departments" - a best-practices based New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) Reform Study

When: Wednesday, July 23, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who: Council Vice President & Committee Chair Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow
Council President & Committee member Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson
Committee member District "C" Councilmember Carter
Greater New Orleans After School Partnership representative Gina Warner
Bucher, Willis, Ratcliff Consulting Firm representative Richard Horton

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

Contact: Kate Schneiderman
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Media Advisory

July 23, 2008

Council Committees to Address Youth & Recreation, Criminal Justice and Recovery In Three Sessions on Wednesday in Council Chamber

What: New Orleans City Council Youth & Recreation Committee meeting to address "Best Practice Study of Municipal Recreations Departments" - a best-practices based New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) Reform Study

When: Wednesday, July 23, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Who: Council Vice President & Committee Chair Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow
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Who: Committee Chair District "C" Councilmember Carter
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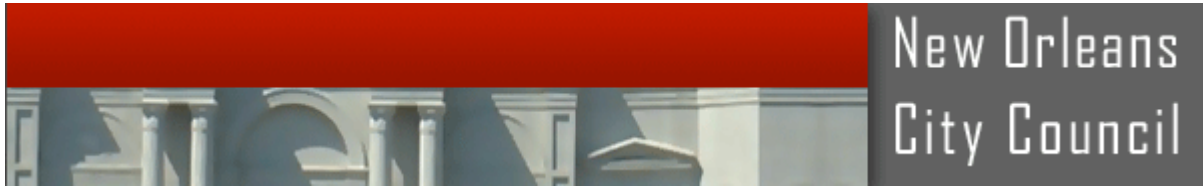
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Media Advisory

July 23, 2008

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session
Thursday, July 24th at 10 a.m.
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

What: Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Resolution requesting that the Mayor take the lead in creating a regional task force to establish a Southeast Louisiana Trade Office and develop a regional strategy for taking advantage of economic development opportunities associated with the Panama Canal
- Resolution calling for forgiveness of the local cost share for one hundred year flood protection for Southeast Louisiana, or in the alternative, urging that the executive branch and Congress work to allow the local cost share to be paid out over a thirty year period and appropriate necessary funds to prevent the delay of construction and rebuilding
- Report from Council District "D" highlighting District "D" recovery projects including the Department of Public Works Robert E. Lee Boulevard road reconstruction project

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

When: Thursday, July 24, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Contact: Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
Email: rjpursell@cityofno.com

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New Orleans
City Council

City Council Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

July 24, 2008

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Ph: (504) 658-1082

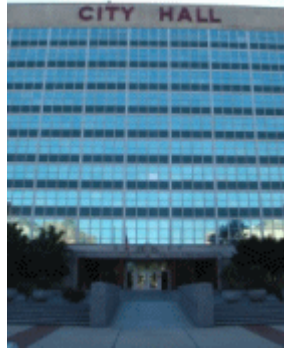
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New Orleans, LA - July 24, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council supported the establishment of a Southeast Louisiana Trade Office in Panama, and funding for the Computerized Web Video Streaming and Meetings Management System. The Council also addressed one hundred year flood protection and received a status update on the recovery of St. Bernard Parish.

Supports Southeast Louisiana Trade Office



The Council adopted Resolution R-08-403, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow, Clarkson, Hedge-Morrell and Willard-Lewis, requesting that the Mayor take the lead in creating a regional task force to establish a Southeast Louisiana Trade Office in Panama and develop a regional strategy for taking advantage of economic development opportunities associated with the Panama Canal.

The regional task force is to be comprised of port authorities, parish governments and other private and public sector stakeholders.

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "The expansion of the Panama Canal presents an unprecedented economic opportunity. This trade office will allow New Orleans to more effectively capture the ever-growing Central American trade business."

The Resolution reflects the Council's belief that the establishment of the trade office in Panama would maximize potential for economic success though providing staff on the ground to promote the interests of the City of New Orleans on a daily basis with Panama Canal authority officials, government officials and shippers.

Addresses One Hundred Year Flood Protection



The Council adopted Resolution R-08-402 calling for forgiveness of the local cost share for one hundred year flood protection for Southeast Louisiana, or in the alternative, urging that the executive branch and Congress work to allow the local cost share to be paid out over a thirty year period and to appropriate necessary funds to prevent the delay of construction and rebuilding.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "True one hundred year flood protection for Southeast Louisiana must be approached from a regional perspective with a contiguous system that eliminates all gaps. We will continue our work to ensure that Southeast Louisiana receives adequate flood protection."

The Resolution cites the fact that much of Southeast Louisiana is still rebuilding and attempting to bring in new business and economic development. Therefore, imposing an additional tax burden on citizens in order to cover the local cost share will greatly hamper recovery and rebuilding.

Supports Funding for Computerized Web Video Streaming and Meetings Management System



Councilmember Carter

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,072, authored by District "C" Councilmember James Carter, approving the Government Access Capital Fund Committee's grant application for funding to be used to purchase the hardware, software and other equipment necessary for the implementation of a Computerized Web Video Streaming and Meetings Management System.

Cable & Telecommunications Committee Chair Councilmember Carter said, "Our goal is to increase public accessibility to information and public documents and make the business of public meetings more transparent - we are working to develop a system accessible to all citizens."

The Council is working through Granicus, the streaming media solution provider, to change the way the public views and participates in the government process by providing the general public easy access to information and public documents.

Addresses St. Bernard Parish Recovery Status



St. Bernard Parish President Craig Taffaro

St. Bernard Parish President, Craig Taffaro appeared before the Council to discuss the progress of recovery and rebuilding in St. Bernard Parish.

The status report detailed the substantial growth in the St. Bernard Parish community, as well as highlighted recovery projects in the area.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "St. Bernard Parish suffered total destruction from Hurricane Katrina and in the past three years it has shown remarkable progress due to the multitude of people driving recovery efforts forward."

The Council praised Taffaro's efforts and recognized the importance of rebuilding a community that shares common boundaries and a common spirit with the City of New Orleans.

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City Council Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

July 24, 2008

Contact:

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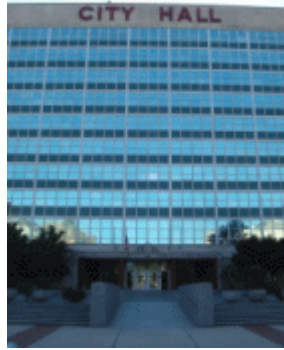
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State Official to Formally Brief Council and Staff on Recent Revisions to Ethics Laws

News Release

July 25, 2008

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
rjpursell@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - July 25, 2008 - On Tuesday July 29, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., City Council Members, Council staff, and other city employees will hear a presentation on revisions to the state ethics code recently passed in Special and Regular Sessions of the Louisiana Legislature.

In light of the numerous recent changes made to the ethics code, Councilmembers felt it prudent to be formally updated regarding the new laws. Continuing its proactive approach to government transparency and personal responsibility by elected officials relative to ethics laws, the Council requested the formal briefing be made by state officials.

The presentation will be conducted by State Board of Ethics Staff Attorney Courtney Jackson and held in the Purchasing Department Conference Room, 4W05, City Hall.

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Media Advisory

July 25, 2008



**District "C" Councilmember James Carter
To Hold Community Meeting in Algiers
To Discuss Patterson Street Rehabilitation Project**

- WHAT:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter will hold a Community Meeting in Algiers to discuss the Patterson Street Rehabilitation Project. A presentation on the project will be given by Robert Mendoza, Director of the New Orleans Department of Public Works.
- WHO:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Director of the Department of Public Works Robert Mendoza
- WHEN:** Tuesday, July 29, 2008
7:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Aurora United Methodist Church
3300 Eton Street
New Orleans, LA 70131
(Click [here](#) for map)
- CONTACT:** Jonas K. Nash
Director of Community Relations
Office of District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Office: (504) 658-1030
Email: jknash@cityofno.com

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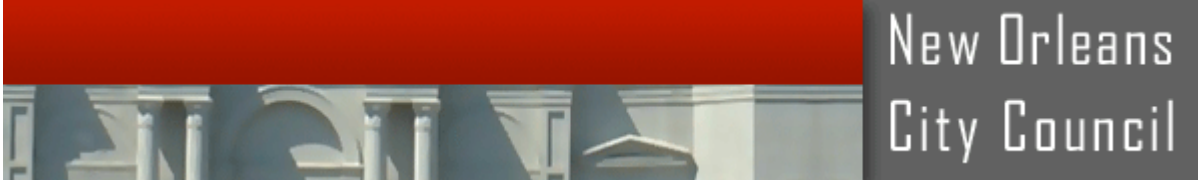
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New Orleans
City Council

NOLA Council News

July 31, 2008 Vol. 1 No. 9

Click [here](#) to view full newsletter or click on links below to view individual articles.

- [Property Tax Rolls to Open in Orleans Parish](#)
- [Council and Staff Receive Formal Briefing from State Official on Recent Revisions to Ethics Laws](#)
- [Council Supports Trade Office in Panama, One Hundred Year Flood Protection, Web Video Streaming System Funding and St. Bernard Parish Recovery Progress](#)
- [Councilmember-At-Large Fielkow Participates in Community Initiatives](#)
- [Councilmember Carter Calls Special Criminal Justice Committee Meeting to Address Recent Police Misconduct](#)
- [Council Supports Temporary Moratorium in Lower Ninth Ward & Creation of Independent Police Monitoring Division and Addresses Logistical Status of Office of Inspector General & City-Wide Recovery Items](#)
- [Giving Master Plan Force of Law to Go to Voters](#)
- [Supports Energy Smart New Orleans](#)
- [Supports School Board Millage](#)
- [Councilmember Willard-Lewis Initiates Illegal Dumping Task Force](#)

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Property Tax Rolls to Open in Orleans Parish

Appeals Process Outlined

News Release

July 31, 2008

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New Orleans, LA - July 31, 2008 - Tomorrow August 1, 2008, the property tax rolls will open in Orleans Parish. Assessment lists will be open for public inspection from August 1st to August 15th in the Assessors Offices on the fourth floor of City Hall located at 1300 Perdido Street.

According to Council Budget Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, this is a detailed and complex process - that is why we have attempted to simplify it by providing a list of frequently asked questions and other important information that can be immediately accessed online.

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "To ensure that the public is fully informed and that the process runs smoothly it is vital that accurate and accessible information be provided."

The New Orleans City Council, through its website www.neworleanscitycouncil.com, will provide detailed information on the Property Tax Assessments and Appeals process.

Click [here](#) for detailed information regarding your Property Tax Assessments and Appeals process in Orleans Parish.

To accommodate citizens waiting to meet with their Assessors on regular workdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. between August 1st and August 15th, the City Council has authorized the use of seating in the City Council Chamber.

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**INFORMATION ON PROPERTY TAX
ASSESSMENTS AND APPEALS IN
ORLEANS PARISH**

Introduction

This document is designed to provide basic information regarding the property tax assessment process, including appeals to the Board of Review, and the laws that govern them.

1. What types of property are subject to taxation?

All property situated within the state, except that expressly exempted from taxation by law, is subject to taxation on the basis of the assessed valuation. For residential properties, this means residential property, including the land and building.

2. How is my property assessed?

According to the State Constitution, property must be assessed at its fair market value. To find the value of any piece of property, the assessor must first determine:

1. the selling price of comparable properties;
2. the cost to replace the property;
3. how much it takes to operate and keep the property in repair;
4. what rent the property may earn; and
5. other economic factors affecting its value.

3. What causes my property values to change?

A property's value can change for many reasons. The most obvious reason is

physical improvements to the property or major damage. The most frequent cause of change to the value of property is a change in the market.

4. How is assessed value determined?

The classification of property subject to ad valorem taxes is the percentage of fair market value on the first day of January 2008. The percentage value of each classification for the purpose of determining assessed value are as follows:

Classifications	Percentages
Land	10%
Improvements for Residential	10%
Improvements for Commercial	15%
Business Movable Property	15%
Public Service (Excluding Land)	25%

5. Is my homestead exemption factored into my assessment?

Yes. Your homestead exemption, up to \$7,500 is factored into your assessment. To qualify for a homestead exemption, you must own and occupy your house as your primary residence, and file the necessary paperwork with your Assessor on an annual basis.

6. What is meant by "millage rates" or "mills?"

Millage is the percentage of value that is used in calculating taxes, defined as 1/10 of 1 percent. That millage is multiplied by the assessed value after any exemptions have been subtracted to calculate the taxes. For example:

{ Property Tax Calculation Sample }

\$125,000.00 Sales Price

x 10%

\$ 12,500.00 = Assessed Value

- 7,500.00 Less Homestead Exemption

\$ 5,000.00 = Taxable Value

\$ 5,000.00

x .12920 = Sample millage rate

\$ **646.00** = Total tax

7. When and where are the tax rolls open for inspection?

Assessment lists are open for public inspection from August 1 to August 15 in Orleans Parish on the Fourth Floor, City Hall, 1300 Perdido Street.

The Orleans Parish Assessors certify their assessment rolls to the Board of Review on or before the tenth business day after August 15, or August 29.

8. When should I discuss my assessment with the Assessor's office?

You should discuss your assessment with your Assessor during the public inspection period or between August 1 and August 15. At that time, any questions regarding assessments can be addressed and/or disputed. You will have an opportunity to meet with the assessor or an office staff member to provide documentation for an informal appeal of the assessment. Documentation includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Recent appraisal(s);
- b. Insurance policy(ies);
- c. Photograph(s); and/or
- d. Contractor's repair estimate(s);

These meetings are encouraged as they may result in resolving disputed assessments.

9. If I feel my property was incorrectly assessed, what are my options?

If there is a disagreement as to the assessment, and you wish to protest the value, each assessor is obligated to provide you access to a form entitled, "Exhibit A, Notice of Appeal Request for Board of Review." A copy of this form may also be downloaded from www.opboa.org. The Board of Review will consider all written appeals which have been filed in compliance with the following procedure:

2. The appeal form provided by the Board of Review, through the office of the assessor, *must be completed in conformity with the requirements of the Board of Review.*
3. All documentation supporting your appeal must be included with the appeal form. Otherwise, the appeal will be deemed incomplete and denied.
4. Documentation supporting your appeal includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Recent appraisal(s);
 - b. Insurance policy(ies);
 - c. Photograph(s); and/or
 - d. Contractor's repair estimate(s);
5. The appeal form must be received in the assessor's office three business days after August 15, or August, 20, 2008.

10. What are the authorities of the Board of Review?

The Board of Review has authority to change the assessments made by your assessor. The Board of Review may make a determination to increase or decrease the assessment of real or personal property made by the assessor in accordance with the fair market or use valuation determined by the Board of Review.

The Board of Review does not have the authority to change assessments for any prior years. The Board of Review has no authority to consider or act upon appeals of Homeowner’s Exemption denials, age freeze or disability determinations.

11. What is the Board of Review’s purpose?

The Board of Review is independent from the Assessor. The Board is actually the New Orleans City Council, which in turn hires real estate professionals whose job it is to hear your appeal.

Every citizen who appears before the Board of Review is in fact challenging a decision of the Assessor. The purpose of the Board of Review is to give residents of Orleans Parish the opportunity to object to what they feel may be an inaccurate assessment of their property, and it is the Board of Review’s responsibility to make an independent judgment based on the facts and the law.

12. How will I be notified about my BOR hearing?

All appellants will be notified of their hearing date and time by first class mail. The scheduling letter will be mailed to the mailing address provided in the appeal, and will include all necessary hearing information, including the location. Hearings begin on September 15, 2008 and will conclude by October 15, 2008. The schedule will also be available on the

internet. A link to the on-line schedule will be made available on the City Council’s website at www.nocitycouncil.com on approximately September, 1, 2008.

13. What type of evidence will the Board of Review utilize in reviewing my appeal?

There are three main types of evidence which will be considered by the Board of Review in determining whether or not the Assessor’s value should be upheld, including:

1. The recent sale price of the property being assessed;
2. The recent sale price of comparable properties in the area of the property being assessed; and
3. The opinion of a real estate professional as to the value of the property being assessed.

14. How will I find out if my assessment was changed by the Board of Review?

The Board of Review will provide you with a written notice of its particular appeal determination, with a copy submitted to the assessor and the Tax Commission on or before the certification of the assessment list to the Tax Commission.

15. Are there any other appeal procedures if I dispute the Board of Review’s determination?

The determination by the Board of Review is final unless appealed, in writing to the Louisiana Tax Commission within 10 business days after notice of the BOR determination is postmarked or is delivered by hand to the taxpayer and/or to the assessor. The Board of Review certifies the assessment list to the Louisiana Tax Commission on or before October 20 of each year.

16. Do I qualify for a “special assessment?”

In 2002, The State of Louisiana provided for an assessment “freeze” or special assessment for taxpayers aged 65 years or older. Under this provision, homeowners who are 65 years or older with an adjusted household income of \$58,531 or less may qualify for a freeze on their assessment. The assessment is frozen at the amount assessed at the time of qualification. If granted, the special assessment is valid only for the tax year stated in the application and must be applied for annually. Failure to file causes the special assessment level to lapse and the freeze will not be effective in years when no application is made. Further, in the event that the property is sold, or upon death of the homeowner, the special assessment will terminate on the last day of December of the year the property is sold. The Board of Review does not handle special assessments. This must be handled by your assessor.

17. For more information contact Kerry J. Miller at (504)599-8194 or Kyle Spaulding at (504)599-8249.

Media Advisory

August 1, 2008



**District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Joins Department of Code Enforcement
In Code Sweep of Tunisburg Area**

- WHAT:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter will join with the Department of Code Enforcement to inspect property in the areas bounded by Magellan St., Odeon Ave., Flanders St. and General Meyer Ave.; and Flanders St., Patterson Dr., Wiltz Ln. and General Meyer Ave. Residents are encouraged to come out and participate in this code sweep to gain a better understanding of the code enforcement process and raise any specific code enforcement questions they have with Code Enforcement Inspectors.
- WHO:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Code Enforcement Inspectors
- WHEN:** Saturday, August 2, 2008
9:00 a.m.
- WHERE:** General Meyer Ave. at Odeon Ave.
In front of Frostop
(Click [here](#) for map)
- CONTACT:** Jonas K. Nash
Director of Community Relations
Office of District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Office: (504) 658-1030
Email: jknash@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

August 1, 2008



**District "C" Councilmember James Carter
To Lead Community Walk Through Behrman Park**

- WHAT:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter will lead a community walk through Behrman Park. Algiers residents will have the opportunity to address concerns about the property and discuss ideas for improving the area. Director of New Orleans Recreation Department Larry Barabino, Director of Parks and Parkways Ann MacDonald and Director of Property Management Pamela Smith will also be in attendance to answer questions.
- WHO:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Director of New Orleans Recreation Larry Barabino
Director of Parks and Parkways Ann MacDonald
Director of Property Management Pamela Smith
- WHEN:** Monday, August 4, 2008
6:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Behrman Park
2529 General Meyer Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70114
(Click [here](#) for map)
- CONTACT:** Jonas K. Nash
Director of Community Relations
Office of District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Office: (504) 658-1030
Email: jknash@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

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Councilmember Hedge-Morrell Addresses
Future of New Orleans International Airport
In Airport Committee Meeting

News Release

August 6, 2008

Contact:
Jared Brossett
Chief of Staff
Office of District "D"
Councilmember
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
Ph: 504-658-1040
Email:
JBrossett@cityofno.com

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New Orleans, LA - August 6, 2008 -

At today's Airport Committee meeting, Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell held the first of a series of hearings on the future of the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "The Louis Armstrong Airport is a vital economic development catalyst for the region's future growth and

development. New Orleans' tourism economy is heavily dependent on having adequate flights to bring convention and leisure visitors to New Orleans. A modern, well-run airport is also a strong indicator for businesses considering expansion or relocation to our region."

The Committee has several goals, which include:

- To understand the new state legislation, Act 972, which was passed earlier this year
- To understand what rights the citizens of New Orleans have through their Home Rule Charter
- To understand how the airport can best serve the citizens of New Orleans, the greater metropolitan area, the State of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region

- To determine the fiscal importance of the airport and the surrounding area for tourism, business travelers and economic development

Aviation Board Chairman Dan Packer addressed the Committee along with attorney A. J. Hebert.

The City Council established an Airport sub-committee in 2007 and recently elevated this sub-committee to a full-standing committee. In addition to Councilmember Hedge-Morrell who serves as Committee Chair, Councilmembers Fielkow and Carter are Committee members and Council President Clarkson is the alternate Committee member.

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Orleans Parish Taxpayers Have Until August 15th To Inspect Property Tax Rolls

News Release

August 6, 2008

Contact:

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Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
rjpursell@cityofno.com

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Councilmember Hedge-Morrell Admonishes Civil Service Commission

Supports Equal Pay Rate for Firefighters

News Release

August 6, 2008

Contact:
Jared Brossett
Chief of Staff
Office of District "D"
Councilmember
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
Ph: 504-658-1040
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New Orleans, LA - August 6, 2008 - District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell admonished the Civil Service Commission today for not using the same standards to determine the new base pay rate for firefighters as they did for police officers.

Officials agreed that the new base pay rate would be pegged to the "southern regional average." The Civil Service Commission surveyed one set of cities to determine the police department's base pay and a different set of cities to determine the fire department's base pay. The same standards must apply in the case of fire, police and EMS.

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "I am extremely disappointed that the Civil Service Commission did not compare the same cities' pay rate for fire and police. By using different cities, the firefighters' base pay rate may have been significantly undervalued."

The Council had a third-party consultant prepare a comparative review of the pay rates.

Hedge-Morrell continued, "The firefighters of New Orleans do an excellent job of protecting the lives and property of our citizens. They deserve to be properly compensated."

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Media Advisory

August 6, 2008

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session
Thursday, August 7th at 10 a.m.
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

What: Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- As the first Order of Business, Mayor C. Ray Nagin has been invited to speak on New Orleans Affordable Homeownership (NOAH)
- Resolution to begin second phase of "Desire Hope IV Project" which will include the addition of 160 units to the Savoy Place Apartments in the Desire Florida area
- Council District "E" Report highlighting and providing updates on projects ongoing in the community

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

When: Thursday, August 7, 2008
10:00 a.m.

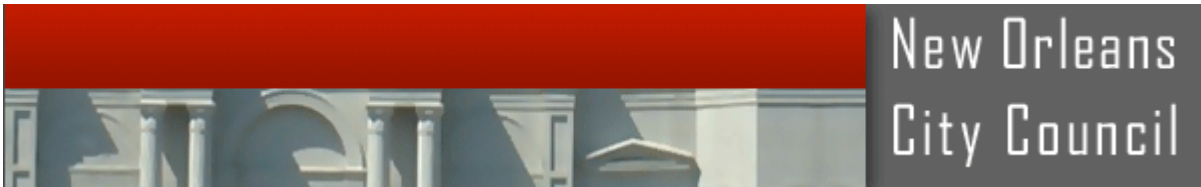
Where: City Council Chamber

Contact: Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
Email: rjpursell@cityofno.com

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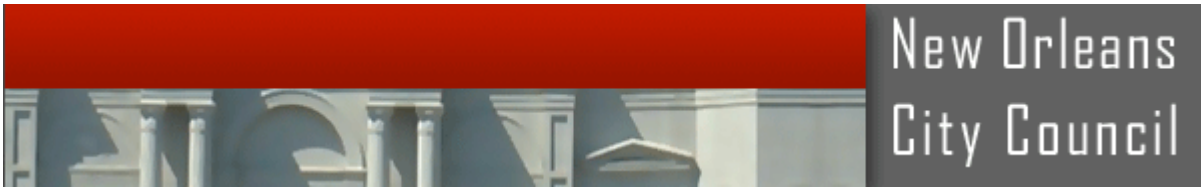
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City Council Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

August 7, 2008

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New Orleans, LA - August 7, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council addressed the New Orleans Affordable Homeownership program, supported Panama Canal economic development opportunities, addressed the importance of an equal base pay rate for firefighters and supported the beginning of the second phase of the "Desire Hope VI Project."

Addresses New Orleans Affordable Homeownership



Mayor Nagin

Mayor C. Ray Nagin appeared before the Council today, at the request of Council President Clarkson, to address recent investigations of New Orleans Affordable Homeownership (NOAH).

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Mayor, we thank you for coming today and speaking with us about NOAH. We recognize the importance of working together to get to the bottom of this issue and we look forward to assisting in any way we can with the ongoing investigation."

Mayor Nagin stated that the Administration was currently conducting an internal investigation of NOAH and would continue to do so to resolve all issues related to work done on NOAH properties throughout the City. The Mayor also assured the Council that the Administration was in no way impeding the investigations of NOAH being done by any other agency.

Supports Panama Canal Economic Development Opportunities



Members of the Panama Canal Delegation

Members of the Panama Canal Delegation appeared before the Council today, at the request of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow, to give a debriefing on the Delegation's trip to Panama.

The Delegation addressed the progress being made in Panama with regard to the expansion of the Panama Canal, as well as the necessity to take action to be a part of this important economic development opportunity.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "We need to have a plan in place so that New Orleans can take advantage of the increased business that will result from the expansion of the Canal. We are competing for this business with many other cities and we need to be proactive in our approach so as to ensure that we do not miss out on this opportunity."

The Delegation was made up of Plaquemines Parish President Bill Nungesser, State Senator A.G. Crowe, Port of New Orleans President Gary LaGrange, and the Honorable Eric Rodriguez, Consul General of Panama.

Addresses Equal Firefighter Base Pay Rate



Representatives from Paillet, Meunier & LeBlanc, L.L.P.

The Council heard a presentation from Ken Paillet and other members of the Paillet, Meunier & LeBlanc, L.L.P. accounting firm, regarding the Civil Service Commission's recommendation on the base pay rate for firefighters.

The Council previously requested that Paillet, Meunier & LeBlanc prepare a comparative review of the pay rates to determine whether the base pay rate for firefighters was determined fairly.

Budget Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "The Council's intention is to request that the Civil Service Commission re-examine all base pay rates not at the Southern Regional Average and work towards bringing those pay rates to the Southern Regional Average."

The Council will revisit this item at its next regular Council meeting on August 21, 2008.

Supports "Desire Hope VI Project"



Councilmember Willard-Lewis

The Council passed Resolution R-08-456, authored by Councilmember Willard-Lewis, in support of beginning the second phase of the "Desire Hope VI Project" in Council District "E."

The second phase includes the addition of 160 units to the Savoy Place Apartments. This phase will complete the project which, at its completion, will have added a total of 318 units to the apartment complex.

The project was first approved in 2006 to improve housing and encourage community development in the Desire Florida area.

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City Council
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

August 7, 2008

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New Orleans, LA - August 7, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council addressed the New Orleans Affordable Homeownership program, supported Panama Canal economic development opportunities, addressed the importance of an equal base pay rate for firefighters and supported the beginning of the second phase of the "Desire Hope VI Project."

Addresses New Orleans Affordable Homeownership



Mayor Nagin

Mayor C. Ray Nagin appeared before the Council today, at the request of Council President Clarkson, to address recent investigations of New Orleans Affordable Homeownership (NOAH).

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Mayor, we thank you for coming today and speaking with us about NOAH. We recognize the importance of working together to get to the bottom of this issue and we look forward to assisting in any way we can with the ongoing investigation."

Mayor Nagin stated that the Administration was currently conducting an internal investigation of NOAH and would continue to do so to resolve all issues related to work done on NOAH properties throughout the City. The Mayor also assured the Council that the Administration was in no way impeding the investigations of NOAH being done by any other agency.

Supports Panama Canal Economic Development Opportunities



Members of the Panama Canal Delegation

Members of the Panama Canal Delegation appeared before the Council today, at the request of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow, to give a debriefing on the Delegation's trip to Panama.

The Delegation addressed the progress being made in Panama with regard to the expansion of the Panama Canal, as well as the necessity to take action to be a part of this important economic development opportunity.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "We need to have a plan in place so that New Orleans can take advantage of the increased business that will result from the expansion of the Canal. We are competing for this business with many other cities and we need to be proactive in our approach so as to ensure that we do not miss out on this opportunity."

The Delegation was made up of Plaquemines Parish President Bill Nungesser, State Senator A.G. Crowe, Port of New Orleans President Gary LaGrange, and the Honorable Eric Rodriguez, Consul General of Panama.

Addresses Equal Firefighter Base Pay Rate



Representatives from Paillet, Meunier & LeBlanc, L.L.P.

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Media Advisory

August 18, 2008



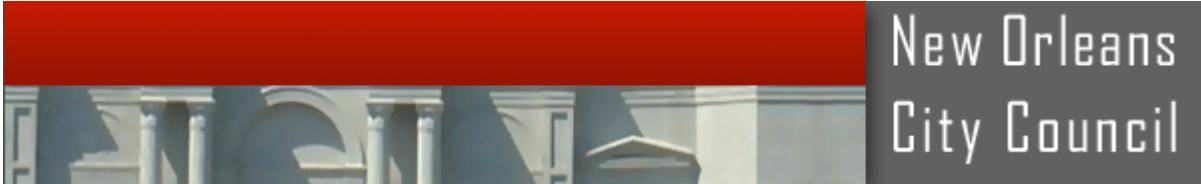
**Councilmember Head to Hold Community Meeting
To Discuss Moratorium Appeal for
2600 Martin Luther King Blvd.**

- What:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head will hold a community meeting to discuss the extension of the Central City ABO Moratorium and the ABO Moratorium Appeal for 2600 Martin Luther King Blvd.
- Who:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
Central City Community
- When:** Monday, August 18, 2008
5:30 p.m.
- Where:** Young Men of Olympian Benevolent Association, Inc. Club House
2101 South Liberty Street
(Located at the corner of South Liberty St. and Josephine St.)
Click [here](#) for map
- Contact:** Barbara Lacen-Keller
Director of Constituent Services
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
Phone: (504) 658-1020
Cell: (504) 253-1364
Email: blacenkeller@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

August 20, 2008

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session
Thursday, August 21st at 10 a.m.
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

What: Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Ordinance to begin the rebuilding phase of the C.J. Peete housing development
- Ordinance in support of the maintenance and publication of all current and executed Professional Services contracts on the City Council and City websites
- Presentation from New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Superintendent Warren Riley updating the Council on NOPD matters

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

When: Thursday, August 21, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Contact: Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
Email: rjpursell@cityofno.com

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Statement

August 21, 2008

New Orleans City Council Statement Regarding World Trade Center Lease Negotiations

New Orleans, LA - August 21, 2008 - In light of the recent withdrawal of Full Spectrum of New York from the World Trade Center lease negotiations, the Council reaffirms its belief that this property, arguably one of the most valuable in the United States, will be developed to its fullest potential for the benefit of the City and the World Trade Center.

The Council supports the New Orleans Building Corporation's continuing efforts to identify a suitable developer for the World Trade Center property, an important and valuable city asset.

While disappointed that Full Spectrum has withdrawn from the project, we are confident that a developer will be found and an agreement reached that is most beneficial to the City and its citizens.

Oversight of the process by the Inspector General will guarantee fairness and transparency in the future award of this important development.

The Council will continue its full support of the World Trade Center redevelopment process, understanding its importance to the future development and growth of the City's riverfront.

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**City Council August 21, 2008
Regular Meeting Summary**

News Release

August 21, 2008

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The Council also addressed New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) crime prevention initiatives and a presentation from the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, and convened in Executive Session and subsequently, in the open meeting, adopted a resolution requesting cooperation from Entergy New Orleans.

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Requests Cooperation from Entergy New Orleans



Councilmember Midura

The Council passed Resolution R-08-487 in support of Utility Committee Chair Shelley Midura's letter to Entergy New Orleans (ENO) CEO Rod West, asking ENO to cooperate with the Council in defending New Orleans ratepayers from the impact of withdrawal of Entergy Arkansas and Mississippi from the Entergy system agreement.

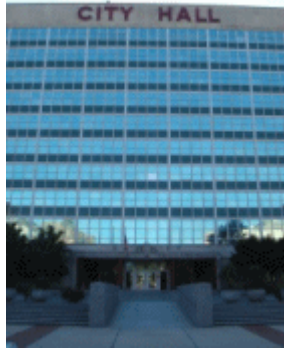
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District "A" Councilmember Midura said, "This is a very serious threat to the pocketbooks of the people of New Orleans. My job is to protect the interests of New Orleans ratepayers. Their job is to protect the interests of Entergy stockholders. This is one of those times where those two interests are colliding head on."

ENO ratepayers currently benefit from the cheaper coal power assets of EAI as well as the leverage of system joint power purchases on the open market of cheaper fuel. New Orleans ratepayers have shared in the expenses of infrastructure development system-wide for the better part of the last 50 years with the understanding that the benefits would in turn also be shared system-wide.

Councilmember Midura's letter threatens legal action if ENO ratepayers are forced to absorb unjust and unreasonable rate increases as a result of any withdrawals from the system agreement.

The Council also met today in Executive Session to receive a briefing from its legal team on the possibility of litigation concerning Entergy New Orleans, Inc.'s position relative to the withdrawal of Entergy Arkansas, Inc. and Entergy Mississippi, Inc. from the Entergy System Agreement.



Supports Maintenance and Publication of Professional Services Contracts

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Councilmember Stacy Head said, "It is important that we provide the citizens of New Orleans with access to these Professional Services contracts. We are working to ensure that transparency and accessibility are a part of the Professional Services contracts process."

The Ordinance reflects the Council's belief that accessibility and transparency are an integral part of keeping the public informed and engaged in the business and activities of the City of New Orleans.

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District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "I am excited about the commitment McCormack, Baron and Salazar has made to the revitalization of the Central City area and the Claiborne corridor. The innovative design and construction of the new C.J. Peete housing development marks a significant point in the recovery process."



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City Council August 21, 2008 Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

August 21, 2008

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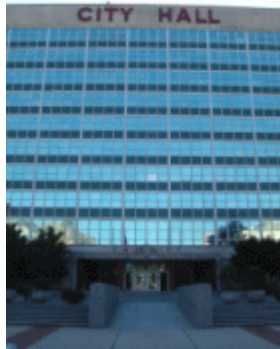
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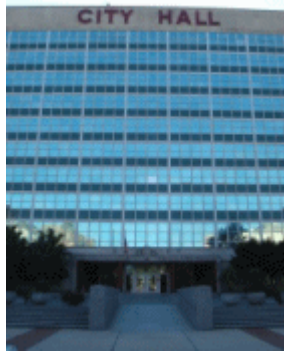
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Statement

August 21, 2008

New Orleans City Council Statement Regarding World Trade Center Lease Negotiations

New Orleans, LA - August 21, 2008 - In light of the recent withdrawal of Full Spectrum of New York from the World Trade Center lease negotiations, the Council reaffirms its belief that this property, arguably one of the most valuable in the United States, will be developed to its fullest potential for the benefit of the City and the World Trade Center.

The Council supports the New Orleans Building Corporation's continuing efforts to identify a suitable developer for the World Trade Center property, an important and valuable city asset.

While disappointed that Full Spectrum has withdrawn from the project, we are confident that a developer will be found and an agreement reached that is most beneficial to the City and its citizens.

Oversight of the process by the Inspector General will guarantee fairness and transparency in the future award of this important development.

The Council will continue its full support of the World Trade Center redevelopment process, understanding its importance to the future development and growth of the City's riverfront.

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Media Advisory

August 22, 2008

**New Orleans City Council
3rd Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina Events
August 24th - 29th**

Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

- August 29, 2008 - 8:00 a.m. - Jazz Funeral beginning at the corner of Canal St. and Carrollton Ave., ending at Charity Hospital Cemetery on Canal St. at City Park Ave.
- August 29, 2008 - 9:38 a.m. - Bell Ringing Ceremony at the Katrina Memorial and Charity Hospital Cemetery on Canal St. at City Park Ave.
- August 29, 2008 - 7:30 p.m. - Candlelight Ceremony in Jackson Square

Council Vice-President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow

- August 27, 2008 - 9:00 a.m. - Breakfast for members of E.J. Morris Senior Center and New Orleans Council on Aging at the E.J. Morris Senior Center at 1616 Caffin Ave.
- August 29, 2008 - 8:00 a.m. - Jazz Funeral beginning at the corner of Canal St. and Carrollton Ave., ending at Charity Hospital Cemetery on Canal St. at City Park Ave.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura

- August 29, 2008 - 8:00 a.m. - Jazz Funeral beginning at the corner of Canal St. and Carrollton Ave., ending at Charity Hospital Cemetery on Canal St. at City Park Ave.
- August 29, 2008 - 10:00 a.m. - Lakeview Katrina Memorial at Gulf Coast Bank at 848 Harrison Ave.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head

- August 29, 2008 - 8:00 a.m. - Jazz Funeral beginning at the corner of Canal St. and Carrollton Ave., ending at Charity Hospital Cemetery on Canal St. at City Park Ave.
- August 29, 2008 - 10:00 a.m. - Humane Society Pet Memorial Dedication in the City Council Chamber

District "C" Councilmember James Carter

- August 29, 2008 - 8:00 a.m. - Jazz Funeral beginning at the corner of Canal St. and Carrollton Ave., ending at Charity Hospital Cemetery on Canal St. at City Park Ave.
- August 29, 2008 - 9:00 a.m. - Wreath Laying at the Algiers Ferry Landing

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

- August 28, 2008 - 7:00 p.m. - Eastern New Orleans Candlelight Vigil and Day of Remembrance on the Levee at 9630 Hayne Blvd.
- August 29, 2008 - 8:00 a.m. - Jazz Funeral beginning at the corner of Canal St. and Carrollton Ave., ending at Charity Hospital Cemetery on Canal St. at City Park Ave.
- August 29, 2008 - 9:38 a.m. - Wreath Laying at the London Avenue Canal at Mirabeau Ave. and Pratt Drive
- August 29, 2008 - 11:00 a.m. - Groundbreaking Ceremony at Lake Area High School at 6026 Paris Ave.
- August 29, 2008 - 7:30 p.m. - Candlelight Ceremony in Jackson Square

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

- August 24, 2008 - 1:00 p.m. - Third Annual Memorial Tribute at the Katrina Memorial Site on North Claiborne Ave. at Tennessee St.
- August 28, 2008 - 7:00 p.m. - Eastern New Orleans Candlelight Vigil and Day of Remembrance on the Levee at 9630 Hayne Blvd.
- August 29, 2008 - 9:00 a.m. - Wreath Laying at the Katrina Memorial at 5056 Canal St.
- August 29, 2008 - 9:30 a.m. - March from Katrina Memorial across Claiborne Ave. for wreath laying on top of the Claiborne Bridge at 9:38 a.m.
- August 29, 2008 - 7:30 p.m. - Candlelight Ceremony in Jackson Square

Contact: Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
Email: rjpursell@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

August 25, 2008



**Councilmembers Fielkow & Willard-Lewis
To Host Breakfast for Local Senior Citizens
At Site of E.J. Morris Senior Citizen Center**

What: Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis will host a breakfast for local senior citizens to recognize the struggles and accomplishments of New Orleans' senior citizen population during and since Hurricane Katrina, and raise awareness of the needs of our senior citizens.

Who: Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
Members of E.J. Morris Senior Citizen Center
Members of New Orleans Council on Aging
Local elected officials

When: Wednesday, August 27, 2008
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Where: Site of E.J. Morris Senior Citizen Center
1616 Caffin Avenue
(Located at the corner of Caffin Ave. and North Claiborne Ave.)
Click [here](#) for map

Contact:

Kate Schneiderman
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
Phone: (504) 658-1063
Cell: (504) 905-9893
Email: krschneiderman@cityofno.com

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NOLA Council News

August 29, 2008 Vol. 1 No. 10

Click [here](#) to view full newsletter or click on links below to view individual articles.

- [Council Monitors Gustav's Approach to Gulf Coast](#)
- [Issues Statement Regarding World Trade Center Lease Negotiations](#)
- [Requests Cooperation from Entergy New Orleans](#)
- [Supports Maintenance and Publication of Professional Services Contracts](#)
- [Council Supports Rebuilding of Housing Development, Addresses NOPD Initiatives and Community Data Center Presentation](#)
- [Addresses New Orleans Affordable Homeownership](#)
- [Supports Panama Canal Economic Development Opportunities](#)
- [Addresses Equal Firefighter Base Pay Rate](#)
- [Supports "Desire Hope VI Project"](#)
- [Orleans Parish Taxpayers Inspect Property Tax Rolls](#)
- [Addresses Future of New Orleans International Airport](#)
- [Councilmember Carter Participates in Community Walk and Code Enforcement Sweep in Algiers](#)



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Statement

August 31, 2008

City Council Governing Location During Hurricane Gustav

New Orleans, LA - August 31, 2008 - For the duration of the time leading up to and during Hurricane Gustav the Council will not be relocating to Baton Rouge.

Should it be necessary that the Council relocate, continuing government operations will be based in Baton Rouge after the storm.

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News Alert

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Interview Availability Hurricane Gustav

New Orleans, LA - August 31, 2008 - Should you want to contact City Councilmembers for comment/background regarding updates and new information on Hurricane Gustav, please send your requests and contact information to Denise Estopinal at denise@estopinalgroup.com or Emily Rogers at emily@estopinalgroup.com or you may call Denise at (504) 495-2564 or Emily at (281) 989-5367.

We will attempt to put you in contact with Councilmembers as communication permits whether by email, cell phone or City Hall availability or later at Southern University in Baton Rouge where it is possible that continuing government operations will be based.

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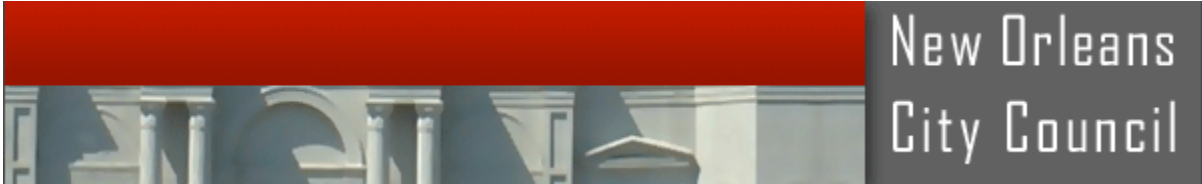
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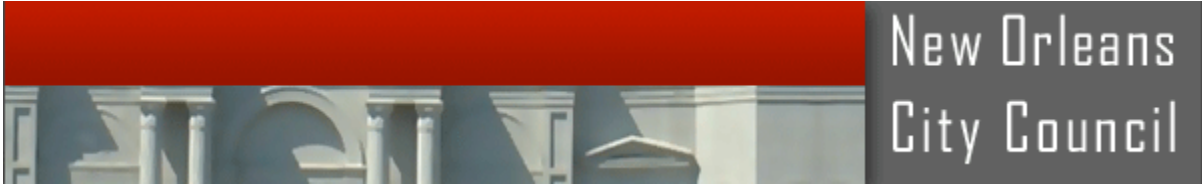
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**INFORMATION ON PROPERTY TAX
ASSESSMENTS AND APPEALS IN
ORLEANS PARISH**

Introduction

This document is designed to provide basic information regarding the property tax assessment process, including appeals to the Board of Review, and the laws that govern them.

1. What types of property are subject to taxation?

All property situated within the state, except that expressly exempted from taxation by law, is subject to taxation on the basis of the assessed valuation. For residential properties, this means residential property, including the land and building.

2. How is my property assessed?

According to the State Constitution, property must be assessed at its fair market value. To find the value of any piece of property, the assessor must first determine:

1. the selling price of comparable properties;
2. the cost to replace the property;
3. how much it takes to operate and keep the property in repair;
4. what rent the property may earn; and
5. other economic factors affecting its value.

3. What causes my property values to change?

A property's value can change for many reasons. The most obvious reason is

physical improvements to the property or major damage. The most frequent cause of change to the value of property is a change in the market.

4. How is assessed value determined?

The classification of property subject to ad valorem taxes is the percentage of fair market value on the first day of January 2008. The percentage value of each classification for the purpose of determining assessed value are as follows:

Classifications	Percentages
Land	10%
Improvements for Residential	10%
Improvements for Commercial	15%
Business Movable Property	15%
Public Service (Excluding Land)	25%

5. Is my homestead exemption factored into my assessment?

Yes. Your homestead exemption, up to \$7,500 is factored into your assessment. To qualify for a homestead exemption, you must own and occupy your house as your primary residence, and file the necessary paperwork with your Assessor on an annual basis.

6. What is meant by "millage rates" or "mills?"

Millage is the percentage of value that is used in calculating taxes, defined as 1/10 of 1 percent. That millage is multiplied by the assessed value after any exemptions have been subtracted to calculate the taxes. For example:

{ Property Tax Calculation Sample }

\$125,000.00 Sales Price

 x 10%
\$ 12,500.00 = Assessed Value

- 7,500.00 Less Homestead Exemption
\$ 5,000.00 = Taxable Value

\$ 5,000.00
x .12920 = Sample millage rate
\$ **646.00** = Total tax

7. When and where are the tax rolls open for inspection?

Assessment lists are open for public inspection from August 1 to August 15 in Orleans Parish on the Fourth Floor, City Hall, 1300 Perdido Street.

The Orleans Parish Assessors certify their assessment rolls to the Board of Review on or before the tenth business day after August 15, or August 29.

8. When should I discuss my assessment with the Assessor's office?

You should discuss your assessment with your Assessor during the public inspection period or between August 1 and August 15. At that time, any questions regarding assessments can be addressed and/or disputed. You will have an opportunity to meet with the assessor or an office staff member to provide documentation for an informal appeal of the assessment. Documentation includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Recent appraisal(s);
- b. Insurance policy(ies);
- c. Photograph(s); and/or
- d. Contractor's repair estimate(s);

These meetings are encouraged as they may result in resolving disputed assessments.

9. If I feel my property was incorrectly assessed, what are my options?

If there is a disagreement as to the assessment, and you wish to protest the value, each assessor is obligated to provide you access to a form entitled, "Exhibit A, Notice of Appeal Request for Board of Review." A copy of this form may also be downloaded from www.opboa.org. The Board of Review will consider all written appeals which have been filed in compliance with the following procedure:

2. The appeal form provided by the Board of Review, through the office of the assessor, *must be completed in conformity with the requirements of the Board of Review.*
3. All documentation supporting your appeal must be included with the appeal form. Otherwise, the appeal will be deemed incomplete and denied.
4. Documentation supporting your appeal includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Recent appraisal(s);
 - b. Insurance policy(ies);
 - c. Photograph(s); and/or
 - d. Contractor's repair estimate(s);
5. The appeal form must be received in the assessor's office three business days after August 15, or August, 20, 2008.

10. What are the authorities of the Board of Review?

The Board of Review has authority to change the assessments made by your assessor. The Board of Review may make a determination to increase or decrease the assessment of real or personal property made by the assessor in accordance with the fair market or use valuation determined by the Board of Review.

The Board of Review does not have the authority to change assessments for any prior years. The Board of Review has no authority to consider or act upon appeals of Homeowner's Exemption denials, age freeze or disability determinations.

11. What is the Board of Review's purpose?

The Board of Review is independent from the Assessor. The Board is actually the New Orleans City Council, which in turn hires real estate professionals whose job it is to hear your appeal.

Every citizen who appears before the Board of Review is in fact challenging a decision of the Assessor. The purpose of the Board of Review is to give residents of Orleans Parish the opportunity to object to what they feel may be an inaccurate assessment of their property, and it is the Board of Review's responsibility to make an independent judgment based on the facts and the law.

12. How will I be notified about my BOR hearing?

All appellants will be notified of their hearing date and time by first class mail. The scheduling letter will be mailed to the mailing address provided in the appeal, and will include all necessary hearing information, including the location. Hearings begin on September 15, 2008 and will conclude by October 15, 2008. The schedule will also be available on the

internet. A link to the on-line schedule will be made available on the City Council's website at www.nocitycouncil.com on approximately September, 1, 2008.

13. What type of evidence will the Board of Review utilize in reviewing my appeal?

There are three main types of evidence which will be considered by the Board of Review in determining whether or not the Assessor's value should be upheld, including:

1. The recent sale price of the property being assessed;
2. The recent sale price of comparable properties in the area of the property being assessed; and
3. The opinion of a real estate professional as to the value of the property being assessed.

14. How will I find out if my assessment was changed by the Board of Review?

The Board of Review will provide you with a written notice of its particular appeal determination, with a copy submitted to the assessor and the Tax Commission on or before the certification of the assessment list to the Tax Commission.

15. Are there any other appeal procedures if I dispute the Board of Review's determination?

The determination by the Board of Review is final unless appealed, in writing to the Louisiana Tax Commission within 10 business days after notice of the BOR determination is postmarked or is delivered by hand to the taxpayer and/or to the assessor. The Board of Review certifies the assessment list to the Louisiana Tax Commission on or before October 20 of each year.

16. Do I qualify for a “special assessment?”

In 2002, The State of Louisiana provided for an assessment “freeze” or special assessment for taxpayers aged 65 years or older. Under this provision, homeowners who are 65 years or older with an adjusted household income of \$58,531 or less may qualify for a freeze on their assessment. The assessment is frozen at the amount assessed at the time of qualification. If granted, the special assessment is valid only for the tax year stated in the application and must be applied for annually. Failure to file causes the special assessment level to lapse and the freeze will not be effective in years when no application is made. Further, in the event that the property is sold, or upon death of the homeowner, the special assessment will terminate on the last day of December of the year the property is sold. The Board of Review does not handle special assessments. This must be handled by your assessor.

17. For more information contact Kerry J. Miller at (504)599-8194 or Kyle Spaulding at (504)599-8249.



News Alert

September 1, 2008

Council Reschedules September 4th Regular Meeting Due to Hurricane Gustav

New Orleans, LA - September 1, 2008 - The New Orleans City Council announces its regular meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 4th has been rescheduled to Thursday, September 11th due to Hurricane Gustav.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in the Council Chamber.

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NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC NOTICE

RESCHEDULING REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

OF SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2008

DUE TO HURRICANE GUSTAV, THE NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL'S REGULAR MEETING OF THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2008, HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR 10 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTMBER 11, 2008. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, 1300 PERDIDO STREET.

POSTED: 10:30 A.M., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

RONALD J PURSELL
COUNCIL CHIEF OF STAFF

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT RONALD J PURSELL AT (504) 439-1409 OR AT

RJPURSELL@CITYOFNO.COM.

City Council Focuses On Safe and Immediate Return of Residents & Full Restoration of Services and Business Activity in Orleans Parish

News Release

September 3, 2008

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082

rjpursell@cityofno.com

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New Orleans, LA - September 3, 2008 - New Orleans City Councilmembers began early this morning monitoring the activities of government agencies, utilities and businesses as efforts to fully restore the City continued following Hurricane Gustav.

Late this afternoon the Council met in a special Executive Session and a special Open Session to continue to address direct restoration efforts.

In the Open Session the Council adopted an Ordinance which establishes a municipal offense if anyone files false theft or burglary reports. During this critical time, this Ordinance frees law enforcement from being distracted from vital public safety responsibilities.

Earlier in the day, the seven Councilmembers spent time in the field, observing the re-entry of citizens and business owners entering Orleans Parish, assessing power outages in neighborhoods and monitoring the progress of the removal of debris and fallen power and cable lines.

Councilmembers were in direct contact with agencies determining and communicating to citizens the level of services that will be provided as well as the status of business reopenings across New Orleans.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson spent her day in constant communication with the Administration and the City's Emergency Operations Center as the focus turned fully to the reestablishment of all public safety and government services, restoration and cleanup of neighborhoods and assistance to businesses.

"The Council spent much of today answering constituent emails and phone calls as citizens began re-entry into the City. Our top priority is to ensure that upon return all of our residents are aware of emergency resources and services available to them to assist in getting their homes, apartments and businesses back to where they were before we evacuated. We are also continuing to monitor the progress of Entergy with regard to power outages and the full restoration of the system across New Orleans," said Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson.

Re-Entry of Citizens

Council Vice-President Arnie Fielkow began his day in New Orleans East at the Twin Spans and later on the Orleans-Jefferson Parish line monitoring the re-entry of business owners and citizens.

Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow conferred with Orleans State Senator Ed Murray and Jefferson Parish Sheriff Newell Norman while in the field.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "I am gratified and overwhelmed by the resiliency of New Orleanians. Our citizens are fully aware that the City is not quite at full service but they are determined to be in their homes and their neighborhoods. I am privileged to represent and live among these extraordinary, outstanding and committed citizens."

Councilmembers District by District

Councilmembers Cynthia Willard-Lewis (District "E") and Cynthia Hedge-Morrell (District "D") sent messages to neighborhood and community groups about what they could expect upon return to New Orleans with regard to public services and the availability of gasoline, food and medical care. Both Councilmembers were on the ground in New Orleans East, the Upper and Lower Ninth Ward, Gentilly Woods, Pontchartrain Park and the Seventh Ward.

Councilmember Shelley Midura (District "A") has toured neighborhoods from Lakeview to Broadmoor and the Carrollton area and Uptown to determine damage and timelines for full restoration of streets and utilities. As Chair of the Utility Committee, Midura has provided assistance to the Council concerning updates and reports from Entergy about electrical power outages and the progress of fully restoring the system.

Councilmember James Carter (District "C") spent time today reviewing the clean-up of the French Quarter to ensure that services were up and running and that businesses had all of the resources necessary to open their doors as soon as possible.

In the residential neighborhoods of Algiers, St. Roch, Bywater, Treme, The Marigny and Faubourg St. John, Councilmember Carter answered constituents' concerns and worked throughout the day problem solving for returning citizens.

Councilmember Stacy Head (District "B") assisted citizens and businesses from The Irish Channel, Uptown, Central City and the CBD with re-entry to the City, surveyed conditions in the District and reported to constituents about power outages and services.

The Council is expected to convene in Executive Session at 10 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, September 4th to continue discussion of recovery plans and other matters.

Throughout the rest of the week and into the weekend, the Council will continue its hands-on approach to ensure that neighborhoods and businesses are fully restored.

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Message on Safe Re-Entry
From Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

Hurricane Gustav Message

September 3, 2008

Contact:
Jared Brossett
Chief of Staff
Office of District "D"
Councilmember
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
Ph: 504-658-1040
Email:
JBrossett@cityofno.com

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Neighborhood Leaders,

Please be advised that the Mayor has announced that residents can begin returning home to their respective properties.

However the voluntary evacuation order will still remain in effect due to the lack of electricity supply in the region. The voluntary evacuation will remain in effect so that the parish will be eligible for FEMA

assistance. Residents can apply for assistance at www.fema.gov.

If you choose to return to New Orleans you do so AT YOUR OWN RISK. Be prepared to be self sufficient as it relates to food, ice, water, medical supplies, and especially the lack of electricity. There are no hospitals or food stores open.

We have been advised by Entergy that 13 of 14 transmission lines that supply electricity to New Orleans were totally devastated by Hurricane Gustav. This means that while Entergy may be able to restore electricity in the City there is no timeline for the distribution to your homes/businesses.

Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
District "D" Councilmember

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Message on Safe Re-Entry
From Councilmember Willard-Lewis

Hurricane Gustav Message

September 3, 2008

Contact:
Candice Richards
Chief of Staff
Office of
District "E" Councilmember
Cynthia Willard-Lewis
Ph: (504) 658-1055
crichards@cityofno.com

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New Orleans, LA - September 3, 2008 -
We are working very hard for your safe
return and the restoration of our beloved
community.

While we were blessed and fortunate to be
spared the worst of the storm - we still
face challenges.

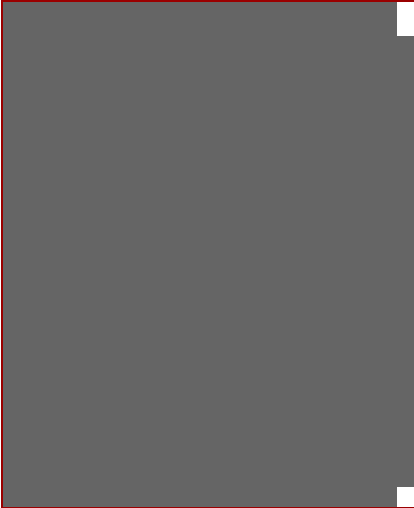
Throughout the City there are power outages. Some
neighborhoods have electricity, others do not. Entergy is
working with great urgency to restore power to all
neighborhoods.

We certainly understand your desire to return as soon as
possible but would like to emphasize that you should be
prepared to be self sufficient as it relates to food, ice,
water, medical supplies and especially the lack of
electricity.

The New Orleans Police Department and National Guard are
fully deployed and patrolling all neighborhoods.

Be aware, streets are still being cleared of debris and loose
power lines and damage assessments are ongoing.

Again, as you begin your re-entry be mindful of the power
outages and lack of services, especially medical, food and
gasoline.



I have missed you all and wish you a safe journey home. I look forward to having all of the great and courageous citizens and businesses of District "E" back again very soon.

Best,

Cynthia Willard-Lewis
District "E" Councilmember

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Council Takes Proactive Steps
To Ensure Neighborhoods & Business Operations Are Restored

*Monitors Entergy New Orleans Progress &
Passes Emergency Public Safety Focused Ordinance*

News Release

September 4, 2008

Contact:
Jacquelyn Cole
Office of
Councilmember-at-Large
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
Ph: 504-914-2367
jacicole@gmail.com

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New Orleans, LA - September 4, 2008 - Today, City Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson led the City Council to continue its proactive efforts to ensure power is restored to businesses and homes and that public safety protections are stepped up.

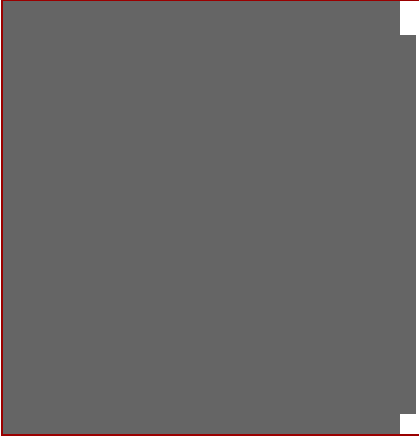
The Council expects to receive twice daily briefings from Entergy New Orleans until full power is restored across the City.

According to Council President Clarkson, the Council has requested that Entergy set up a constituent neighborhood-by-neighborhood report for Council offices to use in helping their constituents. These reports will also be available to the public through Entergy New Orleans.

Clarkson said, "The Council is meeting twice daily with Entergy New Orleans and we expect to report - neighborhood to neighborhood - to our constituents where and when electrical power will be restored."

The Council has taken immediate steps to address citizen public safety issues. In an Emergency Special Session on Wednesday, the Council adopted an Ordinance which establishes a municipal offense for anyone who files false theft or burglary reports. During this critical time, this Ordinance frees law enforcement from being distracted from vital public safety responsibilities.

"We felt it was paramount to assist law enforcement as much as possible to do their jobs. This legislation addresses important public safety issues - that will free law enforcement personnel to prioritize their duties and not spend critical time dealing with false incident reports," Clarkson continued.



Earlier today, the Council met in special Executive Session to hear briefings/updates from the Administration on the status of re-entry and restoration of all City services. Councilmembers will spend time in the field today, observing the re-entry of citizens and business owners entering Orleans Parish, assessing power outages in neighborhoods and monitoring the progress of the removal of debris and fallen power and cable lines. The Council is expected to attend the Mayor's briefing this evening.

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Media Advisory

September 4, 2008



**Councilmember Carter Tours District "C",
Evaluates Power Outages and
Monitors Critical Retail Establishment Reopenings**

- What:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter tours the District to evaluate power outages and monitor the reopenings of critical retail establishments including grocery stores, gasoline stations, pharmacies and related medical services throughout District "C".
- Where:** East and West Banks of District "C"
- Contact:** For media availability, contact Councilmember Carter at (504) 259-9634
- When:** Councilmember Carter can be reached today beginning at 2:30 p.m.

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Media Advisory

September 4, 2008



**Councilmember Hedge-Morrell
To Survey Intercoastal Ship/Barge Damage,
Inspect the Levee Wall on France Road,
Check London Ave. Canal Pumping Stations &
Tour Major Thoroughfares of District "D"**

What: District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell will have media availability today, **Thursday, September 4, 2008, beginning at 2 p.m.**

Where:

- Survey Ship/Barge Damage on the Intercoastal Canal
- Inspect Levee Wall on France Rd. near Pontchartrain Park and Gentilly Woods
- Check London Ave. Canal Pumping Stations
- Tour Major Thoroughfares - Elysian Fields Ave., Franklin Ave., St. Bernard Ave.

Contact: Councilmember Hedge-Morrell at (504) 701-6993

When: Thursday, September 4, 2008
2:00 p.m.

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*Monitors Entergy New Orleans Progress &
Passes Emergency Public Safety Focused Ordinance*

News Release

September 4, 2008

Contact:
Jacquelyn Cole
Office of
Councilmember-at-Large
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
Ph: 504-914-2367
jacicole@gmail.com

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According to Council President Clarkson, the Council has requested that Entergy set up a constituent neighborhood-by-neighborhood report for Council offices to use in helping their constituents. These reports will also be available to the public through Entergy New Orleans.

Clarkson said, "The Council is meeting twice daily with Entergy New Orleans and we expect to report - neighborhood to neighborhood - to our constituents where and when electrical power will be restored."

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Post - Hurricane Gustav Update

September 4, 2008



Residents of District "D",

As you make your way back to your respective homes, I would like for you to be informed about the businesses and services that are reopening throughout the district. I'm currently assessing the parts of District "D" that do not have power and I am working with Entergy to pinpoint those areas. Entergy is currently working on 8 circuits in the district and I will bring an update to you as those circuits go online. Neighborhoods that are online include: A.P. Tureaud; Spring Lake; Gentilly Terrace; St. Bernard; St. Roch; and Dillard University.

To better assist residents, please refer to the critical pointers listed below.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Entergy (Power Outages): 1-800-9-OUTAGE (1-800-968-8243)

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

- Winn Dixie, Chef Menteur Hwy. - Gentilly
- Johnny's Hardware, 2001 Mirabeau Ave.
- JuJu Bag Coffee Shop, 5363 Franklin Ave.
- Rouse's Supermarket, 6600 Franklin Ave.
- Banner Chevrolet, Chef Menteur Hwy. at Downman Rd.
- Discount In & Out, 6050 Chef Menteur Hwy.
- U-Haul, 6210 Chef Menteur Hwy.
- Riverpark RV, 6323 Chef Menteur Hwy.
- Lucky Jean Seafood Store, 6723 Chef Menteur Hwy.
- Home Depot, 4700 Old Gentilly Rd.

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Post - Hurricane Gustav Update

September 4, 2008



The City of New Orleans continues to face challenges in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav, but we are diligently working to remove impediments and allow residents to quickly and safely return. As your Council Representative for District "E", I am continuing to work with the Mayor and Entergy for the quick restoration of power to the City. If you are still experiencing outage at your residence or business, please contact Entergy so that the problem can be reported. I continue to encourage the resilient citizens of New Orleans, specifically the dedicated families of District "E". Be safe on your journey home and throughout the continued recovery of our City. I am well aware of the fact that all residents may not have power or have access to email. If you are receiving this message and know someone that may not have access to email, please share this information with them.

To better assist residents, please refer to the critical pointers listed below.

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CRITICAL SERVICES

· *Entergy*

- Entergy has 1600 crews on the ground working to restore power to citizens throughout New Orleans
- Power is expected to be completely restored by the end of the day Saturday
- A staging area for Entergy crews has been set up at the Wal-Mart site on the I-10 Service Road in eastern New Orleans

· *Garbage & Debris*

- Normal trash collection has resumed, so residents can put their garbage out for normal pickup days
- Debris should be placed curbside for pickup

· *Public Safety*

- There is a strong and aggressive presence of NOPD Officers and National Guard throughout District "E"
- NOPD's 7th District has returned to their temporary command center in Deer Park

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

- Lowe's in New Orleans East (5770 Read Blvd) is open. Hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The contact number is (504) 613-1800.
- Smoothie King on Crowder near Hayne is open. Hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Brother's Food Mart and Gas Station on Bullard at I-10 Service Road.
- Additional Service Stations
 - Chevron at Crowder Blvd. and I-10
- Pharmacies
 - Ken's Pharmacy, 4626 Alcee Fortier, (504) 254-8989
 - Walgreens, Lake Forest and Bullard, open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Castnet Seafood at 1086 Hayne is open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

- Tulane Community Health Center in New Orleans East, 4626 Alcee Fortier.
 - The health center will open Friday, September 5 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 - Normal business hours will resume Monday, September 8. Normal business hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION

- US Highway 90 is open to traffic through New Orleans. However, the Chef Pass Bridge is closed due to damage.

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Tulane Medical Center, Community Health Center at Covenant House and in New Orleans East Reopen

Tulane Medical Center, Community Health Center At Covenant House and in New Orleans East Reopen

Tulane Medical Center's Downtown Campus is now open for emergency visits only, while Tulane-Lakeside Hospital is open for emergency visits and some obstetrics care. Both hospitals are expected to fully reopen on Monday, September 8.

The clinics of Tulane Medical Center, Uptown Square, Tulane Institute for Sports Medicine, Tulane-Lakeview and Tulane-Lakeside plan to reopen on Monday, September 8. Patients are asked to contact their pharmacy if they need prescription re-fills.

Clinic personnel will be in place and responding to patient inquiries starting on Friday, September 5. Elective procedures scheduled for this week will be rescheduled. Call 504-988-5800 for more information on rescheduling.

In addition, the Tulane Community Health Center at Covenant House, 611 Rampart Street, will reopen its doors, temporarily providing free primary and chronic disease care for returning New Orleans residents on Thursday, September 4 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Center will also be open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday September 5 and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, September 6. Next week the Center will resume regular hours of operation, Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. The clinic will also resume charging its normal fee of \$10 for new patients and \$5 for follow-up visits. Besides medical care, physicians will also be on hand to write or renew prescriptions.

Also, the Tulane Community Health Center in New Orleans East at 4626 Alcee Fortier, which opened for the first time just weeks ago to provide high quality, low-cost care for the community members in that area, will reopen beginning Friday, September 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will resume normal business hours next week, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Post - Hurricane Gustav Update

September 5, 2008



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To better assist residents, please refer to the critical pointers listed below.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Entergy (Power Outages): 1-800-9-OUTAGE (1-800-968-8243)

CRITICAL SERVICES

· *Entergy*

- Entergy has 1600 crews on the ground working to restore power to citizens throughout New Orleans
- Power is expected to be completely restored by the end of the day Saturday
- A staging area for Entergy crews has been set up at the Wal-Mart site on the I-10 Service Road in eastern New Orleans

· *Garbage & Debris*

- Normal trash collection has resumed, so residents can put their garbage out for normal pickup days
- Debris should be placed curbside for pickup

· *Public Safety*

- There is a strong and aggressive presence of NOPD Officers and National Guard throughout District "E"
- NOPD's 7th District has returned to their temporary command center in Deer Park

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

- Walgreens, Crowder and Lake Forest
- Russell Vucinovich's Restaurant, 4510 Michoud, open for Lunch only
- Lowe's in New Orleans East (5770 Read Blvd) is open. Hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The contact number is (504) 613-1800.
- Smoothie King on Crowder near Hayne is open. Hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Brother's Food Mart and Gas Station on Bullard at I-10 Service Road.
- Additional Service Stations
 - Chevron at Crowder Blvd. and I-10
- Pharmacies
 - Ken's Pharmacy, 4626 Alcee Fortier, (504) 254-8989
 - Walgreens, Lake Forest and Bullard, open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Castnet Seafood at 1086 Hayne is open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

- Tulane Community Health Center in New Orleans East, 4626 Alcee Fortier.
 - The health center will open Friday, September 5 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 - Normal business hours will resume Monday, September 8. Normal business hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION

- Chef Pass is now open for travel. Citizens can now travel into New Orleans along Highway 90.
- St. Claude Avenue Bridge leading into the Lower 9th Ward is OPEN
- Claiborne Avenue Bridge leading into the Lower 9th Ward is OPEN
- Florida Avenue Bridge is CLOSED & BARRICADED

New Orleans City Council

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Post - Hurricane Gustav Update

September 5, 2008



Since Hurricane Gustav passed over New Orleans, I have been visiting neighborhoods across the City to ensure that the concerns of residents and local businesses are being met. Starting on Tuesday, September 2nd and continuing daily, I have visited homes, firehouses, churches, restaurants, gas stations and grocery stores. The resiliency displayed by everyone I met strengthened my belief that New Orleans will always stand strong.

The City of New Orleans has been working around the clock to ensure that power, food, water, shelter and medical care are available for all citizens. I am in constant contact with Entergy and I can ensure you that the employees of Entergy are working around the clock to restore power to all of Orleans Parish. Given the conditions, Entergy is optimistic that they will be able to provide full power to the City in the next few days. Energy infrastructure is still the most critical link that limits restoration at this time and Entergy expects to have 90% of power in by Saturday evening. Additionally, Entergy has projected full restoration in the City of New Orleans by Monday evening, September 8th. Hopefully, we will get full restoration even earlier! While power is being restored, daily life will continue to be trying. The City also continues to clear downed trees and citizens are asked to place all debris (grass, trees and leaves) curbside and not on neutral grounds.

The cooperation and patience of citizens and businesses have been instrumental in keeping New Orleans safe, secure and on-track for a full recovery from Hurricane Gustav, and I am happy to see our citizens returning, including our citizens who utilized the City Assisted Evacuation Plan who will begin to return today.

And don't forget, the New Orleans Saints home-opener against Tampa Bay will be played in the Louisiana Superdome on Sunday, September 7th with kick-off scheduled at noon. Go Saints!

If you encounter any difficulties please contact me at afielkow@cityofno.com.

Below is some important information for you. I will send updates as the situation and information changes:

Comfort Stations / Points of Distribution (PoDs)

- The Office of Recovery Development and Administration is working to open three (3) distribution centers to hand out food and water. The PoDs should be open between noon and 3 p.m. today, depending on set up time and food deliveries. All PoDs are being set up by the National Guard. The three sites are:

1. Main Branch of the New Orleans Public Library, 219 Loyola Avenue
2. Behrman Park, Algiers
3. Joe Brown Park, 10900 Lake Forest Boulevard

Entergy New Orleans Customer Information

- There are 3 Customer Information Centers located throughout New Orleans:
 1. 3400 Canal Street, New Orleans
 2. 4021 Behrman Highway, Suite J, Algiers
 3. Household of Faith, 9300 1-10 Service Road, New Orleans East
- Or, customers can call the following Customer Service Center Phone Number:
1-800-9-OUTAGE (1-800-968-8243)

American Red Cross Disaster Services

<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/>

Hospitals

- All hospitals are currently open in Orleans Parish, and all emergency rooms are open
- Mobile medical units will be set up at the Union Passenger Terminal in order to assist citizens re-entering the City through the city assisted re-entry program

Airport

- Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport is open and operational

Postal Services

- Mail service has returned to a normal schedule

Sanitation

- All sanitation services have resumed to a normal schedule

Municipal Court

- Will open on Monday, September 8th

311 Call Center

- The 311 Call Center continues to operate 24 hours a day from the San Antonio, Texas emergency location. Citizens can call: 1-866-205-6485.
- Citizens are asked to report downed trees, non-functional traffic lights, and missing/damaged street signs to 311.

Louisiana SPCA

- Louisiana SPCA has re-opened. Please call 504-368-5191 x100 for information on retrieving pets.

Louisiana Department of Social Services

- The LA Department of Social Services has set up a hotline for Louisiana residents to locate evacuated family members. The number is 1-800-957-1601.

FEMA Assistance

- Residents and business owners can begin the disaster application process by registering online at www.fema.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free numbers are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (CST) Monday through Sunday.

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Post - Hurricane Gustav Update

September 6, 2008



During and since the storm, I have visited every neighborhood in District "C", monitoring the changing conditions in the district. I want to thank all of you who complied with the mandatory evacuation order. We are grateful that damage from the storm was primarily confined to minor wind damage, mostly tree limbs and some trees down. The Harvey Canal did not present the problem Algerines feared and the Industrial Canal held; there was no flooding in District "C". Regarding public safety, in addition to the entire NOPD, there are 1,500 National Guard troops placed strategically throughout the City to deal with potential looters.

Restoration of power is still the number one concern of residents. Entergy currently has 1,600 workers on the ground in New Orleans. All substations are currently on line, and they are working to bring on the feeder lines from each substation. Feeder lines service the largest number of customers, and all feeder lines will be repaired before the lateral lines that service smaller numbers of customers are repaired. Entergy still expects that 90% of customers will have power by Saturday night; 100% will have power by Monday evening.

Thanks to you all for your hard work and strength throughout this experience. Please contact my office with any questions or concerns.

District C daily updates can also be found on the District C website, District Issues page, at <http://www.neworleansdistrictc.com/issues.asp>.

Curfew in effect (as of 9/5/08)

- From 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. in 70112, 70115, 70116, and 70130
- From 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. in all other Orleans zip code areas

SERVICES AVAILABLE

POD Centers - Ice, Water, Food and Information available:

- Skelly Rupp Baseball Stadium, 2200 Vespasian (part of the Behrman Complex)
- Main Library on Loyola Ave.

SHELTER

- Behrman Gym at Behrman Complex

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- Algiers and Chalmette ferries are running.
- RTA and Streetcars will not resume service to the general public until after Sunday, due to the return of CAEP evacuees. Date to resume will be announced.

RESTAURANTS

- <http://www.nola.com/dining> has a listing of restaurants currently open in the City

EAST BANK GAS STATIONS

- Franklin Shell (no gas right now, expecting a tanker of gas today)
1100 Franklin Ave., 940-5524, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Discount Value
617 N. Broad, 488-7711, 24 hrs.
- Lakshmi Properties
1601 Elysian Fields, 942-1677, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Rampart Fuel
447 N. Rampart, 553-9790, opens at 7:30 a.m.

EASTBANK GROCERY STORES

- Rouses
 - 6600 Franklin Ave., 288-1600
 - 4500 Tchoupitoulas, 895-2966, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - 701 Royal, 523-1353
 - 400 Carrollton Ave., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Roberts
Claiborne Ave. & Carrollton Ave., 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Whole Foods
5600 Magazine St., 899-9210, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

EASTBANK DRUG STORES

- Walgreens
 - 1100 Elysian Fields, 943-9788, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - 134 Royal, 525-2180, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - 145 Elks Pl., 525-0918, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WESTBANK GAS STATIONS

- Oakwood Shell
101 Westbank Expressway, 362-2385, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- **Circle K** (gas delivery Friday a.m.)
929 Lafayette (Gretna), 362-1411, 7 a.m. til at least 4 p.m.
- **Magnolia Discount Gas and Conv.**
100 Terry Parkway, 367-9076, 24 hrs.
- **Terrytown Shell Service Station** (regular gas only, as long as it lasts)
2000 Carol Sue, 393-8430, opens at 6 a.m.

WESTBANK GROCERY STORES & MARKETS

- **Rouses**
 - 2851 Belle Chasse Hwy, 433-4105, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - 4001 General DeGaulle Dr.
- **Algiers Discount Food Store**
3549 General Meyer, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Algiers Central Market**
840 Teche, 324-8975, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **River Fine Food Store** (no power, limited services)
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WESTBANK DRUG STORES

- **Walgreens**
4110 General DeGaulle, 433-3297, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

OTHER ALGIERS INFO:

- **Chase Bank** on General DeGaulle Dr.
- **Tout de Suite** (Restaurant/Coffeehouse)
347 Verret, 7 a.m. to around 3 p.m.
- **PJ's** in Village Aurora
- **Aunt Leni's Restaurant**
323 Verret, 301-2805
- **Dry Dock Cafe**
Delaronde at Ferry Landing, 361-8240, Kitchen open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. (limited menu)
- **Algiers Charter Schools** expect to re-open next Wed., Sept. 10
- **Van's Snoballs** on General Meyer is open

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and zoning matters, as well as considers major economic development projects for the City. As a Board of Review for Orleans Parish, the Council examines appeals of property tax assessments for real estate taxes, and certifies tax rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission. Other responsibilities of the Council include overseeing the operation of the public access television in Orleans Parish.

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Post - Hurricane Gustav Update

September 6, 2008



Residents,

As you make your way back to your respective homes, I would like for you to be informed about the businesses and services that are reopening throughout the district. I continue to assess the parts of District "D" that do not have power. Most of District D's power has been restored. Please be sure to survey your property before entering the structure because there are a rising number of imminent danger of collapse properties throughout the City. Please call my office at 504-658-1040 if you need assistance with information on essential services. Neighborhoods that are online include: Lake Oaks; some of Lake Terrace; some of Milneburg; A.P. Tureaud; Kenilworth; Lake Willow; Spring Lake; Gentilly Terrace; Vista Park; St. Bernard; St. Roch; Dillard University; University of New Orleans and

Southern University at New Orleans.

ORLEANS PARISH

- Bi-weekly garbage collection in New Orleans is scheduled to resume today.
- Public works departments and private garbage haulers across New Orleans are already clearing streets littered with tree limbs, marquees, light poles and power lines.
- The city's 311 hotline was fully functional for residents to report downed trees, traffic lights and streetlamps.
- SDT waste trucks were out cleaning up debris and sweeping streets in the French Quarter Tuesday morning.

COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES

These schools have electricity and will reopen Monday:

- Dillard University
- Loyola University
- Southern University at New Orleans
- Tulane University
- The University of New Orleans
- Xavier University

Supply Distribution Locations

The City of New Orleans, in coordination with the National Guard, has established three Points of Distribution (PoDs) for the distribution of ice and MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) during the next three days until supplies last. Due to limited supply, citizens who can afford to purchase food at local grocery stores are encouraged to do so.

All locations will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday:

Main Library
219 Loyola Ave.

Joe Brown Park
5601 Read Boulevard

Skelly-Rupp Stadium
2200 Vespasian St.

GAS STATIONS

- Gentilly Chevron, 4046 Mentour Hwy
- Claiborne Shell, 2150 S.Claiborne
- Chevron, 6601 CHF Mentour
- Mardi Gras Truck Stop, 2411 Elysian Fields Avenue
- Chevron, 7000 Crowder Blvd.
- Palace Truck Stop, 12170 Old Gentilly Rd

NEW CURFEW

The new curfew begins at 10 p.m. and ends at 6 a.m. in all neighborhoods except those in the ZIP codes 70112, 70115, 70116 and 70130, where the curfew will begin at 2 a.m.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Entergy (Power Outages): 1-800-9-OUTAGE (1-800-968-8243)

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

- Winn Dixie, Chef Mentour Hwy. - Gentilly
- Johnny's Hardware, 2001 Mirabeau Ave.
- JuJu Bag Coffee Shop, 5363 Franklin Ave.
- Rouse's Supermarket, 6600 Franklin Ave.
- Banner Chevrolet, Chef Mentour Hwy. at Downman Rd.

- Discount In & Out, 6050 Chef Menteur Hwy.
- U-Haul, 6210 Chef Menteur Hwy.
- Riverpark RV, 6323 Chef Menteur Hwy.
- Lucky Jean Seafood Store, 6723 Chef Menteur Hwy.
- Home Depot, 4700 Old Gentilly Rd.

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Post - Hurricane Gustav Update

September 7, 2008



The City of New Orleans continues to face challenges in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav, but we are diligently working to remove impediments and allow residents to quickly and safely return. As your Council Representative for District "E", I am continuing to work with the Mayor and Entergy for the quick restoration of power to the City. If you are still experiencing outage at your residence or business, please contact Entergy so that the problem can be reported. I continue to encourage the resilient citizens of New Orleans, specifically the dedicated families of District "E". Be safe on your journey home and throughout the continued recovery of our City. I am well aware of the fact that all residents may not have power or have access to email. If you are receiving this message and know someone that may not have access to email, please share this information with them.

To better assist residents, please refer to the critical pointers listed below.

POINTS OF DISTRIBUTION (PoDs)

· *Comfort Station*

- Pete Sanchez Center, Lower Ninth Ward, N. Claiborne at Caffin Ave. - water, ice and MRE's being distributed beginning at 10 a.m.

· *Ice Distribution*

- Venetian Isles, Fire Station on Old Spanish Trail - Ice will be available for residents beginning at 10 a.m.

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Post - Hurricane Gustav Update

September 7, 2008



The past few days have seen a slow but steady return to normalcy in New Orleans. Residents have been arriving from days spent away from homes, jobs, family and friends.

I (and other Councilmembers) have spent the past two days greeting our City assisted evacuees at the Union Passenger Terminal - whether coming from bus or train, everyone I spoke with was relieved and happy to be at home. On Friday, roughly 9,238 people returned to New Orleans on the City Assisted Evacuation Plan. On Saturday, 3,807 citizens returned. The two-day total of 13,045 will continue to grow as more people arrive by buses, trains and planes.

I also spent time with my staff volunteering at some of the PoDs around the city, handing out MRE's, water and ice. The National Guard are in charge of supplying and running the PoDs and they did a wonderful job.

All first responders - the New Orleans Fire Department, the New Orleans Police Department, EMS, the New Orleans Health Department, the Louisiana State Police, doctors, nurses, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, the National Guard, and many others too numerous to name - are the heroes of Hurricane Gustav and their commitment and service to New Orleans is deeply appreciated.

As power is close to being fully restored and more stores and restaurants open, it is the City Council's intention to immediately return to conducting the business of this great City. We will keep a close eye on Hurricane Ike, but I hope everyone can resume their lives and continue growing and strengthening New Orleans (and perhaps take some time today to support our New Orleans Saints!).

Below is some important information:

PoD Centers

Ice, water, food and information can be found at the following places run by the National Guard. All locations will be open until 4 p.m. today:

- Skelly Rupp Baseball Stadium (part of the Behrman complex in Algiers) 2200 Vespasian Street
- Joe Brown Park, 55601 Read Boulevard
- The main branch of the New Orleans Public Library, 219 Loyola Avenue

Entergy New Orleans Customer Information

As of Saturday night, Entergy New Orleans CEO Rod West reported that 96% of power has been restored in New Orleans. For those still without power:

- There are 3 Customer Information Centers located throughout New Orleans:
 1. 3400 Canal Street, New Orleans

2. 4021 Behrman Highway, Suite J, Algiers
3. Household of Faith, 9300 1-10 Service Road, New Orleans East

- Or, customers can call the following Customer Service Center Phone Number: 1-800-9-OUTAGE (1-800-968-8243)

City of New Orleans Curfew:

The new curfew begins at 10 p.m. and ends at 6 a.m. in all neighborhoods EXCEPT those in the following zip codes: 70112, 70115, 70116 and 70130, where the curfew will begin at 2 a.m. and go to 6 a.m.

As full power is restored, please watch for updates and/or changes regarding the curfew.

American Red Cross Disaster Services

<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/>

Colleges and Universities:

The following schools have power and will reopen on Monday:
Dillard University, Loyola University, Tulane University, Southern University at New Orleans, the University of New Orleans and Xavier University

Hospitals

- All hospitals are currently open in Orleans Parish, and all emergency rooms are open

Airport

- Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport is open and operational

Postal Services

- Mail service has returned to a normal schedule

Sanitation

- All sanitation services have resumed to a normal schedule

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Statement

September 8, 2008



Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

Statement: Re: Curfew Suspended and City Fully Restored

"Given the success of the City's re-entry plan, the City Council is pleased to announce that we are nearly back to normal, 99% of power is restored and the Mayor announced at a press conference this afternoon that the curfew was suspended.

To assist with the reopening of business activity the City Council on Friday, September 5, 2008 agreed as a majority to work with the Administration to designate a curfew by zip code. This designation by zip code ensured that downtown, the entertainment and arts districts and the French Quarter were opened and that residential neighborhoods that were dark and not fully populated were protected.

Today, with almost 3000 NOPD officers and National Guard soldiers on the streets doing an excellent job of protecting us, the Council is secure in its decision to suspend the curfew."

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Post-Hurricane Gustav Update

September 9, 2008



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell is pleased to forward this information on to residents. Orleans Parish has been added to the Blue Roof program.

Residents can call a toll-free telephone number, 1-888-Roof-Blu (1-888-766-3258), to find out the location of the Blue Roof Right of Entry collection sites in their parish.

A temporary Blue Roof is generally good for 30 days.

The program is open to those who qualify, as follows:

1. Have a photo ID such as driver's license or proof of residency at the location.
2. Know the kind of roof you have. Structures with flat roofs and tile roofs consisting of clay, slate or asbestos (transite) do not qualify. Mobile homes and roofs consisting of metal will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
3. The roof must have less than fifty percent structural damage to be eligible for the program.
4. The structure must be assessed as habitable once the blue roof is installed.
5. All debris must be removed from the roof for it to qualify.
6. The applicant has to sign a right-of-entry form.

The program is run by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisiana Recovery Field Office, in Baton Rouge, as assigned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

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Post - Hurricane Gustav Update

September 9, 2008



With power nearly 100% restored to New Orleans, schools and business re-opened and the City-wide curfew lifted, I hope everyone has started to return to a feeling of normalcy as you go about your daily lives. With Hurricane Ike looking to go farther to the West, we will hopefully not have to undertake the rigors and expense of another evacuation. However, I strongly urge citizens to remain vigilant and prepared for the next several weeks of the 2008 Hurricane Season.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at afielkow@cityofno.com or at 504-658-1060 with any questions or concerns.

Please take a moment this week to visit one of the following sites to get the latest on storm preparedness and recovery information:

State of Louisiana Emergency Information

<http://emergency.louisiana.gov>

This site has the latest information on Disaster Food Stamps, state tax filing extensions, state unemployment benefits, school openings, shelters and more. Check this frequently as it is updated regularly.

The sites for the Disaster Food Stamp program, after opening at various centers around the area on Tuesday, will re-open Wednesday at 8 a.m. and stay open as long as necessary to handle the large crowds which are expected. Weekend hours are also being contemplated. The New Orleans site is located at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church at 7300 Crowder Boulevard.

Residents can also call 1-888-LAHELPU for food stamp inquiries.

FEMA

www.fema.gov

You can apply for disaster assistance on this website or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired.

The toll-free telephone numbers are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (local time) Monday through Sunday until further notice. Applicants registering for aid should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves (name, permanent address, phone number), insurance coverage and any other information to help substantiate losses.

FEMA "Blue Roof Program" Extended to Cover Orleans and Jefferson Parishes

New Orleans and Jefferson Parish have been added to the Blue Roof program.

The program is open to those who qualify, as follows:

1. Have a photo ID such as driver's license or proof of residency at the location.
2. Know the kind of roof you have. Structures with flat roofs and tile roofs consisting of clay, slate or asbestos (transite) do not qualify. Mobile homes and roofs consisting of metal will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
3. The roof must have less than fifty percent structural damage to be eligible for the program.
4. The structure must be assessed as habitable once the blue roof is installed.
5. All debris must be removed from the roof for it to qualify.
6. The applicant has to sign a right-of-entry form.

Residents can call a toll-free telephone number, 1-888-Roof-Blu (1-888-766-3258), to find out the location of the Blue Roof Right of Entry collection sites in their parish.

A temporary Blue Roof is generally good for 30 days.

The program is run by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisiana Recovery Field Office, in Baton Rouge, as assigned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

311 Call Center

The 311 Call Center continues to operate 24 hours a day. Citizens can call: 1-866-205-6485.

Citizens are also asked to report downed trees, non-functional traffic lights, and missing/damaged street signs to 311.

Louisiana SPCA

Louisiana SPCA has re-opened. Please call 504-368-5191 x100 for information on retrieving pets.

Louisiana Department of Social Services

The LA Department of Social Services has set up a hotline for Louisiana residents to locate evacuated family members. The number is 1-800-957-1601.

New Orleans City Council

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City Council September 11, 2008
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

September 11, 2008

Contact:

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[New Orleans
City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - September 11, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council passed a Motion supporting the Federal City project and addressed presentations by the United States Coast Guard and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Captain Lincoln Stroh.

**Addresses U.S. Coast Guard
Presentation**

Captain Lincoln Stroh, Captain of the Port for the U.S. Coast Guard, came before the Council as the first order of business to discuss the incidents of loose vessels in the Industrial Canal during Hurricane Gustav and the Coast Guard's policies on the matter.

Stroh presented information on actions that have been taken by the Coast Guard to protect the citizens of New Orleans, the Port of New Orleans, and other waterways - including the requirement that each marine facility prepare a hurricane contingency plan - a key incident management tool to ensure facilities are prepared to safely weather storms.

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis said, "We are focused on ensuring that a reliable plan is implemented and executed and that safeguards are in place to protect our citizens. We are glad to hear of the Coast Guard's additional pre-emptive measures - it is important that our citizens know that the Coast Guard is prepared to step in and take the necessary steps to protect our City."

Captain Stroh stated the Coast Guard has launched an investigation to determine whether or not Southern Scrap Recycling followed its hurricane contingency plan regarding vessels that broke free from their moorings during Hurricane Gustav.

Additionally, the Coast Guard has requested that Southern Scrap Recycling remove all vessels for the remainder of the 2008 hurricane season.

Supports Federal City Project



*Councilmember at-Large
Clarkson*

Representatives from the Algiers Development District appeared before the Council to give a report on the Federal City project, giving details about future plans as well as the economic impact of the project.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "This is an important economic development project for Algiers, the City, the region and the country as a whole. Thank you all for your leadership and persistent hard work toward the completion of this project."



Councilmember Carter

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "We look forward to the completion and groundbreaking of the Federal City project. This project represents immense economic development opportunity for District "C", the City of New Orleans, and the region."

The Council passed Motion M-08-521, authored by Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson, approving the Algiers Development District Plan and Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for 2008. The plan and budget indicate how the Algiers Development District will utilize funds to develop Federal City.



Colonel Jeff Bedey

Addresses U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee Status Report

Colonel Jeff Bedey and other members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers appeared before the Council to present a status report on the City's levee system.

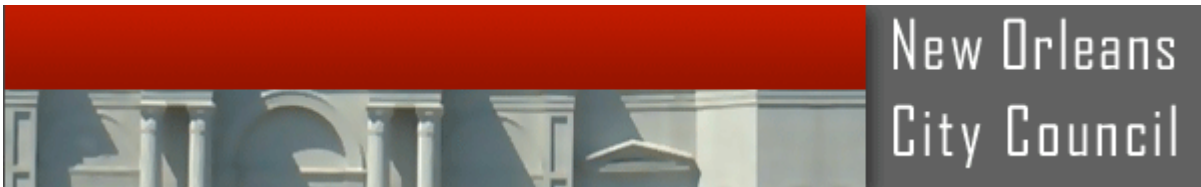
Colonel Bedey said, "The Corps has taken immediate action following our assessments after the storm - we are making system repairs including erosion repairs on the inside of floodwalls, as well as floodgate repairs."

The Army Corps representatives reviewed specific areas of the City's levee system. Through photographs, the Corps demonstrated to the Council the conditions of the levee system both before and after Hurricane Gustav.

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Media Advisory

September 11, 2008

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session
Thursday, September 11th at 10 a.m.
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

What: Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- The following government agencies will give presentations pertaining to post-Hurricane Gustav issues:
 - United States Coast Guard
 - New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Presentation on the status of the Federal City project

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

When: Thursday, September 11, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Contact: Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
Email: rjpursell@cityofno.com

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Post-Hurricane Gustav Update

September 12, 2008



Residents,

While I hope that everyone has been able to make it back to your homes and jobs, I know that the evacuation and cleanup from Hurricane Gustav has been a burden for many.

We were lucky enough to avoid significant injury and loss of life, and many aspects of daily life have returned to normal, but the physical and financial effects of this storm linger on. Here are some resources to help you recover from this latest storm.

311

Your resource for all City resources and information is 311. You can use this number to report downed trees, debris, non-functional traffic lights, and missing/damaged street signs, or to request any other services or information. Just dial 311 from any phone with a (504) area code, or call 1 (866) 205-6485

Disaster Food Stamp Program

The Federal Government is funding an emergency food stamp program. Those who don't normally qualify for food assistance might be eligible under this temporary, expanded program. Those interested must apply in person at the New Orleans Convention Center. Applications will be accepted until September 23, 2008.

- To qualify, you and your family must have been living in one of the parishes included in the Disaster Food Stamp Program (DSFP) Disaster Area on August 29, 2008.
- Your household must meet the income limits to qualify to receive benefits from the DFSP.
- Your household must have experienced one or more of the following as a direct result of Hurricane Gustav:
 - Loss of Food;
 - Damage to, or destruction of, your home or self-employment business;
 - Disaster-related expenses for which you do not expect to be reimbursed during the disaster benefit period; or
 - Loss or inaccessibility of income, including reduction or termination of income, or a

significant delay in receipt of income due to the disaster.

Debris pickup

The City has contracted with several waste disposal companies to clear debris from Hurricane Gustav. A sweep of the entire City will be completed over the next several days. The following guidelines will help to expedite the process, as well as prevent the debris from blocking drainage and promoting flooding.

- Please bag yard waste.
- Place all debris on the curb, not in the gutter.
- If disposing of a fridge, you must first remove the compressor.
- Please do not place debris on the neutral ground.

Services Restored

Cox has reported that 100% of its system is back up and running. If you still do not have service, please contact them to report the problem at 504-304-8444 (residential service) or 504-304-1700 (business service).

Election

The congressional primary election originally scheduled for September 6, 2008 has been rescheduled to October 4, 2008. In addition, the polling place for Ward 7, precincts 23, 24, and 26 has been changed.

Change From:

University of New Orleans
(Recreation and Fitness Center)
2000 Lakeshore Drive

Change To:

University of New Orleans
(Human Performance Center)
2000 Lakeshore Drive

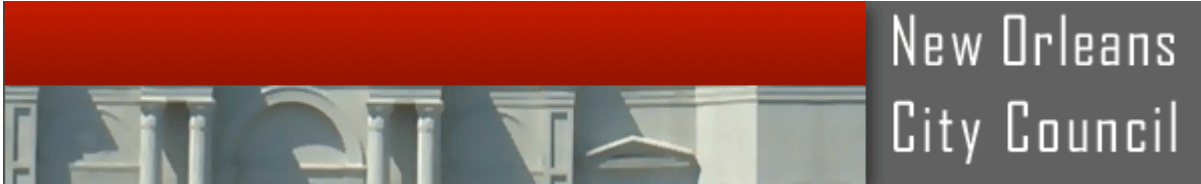
London Avenue Gates Closing due to Hurricane Ike Surge

As a result of water reaching the operational trigger of 4 ft. and rising at the London Ave. Canal, Col. Alvin B. Lee, New Orleans District commander, ordered the canal gates closed. This will allow for water to be pumped from the canal into the lake to maintain the safe water elevation of 5 ft.

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Announcement

September 12, 2008

Community Informational Meetings
Re: Office of Inspector General City Charter Amendment

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
September 15 at 6:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Moreau Center
4123 Woodland Drive

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
September 23 at 6:00 p.m.
Touro Synagogue
4238 St. Charles Avenue

District "C" Councilmember James Carter
September 24 at 6:30 pm
St. Jude Community Center
400 N. Rampart St.

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News Release

September 15, 2008



**Council President Hosts Informational Meeting
in Algiers to Discuss Proposed
Charter Amendment to Permanently
Establish Office of Inspector General**

Monday, September 15, 2008 at 6:30

City Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, District "C" Councilmember James Carter, and Inspector General Robert Cerasoli will host a community meeting this evening to discuss a proposed charter amendment that would give the Inspector General's Office a permanent place in the city's budget, helping protect the office from political pressure.

The charter amendment, which voters will see on the October 4th ballot, would allot the office permanent operating funds equal to three fourths of 1 percent of the city's budget each year. The Inspector General would not be required to appear before the City Council each year to request operating funds. Only a new ballot initiative would be able to dissolve the office.

"The passage of this amendment is critically important," Council President Clarkson said. "We have to ensure the Office of the Inspector General is not subject to the whim of the very elected officials the office is meant to hold accountable."

Tonight's meeting is the first in a series of several meetings organized by Dr. Michael Cowan of Common Good. The meeting will be held at the Moreau Center on the campus of Our Lady of Holy Cross College in Algiers at 6:30 p.m. Several community organizations in Algiers have been invited, and the meeting is open to the public.

The Inspector General will be present at the meeting as well as Councilmember James Carter. Carter authored a provision in the amendment that would establish an independent monitor to look into allegations of police misconduct.

Who:

New Orleans Inspector General Robert Cerasoli
City Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
District "C" Councilmember James Carter

What:

Community informational meeting in Algiers about the proposed charter amendment concerning the Office of the Inspector General.

When:

Monday, September 15, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Where:

Our Lady of Holy Cross College
Moreau Center
4123 Woodland Dr.
Algiers, 70131

Contact:

Jacquelyn Cole
Communications and Special Projects
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel-Clarkson
Phone: (504) 658.1072
Cell: (504) 914.2367
Jcole@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

September 15, 2008

Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee Meeting

WHAT: Special Development Projects and Economic Development
Committee Meeting

WHEN: Wednesday, September 17th at 9:30 a.m

WHERE: City Council Chamber

WHO: Chairman Councilmember At-Large Arnie Fielkow

The agenda will include the following items:

1. Economic impact and workforce issues related to the Hispanic community in New Orleans - Cynthia Ceballos, President, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana
2. Staff recommendation for TIF consultant
3. Economic Development Fund update - Belinda Littlewood, Director, Mayor's Office of Economic Development
4. Public Private Partnership update - Belinda Littlewood, Director, Mayor's Office of Economic Development

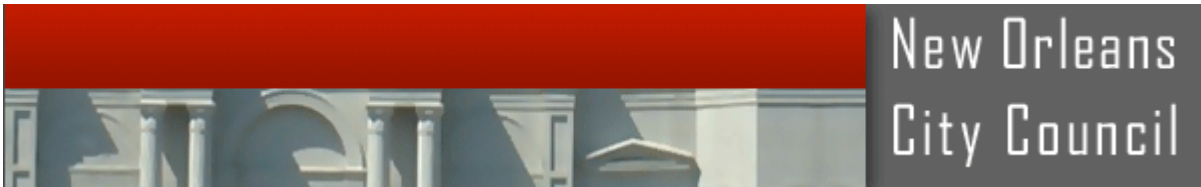
5. Evacuation Impact on New Orleans businesses - Sandra Gunner, New Orleans Chamber of Commerce and Michael Hecht, Director, GNO, Inc. (invited)

6. Other Business

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Media Advisory

September 16, 2008

**Recovery Committee to Address
Suspension of Neighborhood Conservation District Committee
And Update on Venetian Isles Flooding
In Session on Wednesday Afternoon**

Councilmembers will consider the suspension of the Neighborhood Conservation District Committee (NCDC) at a regularly scheduled Recovery Meeting this Wednesday afternoon.

All Councilmembers have committed to attend the meeting, which is chaired by Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.

Council President Clarkson arranged for the issue of NCDC suspension to be vetted out in public forum, following a weekend compromise with the Mayor in which demolitions authorized under NCDC suspension were halted pending approval of individual Councilmembers for their respective districts.

Acting under executive order, Mayor Nagin suspended the work of the NCDC last Thursday. Several Councilmembers immediately objected to the order. Following a series of e-mails and phone conversations late last Friday, Councilmember Clarkson brokered a compromise with Mayor Nagin, who offered the solution that all demolitions stop, pending the approval of individual Councilmembers for their respective districts.

The following representatives have been invited to the meeting: Executive Director of the Office of Recovery and Development Administration Dr. Ed Blakely, Chief Administrative Officer Brenda Hatfield, Director of Sanitation Veronica White, City Attorney Penya Moses-Fields, Zoning Administrator Ed Horan, and Director of Safety and Permits Paul May.

The Recovery Meeting will also include an update on Venetian Isles flooding.

What: The Recovery Committee will address the housing demolition under the suspension of the Neighborhood Conservation District Committee (NCDC) and flooding in Venetian Isles.

When: Wednesday, September 17, 2008
2:00 p.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who: Committee Co-Chair Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
Committee Co-Chair District "E" Councilmember Willard-Lewis
Committee Member District "A" Councilmember Midura
Committee Member District "B" Councilmember Head
Committee Member District "C" Councilmember Carter
Committee Member District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

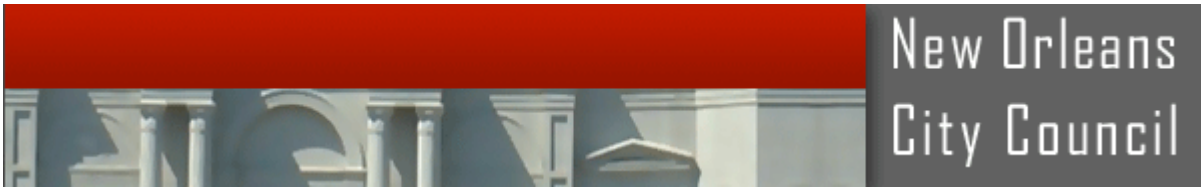
To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

Contact: Jacquelyn Cole
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
Ph: (504) 658-1072
Cell: (504) 914-2367
Email: jjcole@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

September 16, 2008

**Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee
To Address Hispanic Community Economic Impact,
Evacuation Impact on New Orleans Businesses &
Updates on Economic Development Fund & Public Private Partnership**

What: The Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee will address the following:

- Economic impact and workforce issues related to the Hispanic community in New Orleans
- Updates on the Economic Development Fund and the Public Private Partnership
- Evacuation impact on New Orleans businesses

When: Wednesday, September 17, 2008
9:30 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who: Committee Chair Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow
Committee Member District "E" Councilmember Willard-Lewis
Committee Member District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell
President of Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana Cynthia Ceballos
Director of Mayor's Office of Economic Development Belinda Littlewood
New Orleans Chamber of Commerce representative Sandra Gunner
Director of GNO, Inc. Michael Hecht

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

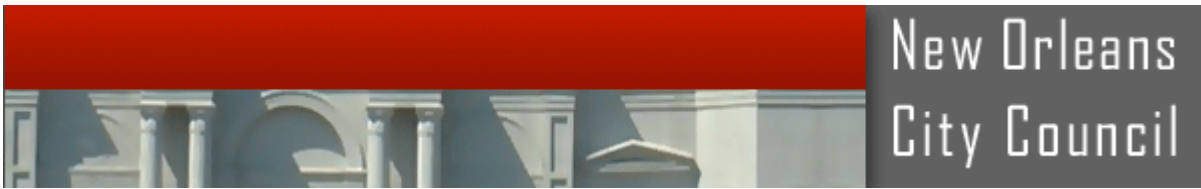
Contact: Kate Schneiderman
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
Ph: (504) 658-1063
Cell: (504) 905-9893
Email: krschneiderman@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

September 17, 2008

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session
Thursday, September 18th at 10 a.m.
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

What: Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Presentation on the status of the Road Home Program
- Resolution supporting the creation of a coalition of business, government and academic leaders to create a comprehensive business disaster continuity program to assist local businesses in advance disaster preparation

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

When: Thursday, September 18, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Contact: Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
Email: rjpursell@cityofno.com

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Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow
Introduces Disaster Relief Legislation Assisting Local Businesses

Full Council to Address the Measure on Thursday

News Release

September 17, 2008

Contact:
Kate Schneiderman
Office of
Councilmember-at-Large
Arnie Fielkow
Ph: 504-905-9893
krschneiderman@cityofno.com

New Orleans
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - September 17, 2008 - At today's Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee meeting, City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow introduced legislation designed to support local businesses when disaster strikes. Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow, Chair of the Special Projects & Economic Development Committee, will bring the legislation before the full City Council on Thursday, September 18, 2008 with the full support of the Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee.

The legislation, Resolution R-08-542, calls on the Louisiana Economic Development Department and Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO, Inc.) to create a coalition of business, government and academic leaders. The coalition would be charged with developing a comprehensive business disaster continuity program to assist local businesses in advance disaster preparation to lessen hardships, including financial and labor force issues, resulting from mandatory evacuations and short term closures caused by curfews, power outages and other hardships resulting from disasters.

Council Vice President Fielkow said, "I am very concerned about the financial burdens facing our local businesses in the aftermath of Gustav. Currently, there are some programs in place for businesses to deal with equipment replacement and property repairs, but there is no proactive policy in place that addresses the finance and labor force costs that many businesses now have to absorb."

Fielkow continued, "This is an issue that has been present for many years, but we are at a critical point in time for our City, and we need to assure our local businesses that they will be able to operate in the face of future storms and evacuations."

The State Department of Economic Development estimates that Hurricane Gustav caused roughly a \$2.5 billion to \$5 billion loss of economic activity in the state, including the loss of revenues, inventory, and property damage. Additionally, the State Department of Labor reports that Gustav has caused over 25,000 new unemployment claims - 10 times the normal average number. Nearly 380,000 Louisiana households, as estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services, are eligible for disaster food benefits - an increase of twenty percent prior to Hurricane Gustav.

Michael Hecht, President and CEO of GNO, Inc. said, "Like all areas of the nation, we have to recognize the unique challenges our businesses face with natural disasters, and proactively and creatively address them. Every critical disaster demonstrates gaps in the existing system, and identifies areas of critical needs to improve the response to future storms. GNO, Inc. supports this legislation to protect our businesses in the aftermath of disasters and will advocate with our regional partners for novel solutions like this that encourage investment and reduce risk."

The Resolution requests that a broad coalition of government, business and civic groups be involved in the development of the business disaster continuity program. Specifically, the legislation asks that the consulted groups include, but not be limited to, the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, New Orleans City Council Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee, New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau, New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, The New Orleans Black Economic Development Council, New Orleans Business Council, and the business schools of local universities.

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Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow
Introduces Disaster Relief Legislation Assisting Local Businesses

Full Council to Address the Measure on Thursday

News Release

September 17, 2008

Contact:
Kate Schneiderman
Office of
Councilmember-at-Large
Arnie Fielkow
Ph: 504-905-9893
krschneiderman@cityofno.com

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Property Owners Will Receive Notice of Tax Assessment Appeal Hearings by September 25th

News Release

September 17, 2008

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082

rjpursell@cityofno.com

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City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - September 17, 2008 - By September 25, 2008 Orleans Parish property owners who have timely appealed their property tax assessments will receive tax assessment appeal hearing dates via United States mail.

An appeal scheduling letter will be mailed to the mailing address provided in the appeal, and will include the time, date, and location of the hearing.

The hearing schedule will also be available on the City Council's website at www.nocitycouncil.com beginning Wednesday, September 24th.

This year the New Orleans Board of Review received 436 residential, commercial, vacant land, and personal property appeals.

To view a spreadsheet identifying all appeals received by the Board of Review [click here](#). If the appeal you filed with your assessor does not appear on the spreadsheet, you are encouraged to contact your assessor to inquire about its status.

In anticipation of the appeal hearings, property owners should gather appraisals, pictures, and other information showing the condition and value of the appealed property.

If you have questions about your appeal that have not been addressed, contact Kerry Miller at kmiller@frilot.com (504-599-8194) or Kyle Spaulding at kspaulding@frilot.com (504-599-8249)

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City Council September 18, 2008
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

September 18, 2008

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rjpursell@cityofno.com

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New Orleans, LA - September 18, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council passed Resolutions supporting relief and rebuilding efforts in Texas and disaster relief for local businesses.

Supports Relief and Rebuilding Efforts in Texas



The Council passed Resolution R-08-545, calling on the Federal Government to expedite all relief and rebuilding efforts in the state of Texas as a result of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, which caused significant damage to Southeast Texas and its Gulf Coast communities.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Throughout our disasters, the state of Texas and its residents have shown Louisiana great generosity, with many Texans opening their homes to evacuees and the government of Texas giving great material and financial assistance to our residents. We are very grateful for this and we offer our support to Texans and call upon the Federal Government to expedite all relief and recovery efforts in the affected areas of the state."

Supports Local Business Disaster Relief



Councilmember-at-Large
Fielkow

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-542, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow, Clarkson, Head and Willard-Lewis, calling on the Louisiana Economic Development Department and Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO, Inc.) to create a coalition of businesses, government and academic leaders to develop a comprehensive business disaster continuity program.

The disaster continuity program will assist local businesses in advance disaster preparations to lessen hardships, including financial and labor force issues, resulting from mandatory evacuations and short term closures caused by curfews, power outages and other hardships resulting from disasters.

Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow said, "Our local businesses are an important part of the livelihood of our City - the disaster continuity program will offer businesses vital assistance and support when dealing with the economic burdens they face in the aftermath of disasters."

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Regular Meeting Summary

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Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow
Hosts Informational Meeting at Touro Synagogue
To Discuss Proposed Charter Amendment
To Permanently Establish Office of Inspector General

*Sheriff Marlin Gusman to Discuss Upcoming Bond Issue
For Criminal Facility Upgrades*

News Release

September 22, 2008

Contact:
Kate Schneiderman
Office of
Councilmember-at-Large
Arnie Fielkow
Ph: 504-905-9893
krschneiderman@cityofno.com

New Orleans
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New Orleans, LA - September 22, 2008 - On Tuesday, September 23rd, Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow and New Orleans Inspector General Robert Cerasoli will host the second in a series of community meetings to discuss a proposed charter amendment that would give the New Orleans Inspector General's Office a permanent place in the City's budget, helping protect the office from any future political pressure.

The charter amendment will be on the October 4th ballot and is designed to give the office permanent operating funds equal to three fourths of 1 percent of the City's budget each year. The Inspector General would not be required to appear before the City Council each year to request operating funds.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "It took a long time to establish the Office of Inspector General in New Orleans, and it is critical that we ensure this office is immune to political forces. By dedicating a set funding stream to the Office of Inspector General with the charter amendment, the independent operation of the office is safeguarded for future generations."

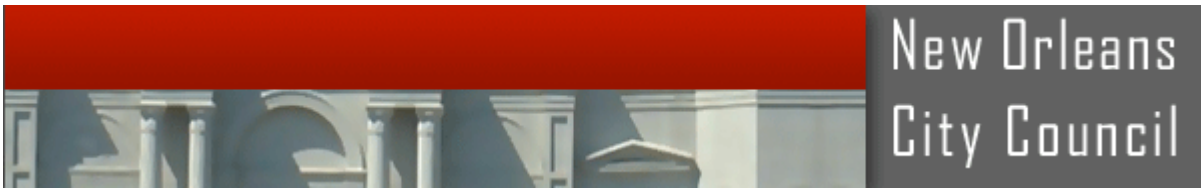
Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman will also attend the meeting to discuss the bond proposition that will significantly help our criminal justice system and bring facilities of the Criminal Sheriff, District Attorney, Criminal District Courts, Clerk of Criminal District Courts, Juvenile Court and Municipal and Traffic Court closer to 21st Century standards than they are today. The proceeds from the bond issue will be used to pay for improvements that are not covered by FEMA. Property taxes will not be raised with the measure's passage.

The meeting will be held at Touro Synagogue located at 4238 St. Charles Avenue at 6:00 p.m.

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Announcement

September 22, 2008

Community Informational Meetings
Re: Office of Inspector General City Charter Amendment

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
September 23 at 6:00 p.m.
Touro Synagogue
4238 St. Charles Ave.

District "C" Councilmember James Carter
September 24 at 6:30 p.m.
St. Jude Community Center
400 N. Rampart St.

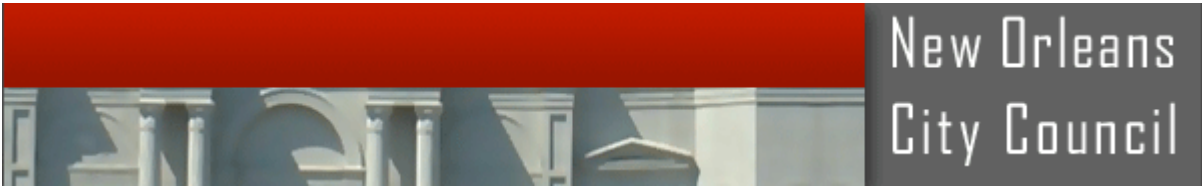
District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
September 27 at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Allie Mae Williams Auditorium
2020 Jackson Ave.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
September 29 at 6:30 p.m.
Grace Episcopal Church
3700 Canal St.

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Property Owners Appealing Tax Assessments Receive Hearing Notifications

News Release

September 23, 2008

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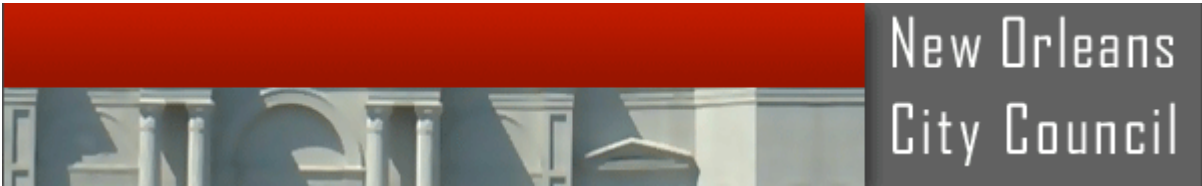
If exceptional circumstances do not allow you to attend your scheduled hearing, make-up hearings will be held on Friday, October 10, 2008 between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. However, these make-up hearings will be held on a first come first served basis, and you may have to wait a considerable time, possibly several hours, before your appeal is heard on that date.

If you have questions about your appeal that have not been addressed, contact Kerry Miller at kmiller@frilot.com (504-599-8249) or Kyle Spaulding at kspaulding@frilot.com (504-599-8249).

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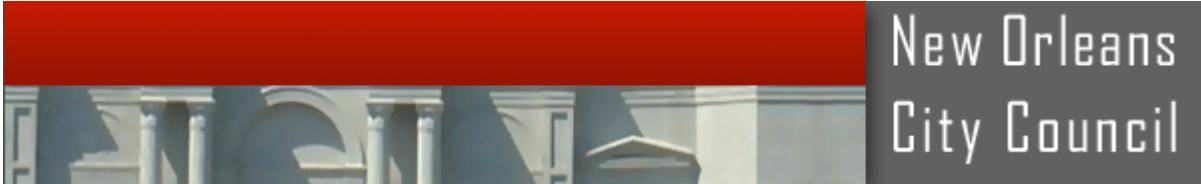
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Announcement

September 26, 2008

Community Informational Meetings
Re: Office of Inspector General City Charter Amendment

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
September 27 at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Allie Mae Williams Auditorium
2020 Jackson Ave.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
September 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church
3700 Canal St.

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NOLA Council News

September 30, 2008 Vol. 1, No. 11

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- [Councilmembers Host Community Informational Meetings Re: Office of Inspector General City Charter Amendment](#)
- [Property Owners Appealing Tax Assessments Receive Hearing Notifications](#)
- [Councilmember-At-Large Fielkow Leads Local Business Disaster Relief](#)
- [Council Supports Relief and Rebuilding Efforts in Texas](#)
- [Addresses U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee Status Report](#)
- [Supports Federal City Project](#)
- [Addresses U.S. Coast Guard Presentation](#)
- [Council Monitors Entergy New Orleans Progress and Passes Emergency Public Safety Focused Ordinance](#)
- [Council Focuses on Safe and Immediate Return of Residents and Full Restoration of Services](#)



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Announcement

September 30, 2008



**Councilmember Head & Downtown Development District
Present Lafayette Square / Warehouse District
Height Study Results**

- WHAT:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head and the Downtown Development District invite you to a presentation on the Lafayette Square / Warehouse District Height Study Results. The presentation is open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.
- WHO:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
Downtown Development District
- WHEN:** Tuesday, October 7, 2008
6:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Pan American Building
601 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA
(Click [here](#) for map)
- CONTACT:** Barbara Lacen-Keller
Director of Constituent Services
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
Office: (504) 658-1022
Email: blacenkeller@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

October 1, 2008

City Council to Honor "Unsung Heroes of Gustav" At Tomorrow's Regular Council Meeting

What: As the first Order of Business at tomorrow's regular Council meeting, the City Council will recognize those whose efforts led to the successful evacuation of the City during Hurricane Gustav.

When: Thursday, October 2nd at 10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who: Honorees include:

- Colonel Jerry Sneed, Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
- Cesar Burgos and Mark Major, Regional Transit Authority
- Marcia St. Martin, Sewerage & Water Board
- Harrison Boyd, 311
- Police Chief Warren Riley, Fire Chief Parent, and Head of EMS Juliette Saussy, First Responders
- Dr. Kevin Stephens, Public Health

Contact: Jacquelyn Cole
Communications / Special Projects
Office of Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
Office: (504) 658-1070
Cell: (504) 914-2367
Email: jlcole@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

October 1, 2008

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session
Thursday, October 2nd at 10 a.m.
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

What: Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Motion approving pay raises for each classification of fire fighters to ensure that all fire fighters are paid at or above the southern average
- Resolutions supporting state and federal tax credits for commercial and residential property owners to employ storm-proofing technologies on their structures, and for expenses incurred while under mandatory evacuation orders
- Ordinance permitting the installation of alternative playground surfacing other than rubber surfacing to prevent delays in the rebuilding of City playgrounds
- Presentation to honor those whose efforts led to the successful evacuation of the City during Hurricane Gustav
- Presentation by Department of Safety & Permits, Department of Sanitation, Chief Administrative Office and Office of Recovery Management on the demolition process in the City

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

When: Thursday, October 2, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Contact: Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
Email: rjpursell@cityofno.com

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Councilmember Hedge-Morrell
To Propose Passage of Fire Fighter Pay Raise
At October 2nd Regular Council Meeting

All Fire Fighters Will be Paid At or Above the Southern Average

News Release

October 1, 2008

Contact:

Jared Brossett
Office of District "D"
Councilmember
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
Ph: 504-658-1040
jbrossett@cityofno.com

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City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - October 1, 2008 - New Orleans City Council Budget Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell will present Motion M-08-363 at this week's regular City Council meeting on October 2nd to approve a pay raise for the New Orleans Fire Department (NOFD).

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "Under my leadership as Budget Chair and with support from Councilmembers Fielkow, Head and Clarkson, my office - along with the NOFD, its union, Ken Paillet with the firm Paillet, Meunier and LeBlanc, the City Council Fiscal Office, CAO Dr. Brenda Hatfield and Civil Service Commission Director Lisa Hudson - has been working towards placing our fire fighters' pay at the southern average. We are pleased to have finally reached that goal with our fire department as we did for our police officers."

Motion M-08-363 approves pay raises for each classification of fire fighters. All fire fighters who currently are not paid at the calculated southern average will receive a ten percent (10%) increase to the minimum base salary. If any of the fire fighters' salaries are still below the proposed increases, they would receive an additional increase in base pay that will place them at the Civil Service Commission's calculated southern average for their job classification.

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City Council October 2, 2008
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

October 2, 2008

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082

rjpursell@cityofno.com

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New Orleans, LA - October 2, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council passed a Motion approving pay raises for fire fighter classifications, Resolutions supporting tax credits for property storm protection and evacuation expenses, and an Ordinance permitting the installation of alternative playground surfacing to prevent delays in rebuilding City playgrounds.

The Council also honored those whose efforts led to the successful evacuation of the City during Hurricane Gustav and addressed a presentation on the demolition process in the City.

Approves Pay Raises for Fire Fighter Classifications



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

Led by Budget Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, the Council passed Motion M-08-363 approving pay raises for each classification of fire fighters to ensure that all fire fighters are paid at or above the southern average.

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "We have been working towards placing our fire fighters' pay at the southern average, and we are pleased to have finally reached that goal with our fire

department as we did for our first responders."

The Motion approves pay raises for each classification of fire fighters. All fire fighters who currently are not paid at the calculated southern average will receive a ten percent (10%) increase to the minimum base salary. If any of the fire fighters' salaries are still below the proposed increases, they would receive an additional increase in base pay that will place them at the Civil Service Commission's calculated southern average for their job classification.



Supports Tax Credits for Property Storm Protection and Evacuation Expenses

The Council adopted Resolutions R-08-560 and R-08-561, spearheaded by Councilmember Fielkow and co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson and Head, supporting state and federal tax credits for commercial and residential property owners to employ storm-proofing technologies on their structures, and for expenses incurred while under mandatory evacuation orders.

Resolution R-08-560 reflects the Council's belief that the establishment of these tax credits will encourage more widespread use of storm-proofing measures which may reduce the need for state and federal government post-disaster assistance and enhance the community's ability to reestablish its residential and economic base after a major storm.

Resolution R-08-561 cites the fact that the current FEMA reimbursement policy may provide a disincentive to the public to evacuate due to inability to afford evacuation expenses.

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "We understand the expenses associated with evacuating as well as storm-proofing a structure, and as a government body, we want to create an environment that encourages citizens to take actions in the interests of their safety and well being."



Head of EMS Dr. Juliette Saussy, Colonel Jerry Sneed, Fire Chief Charles Parent, Police Chief Warren Riley

Honors First Responders of Hurricane Gustav

The Council, as its first order of business, honored the "Unsung Heroes of Gustav" whose efforts led to the successful evacuation of the City during Hurricane Gustav.

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Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "You all set a pattern for the rest of America on how to perform in a crisis and we can't thank you enough for your courageous leadership. We are thankful to have such dedicated professionals working for our City and our citizens."

Supports Rebuilding of City Playgrounds



Councilmember-at-Large
Fielkow

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,161, authored by Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow, permitting the installation of alternative playground surfacing other than rubber surfacing, as long as it complies with state and federally approved requirements.

The Ordinance reflects the Council's belief that being able to use a less expensive alternative to rubber would allow the City to move forward in more quickly rebuilding New Orleans playgrounds.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "It is important that we take the necessary steps to assist in the rebuilding of the City's playgrounds and recreational areas. We want to ensure that all playgrounds are safe and open for use by the public. This legislation gives the City flexibility when choosing playground rebuilding materials, while also ensuring that our City playgrounds comply with state and federal safety standards."



Representatives from the Dept. of Sanitation,
Office of Recovery Development & Administration,
Dept. of Safety & Permits and the Code Enforcement Division

Addresses City's Demolition Process

Representatives from the Department of Safety and Permits, Department of Sanitation, Office of Recovery Development and Administration and the Code Enforcement Division came before the Council

today to give a presentation on the City's demolition processes.

The representatives discussed aspects of the demolition process including coordination among departments, demolition classifications and timelines for demolition.

Housing and Human Needs Committee Chair District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "I want to thank you all for being here today to discuss this important issue with us. We want to ensure that the demolition process is as organized and efficient as possible to assure homeowners that properties in imminent danger of collapse will be demolished in a timely manner."

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City Council October 2, 2008
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

October 2, 2008

Contact:

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Ph: (504) 658-1082

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Announcement

October 3, 2008



Gentilly Fest 2008 "Back From The Breach"

*The First Annual Celebration of
Gentilly's Unique Neighborhoods, Art, Food and Culture*

What: Gentilly Fest 2008 - *Back From The Breach* is a celebration of the Gentilly neighborhoods, art, food and culture. The festival will be free to the public and offer live music from local musicians, arts and crafts displays by local artist and artisans, food from local restaurants and chefs, recovery information, and activities and music for children.

When: Saturday, October 11, 2008
11:00 a.m to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Pontchartrain Park Playground
Corner of Press Dr. and Prentiss Ave.
[Click here for map](#)

Who:

- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- Gentilly Community Members
- Music from: Charmaine Neville, Kermit Ruffins, Rebirth Brass Band, Philip Manuel, Bamboula 2000 and more
- Vendors will include: Lil Dizzy's, Cafe Roma, Praline Connection, Montrel's, Vaucresson's, Cousin's and more

Contact: Jared Brossett
Office of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
Phone: (504) 658-1040
Cell: (504) 701-6993
Email: jbrossett@cityofno.com

Background:

Gentilly Fest 2008 - *Back From The Breach* is a celebration of Gentilly neighborhoods arts, food and culture. The proceeds will be donated to the New Orleans Police and Fire Departments for facility and/or equipment improvements at police stations and firehouses within the Gentilly area. Attendance is anticipated at 2,000 people. For more information visit www.gentillyfest.org.

The event is sponsored by the Gentilly Civic Improvement Association (GCIA). GCIA is a diverse group of residents, businesses, and civic organizations who have united to preserve and improve the historic Gentilly Neighborhood. The organization was founded in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to provide a clearinghouse for information and resources to residents during the after-math of Katrina. For more information about the Gentilly Civic Improvement Association visit <http://www.gcia.us/>.

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Announcement

October 7, 2008



**District "C" Councilmember Carter
To Hold Community Meeting for Algiers Residents
To Discuss Street Repair Projects**

- WHAT:** Councilmember Carter will hold a community meeting for Algiers residents to hear updates on street repair projects in Algiers from Robert Mendoza of the Department of Public Works and representatives from MWH.
- WHO:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Director of the Department of Public Works Robert Mendoza
Representatives from MWH
- WHEN:** Thursday, October 9, 2008
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Cavalry Baptist Church
2401 General Degaulle Drive
(Click [here](#) for map)
- CONTACT:** Jonas K. Nash
Director of Community Relations
Office of District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Office: (504) 658-1030
Email: jknash@cityofno.com

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Council Holds Public Information Briefing Summarizing 2008 Council Planning Retreat

News Release

October 10, 2008

Contact:

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rjpursell@cityofno.com

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New Orleans, LA - October 10, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council held a public information briefing at the InterContinental New Orleans hotel, summarizing the 2008 Council Planning Retreat.

Items addressed in the Retreat and discussed in the public information briefing included 2008 policy initiatives and concerns; implementation results and forward activity; and development of 2009 policy initiatives and concerns.

Looking forward, the Council collectively will develop and prioritize 2009 policy initiatives and timelines.

A final 2009 legislative agenda will be finalized by February 15, 2009.

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City Council Provides Detailed Information on November 4th Ballot Propositions & Constitutional Amendments

News Release

October 10, 2008

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082

rjpursell@cityofno.com

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New Orleans, LA - October 10, 2008 - As a service to the public, the New Orleans City Council, through its website www.neworleanscitycouncil.com, is providing the actual ballot proposition language on the eight Ballot Propositions that will appear on the November 4, 2008 ballot in the City of New Orleans, as well as the seven Constitutional Amendments that will appear on the ballot state-wide.

The eight Ballot Propositions include:

- [City of New Orleans Home Rule Charter Amendment \(City Planning Commission and City's Master Plan Acquiring Force of Law\)](#)
- [Audubon Area Security District Proposition](#)
- [Lake Bullard Neighborhood Improvement District Proposition](#)
- [Maple Area Residents Security Tax District Proposition](#)
- [McKendall Estates Neighborhood Improvement District Proposition](#)
- [Mid-City Security District Proposition](#)
- [Tameron Subdivision Improvement District Proposition](#)
- [Upper Audubon Security District Proposition](#)

The seven Constitutional Amendments can be viewed [here](#).

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Council Holds Public Information Briefing Summarizing 2008 Council Planning Retreat

News Release

October 10, 2008

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
rjpursell@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - October 10, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council held a public information briefing at the InterContinental New Orleans hotel, summarizing the 2008 Council Planning Retreat.

Items addressed in the Retreat and discussed in the public information briefing included 2008 policy initiatives and concerns; implementation results and forward activity; and development of 2009 policy initiatives and concerns.

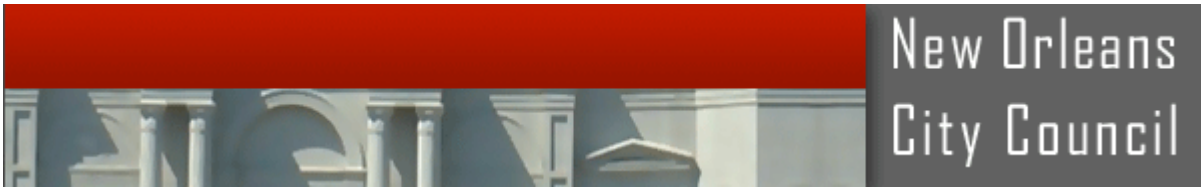
Looking forward, the Council collectively will develop and prioritize 2009 policy initiatives and timelines.

A final 2009 legislative agenda will be finalized by February 15, 2009.

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Media Advisory

October 10, 2008

**New Orleans City Council
Holds Public Information Briefing at 4:00 p.m. Today
To Summarize 2008 Council Planning Retreat**

What: The City Council will hold a public information briefing summarizing the 2008 Council Planning Retreat.

Among items addressed in the Retreat and that will be discussed in the public information briefing include:

- 2008 policy initiatives and concerns, implementation results and forward activity
- Development of 2009 policy initiatives and concerns

To view the Retreat Agenda click [here](#).

When: Friday, October 10, 2008
4:00 p.m.

Where: Acadian II Room, 3rd Floor
InterContinental New Orleans Hotel
444 St. Charles Ave.

Contact: Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
Email: rjpursell@cityofno.com

New Orleans City Council

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Announcement

October 10, 2008



District "B" Councilmember Head To Hold Town Hall Meeting in Mid-City

- WHAT:** Councilmember Stacy Head will hold a Town Hall Meeting in Mid-City to provide community members with neighborhood updates and address any constituent concerns
- WHO:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
Community members
- WHEN:** Saturday, October 25, 2008
10:00 a.m.
- WHERE:** Grace Church
3700 Canal St.
(Click [here](#) to view map)
- CONTACT:** Barbara Lacen-Keller
Director of Constituent Services
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
Office: (504) 658-1022
Email: blacenkeller@cityofno.com

New Orleans City Council

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Announcement

October 13, 2008



**Councilmember Hedge-Morrell
Hosts District "D" Town Hall Meeting**

- WHAT:** Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell will hold a District "D" Town Hall Meeting and representatives from various City agencies and departments will be present to provide constituents with neighborhood updates and answer questions
- WHO:** District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
Department of Public Works
Safety & Permits
Code Enforcement
Public Advocacy & 311
City Planning
Office of Recovery and Development Administration
Sewerage & Water Board
- WHEN:** Tuesday, October 21, 2008
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** St. Maria Goretti Parish Hall
7300 Crowder Blvd. at Morrison Rd.
(Click [here](#) to view map)
- CONTACT:** Lena Stewart
Executive Assistant
Office of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
Office: (504) 658-1040

New Orleans City Council

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Statement

October 14, 2008



Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow

Statement Re: 2007 Economic Development Fund Grant Process
Before Special Development Projects & Economic Development
Committee

New Orleans, LA - October 14th, 2008 - At this morning's Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee meeting the issue of the 2007 Economic Development Fund (EDF) Grant applications will be discussed and voted on by the Committee. 2007 EDF grants total nearly \$5 million of taxpayer money, with grants going to local small businesses and non-profit organizations who contribute to economic development in New Orleans.

Councilmember Fielkow, as Chair of the Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee, has reluctantly called for this Committee meeting today to review the 2007 EDF grant recommendations despite his concerns over the review process. Following is his statement to the Committee:

"Let me start by saying thank you to our small businesses and non-profit organizations who have applied for 2007 EDF grants, and those who did not, for their continued commitment to New Orleans. We all know that you are the backbone of this community. It is your steadfast commitment through the good economic times, and the bad, that keep New Orleans not only alive, but vibrant and unique. I applaud you and I thank you.

I believe everyone knows my professional history and the fact that I am a strong supporter of New Orleans business and industry, especially small business. This commitment has been made even stronger since I became an elected official as I now have the added responsibility - a fiduciary duty - as a steward of public funds for the City of New Orleans. Regrettably, each of the applicants before us today has been forced to wait over ten months for an answer to their grant application. Even worse, however, the Council and I have been put in a very difficult position because I do not believe that the existing law involving EDF grants has been followed.

The 2007 EDF process is currently a flawed one for at least three reasons which I will speak to momentarily. I am not alone in my belief as even Dr. Blakely, the City's Recovery Director responsible for overseeing the process, confirmed this weekend in the media that "the process of bringing the grants to the Council has been flawed." Further, a legal opinion issued late last week from the City Council's Special Counsel also confirmed the current flaws and potential illegality of the process. Please know that my objections relate only to the process and not to the substantive, economic worth of the people or groups submitting the applications. I for one wish this Administration would have done you better.

By way of background, EDF started as a vote of the people in 1991 when the taxpayers of this city supported the use of a piece of their property tax payments to be used for things which would advance the economic interests of this City. This vote of the public was then codified by the New Orleans City Council through an ordinance which has been amended at various times over the past seventeen years. Under the ordinance then and now, a three-step approval process was created whereby grant applications would first be reviewed and approved by a committee of economic experts appointed by the Mayor, then given to the Mayor for his recommendations, and then finally given to the City Council as the final decision maker. Regrettably, for the 2007 grants, this three tier process was not followed due to the Administration's delays and the use of a questionable Hurricane Gustav Executive Order issued to justify a different process.

Last year, the City Council, recognizing that the current EDF process needed beefing up on both the front and back end of approval, made several good, substantive changes in the EDF ordinance to ensure better accountability before grants were issued and significantly enhanced follow-up after approval to ensure that the grants brought the promised economic development to the City. Most notably, on the front end, language was added to the EDF ordinance specifically requiring that "each recommendation include a detailed, objective, cost-benefit analysis of the project indicating the return on the investment for funds being allocated." This important provision ensured an independent review providing both the Economic Development Advisory Committee and the City Council with guidance as to whether or not the grants being approved provided a real economic return to the taxpayers. I will come back to this point in a minute.

In my opinion, and even that of our legal counsel and Dr. Blakely, the 2007 EDF process is flawed in the following three ways:

- 1) The timing of the Administration's issuance of the grant recommendations;
- 2) The removal of the first layer of approval for the EDF grant recommendations, the Economic Development Advisory Committee; and
- 3) The lack of conformity with the City Code which requires the above-stated independent cost-benefit analysis that projects a return on investment.

Let me take each separately:

First, under the City ordinance, grant applications are to be submitted to the City Council on or before December 15th of the year of the grants. In this case, the City Council first received from the Administration the 2007 grant recommendations on September 11th, nearly ten months late. During this ten month period, our Committee repeatedly requested information involving the 2007 grants and why we were not receiving these grants in a timely fashion. A number of reasons were provided by the Administration, including their difficulty in holding a legally constituted meeting with a quorum of the nine members of the Economic Development Advisory Committee so that the grants could be moved forward. To the extent this is true, perhaps the Administration should have been willing to appoint new committee members who would have had the time to attend a meeting so that these important grants could be timely addressed.

To all of those small business owners and non-profit organizations who have submitted proposals, let me say again that you are not at fault in this process.

Second, the 2007 EDF grant process is flawed by virtue of the Mayor's elimination of the Economic Development Advisory Committee vote in the review process. As stated earlier, this committee vetting, together with the work of the independent consultant, is what forms the basis of the grant decisions and gives the final decision maker, the City Council, the tools we need to make a wise decision. Using Hurricane Gustav as a justification, despite the fact that the 2007 grants literally sat idle for close to ten months, the Mayor effectively eliminated the committee approval process for this year by issuing an Emergency Declaration so that today this City Council does not have the benefit of the committee decision-making. Our own legal counsel has even questioned the legality of using emergency powers in this way.

Finally, the third, and I believe most significant major flaw in the 2007 EDF grant process, is the total lack of conformity with the existing City law which requires an independent cost-benefit analysis that projects a return on investment.

Wisely, the City Council last year amended the EDF ordinance in a way which is intended to make the EDF process more accountable to the citizens of New Orleans. Specifically, this return on investment analysis, which admittedly does not exist in this current round of grants, ensures that the intent of the voters 17 years ago is being honored. I applaud, especially in today's difficult economic times, the tenacity and perseverance of our applicants and other non-profit and business ventures. However, without this mandatory independent cost-benefit analysis there is no way to properly evaluate whether each application conforms with the letter and spirit of the voters mandate, or the existing City law which this Council unanimously put into effect.

This flaw has been acknowledged by both Dr. Blakely and the independent consultant retained by the Administration. Absent the requisite independent cost-benefit analysis showing a return on investment, it is not possible in my opinion and theirs to make a credible determination of the impact of the proposed projects on the future economic development of the City. Further, to support such a flawed process, would also be doing a disservice to those applicants who were recommended by the consultant but were rejected by the Administration.

GCR and Associates, the independent consultant retained by the Administration, completed its work by April 2008 yet the recommendations from the Administration did not come forward to the Council for another five months. Most importantly, GCR has advised us that they could not, and did not, perform a true cost-benefit/return-on-investment analysis as they were not given this assignment by the Administration. GCR's President has informed us that his firm worked strictly off of the paperwork submitted to them and that they were not asked to even speak with the applicants. As such and as confirmed by GCR, our legal counsel and even Dr. Blakely, the current process followed for 2007 did not fully comply with the requirements of current law.

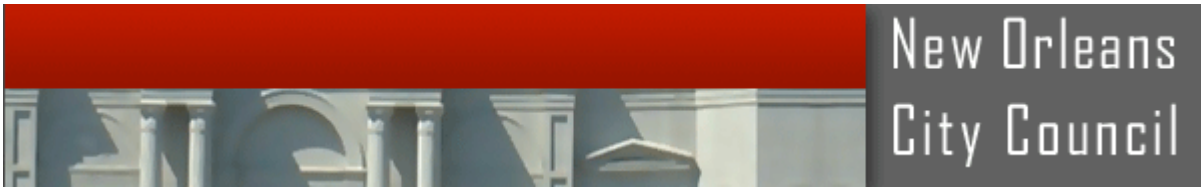
In summary, and as a result of the above, I am not able to support the specific 2007 grant ordinance put forward by the Administration. I am not for or against any specific grant but believe that the entire process should be put in "reserve" as allowed for under City law until the process has been fully and legally complied with. Put another way, I would like to see further due diligence done by the Administration before I can support the ordinance and abide by my financial stewardship responsibility to the public. Nevertheless, as Chairman, I fully respect the committee process and today we will hear each of the individual grant recommendations which will ultimately be taken up by the full City Council.

To all applicants, business owners and non-profit organizations which continue to work and struggle to keep moving this City forward, you deserve better than this process. This entire City deserves an economic development policy which supports its overall interests and ensures accountability to the taxpayers that sound, rational and legal decisions are being made relative to their taxpayer dollars. A significant amount of money, over \$5 million, is the subject matter of this ordinance before us today and I would hope that this Council would do the right thing."

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Media Advisory

October 14, 2008

Dr. Blakely to Give Recovery Projects Progress Report At Recovery Committee Meeting Wednesday Afternoon

What: Dr. Edward Blakely, Director of Recovery for the City of New Orleans, will appear before the Recovery Committee this Wednesday to discuss the City's recovery projects and their sources of funding.

When: Wednesday, October 15, 2008
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who: Committee Co-Chair Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
Committee Co-Chair District "E" Councilmember Willard-Lewis
Committee Member District "A" Councilmember Midura
Committee Member District "B" Councilmember Head
Committee Member District "C" Councilmember Carter
Committee Member District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

Contact: Jacquelyn Cole
Communications / Special Projects
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
Ph: (504) 658-1072
Cell: (504) 914-2367
Email: jlcole@cityofno.com

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JAMES D. "BUDDY" CALDWELL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
P.O. BOX 94005
BATON ROUGE
70804-9005

OCT 15 2006
OPINION 08-0211

50 - 8 - 4 -- PUBLIC MEETINGS -- State & Local Governing
Bodies

La Const. Art. XII, §3 La Const. Art. VI, §5(E)
La. R.S. 42:4.1 et seq.

Mr. Steven J. Lane
Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar
Legal Counsel, New Orleans City Council
820 O'Keefe Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70113-1116

The Selection Review Panel, a committee formed by the Mayor pursuant to Executive Order for evaluating contract proposals for the provision of professional services, must comply with the Open Meetings Law. The New Orleans City Council is authorized to establish standards for open meetings that are equally applicable to the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch of the City of New Orleans, as long as such standards do not conflict with or supersede the Open Meetings Law.

Dear Mr. Lane:

Our office received an opinion request from you regarding the applicability of Louisiana Open Meetings Law to the competitive selection process for professional service contracts by the Office of the Mayor and the New Orleans City Council (Council). Your letter states that the Mayor of the City of New Orleans, pursuant to Executive Order CRN 08-01, has established Selection Review Panels to evaluate proposed professional service contracts. Your letter also states that the Council proposes to pass a resolution promoting transparency in the awarding of professional service contracts, requiring the Council and the Mayor to comply with Louisiana Open Meetings Law in the process for evaluating and awarding professional service contracts.

In particular, your letter asks us to address:

- (1) Whether meetings which are held pursuant to Executive Order CRN 08-01 are subject to Louisiana Open Meetings Law (La. R.S. 42:4.1 through La. R.S. 42:13); and
- (2) Whether the New Orleans City Council is authorized to establish, through Ordinance or Motion, standards for open meetings that are equally applicable to the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch of the City of New Orleans, consistent with the Home Rule Charter, including Section 6-308?

The right of access to public information is guaranteed by La.Const. Art. XII, § 3, which provides, "[n]o person shall be denied the right to observe the deliberations of public bodies and examine public documents, except in cases established by law." The Open Meetings Law, which can be found at La. R.S. 42:4.1 et seq., was enacted by the

OPINION 08-0211
Mr. Steven J. Lane
Page No. 2

Louisiana Legislature to protect and define the constitutional right of access to observe the deliberations of public bodies. The purpose of this body of law is clearly set forth in La. R.S. 42:4.1(A), which provides:

[i]t is essential to the maintenance of a democratic society that public business be performed in an open and public manner and that citizens be advised of and aware of the performance of public officials and the deliberations and decisions that go into the making of public policy. Toward this end, the provisions of R.S. 42:4.1 through R.S. 42:10 shall be construed liberally.

As provided for in La. R.S. 42:5, every meeting of a public body is required to be open to the public, unless closed pursuant to La. R.S. 42:6, R.S. 42:6.1 or R.S. 42:6.2.

A meeting is defined as the convening of a quorum of a public body to deliberate or act on a matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power. La. R.S. 42:4.2(A)(1). A "public body" is defined as:

village, town, and city governing authorities; parish governing authorities; school boards and boards of levee and port commissioners; boards of publicly operated utilities; planning, zoning, and airport commissions; and any other state, parish, municipal, or special district boards, commissions, or authorities, and those of any political subdivision thereof, *where such body possesses policy making, advisory, or administrative functions, including any committee or subcommittee of any of these bodies enumerated in this paragraph.*

La. R.S. 42:4.2(A)(2) [Emphasis added].

Your first question asks us whether or not the entity that meets pursuant to Executive Order CRN 08-01 is subject to the Open Meetings Law. This requires an analysis of whether or not it qualifies as a "public body" under the definition in La. R.S. 42:4.2(A)(2).

Section 6-308 of the Home Rule Charter for the City of New Orleans gives the Mayor the authority to establish a process for awarding contracts for professional service, which provides, in pertinent part:

(5)(b) Contracts for professional services administered by the offices, departments, boards, and other agencies of the Executive Branch shall be awarded on the basis of a competitive selection process which shall be established by executive order of the Mayor.

Section 9 of Executive Order CRN 08-01, entitled "Selection Review Panels," provides that these Panels are "established for the purpose of conducting an independent, objective evaluation of proposals for the provision of professional services." Depending

OPINION 08-0211

Mr. Steven J. Lane

Page No. 3

on the monetary amount of the contract awarded, certain members are designated to participate in the Selection Review Panels. The Executive Order provides that "all discussion and deliberations by the Selection Review Panel in the evaluating and ranking of any proposal shall be deemed confidential, although the completed evaluation forms are available to the public as public records." Executive Order CRN 08-01, Section 9(L).

Black's Law Dictionary (8th Ed. 2004) defines a committee as "[a] subordinate group to which a deliberative assembly or other organization refers business for consideration, investigation, oversight, or action" and an advisory committee as "[a] committee formed to make suggestions to some other body or to an official." From the description of the Selection Review Panel in Executive Order CRN 08-01, they are a group to which the Mayor looks to for recommendations or suggestions regarding proposals for professional contracts. They evaluate and consider contract proposals for the provision of professional services submitted to the City of New Orleans, and provide recommendations, which the Mayor can agree with or reject. They clearly qualify as a committee under the definition provided above. The definition of "public bodies" in La. R.S. 42:4.2(A)(2) includes committees created by municipal authorities or city governing authorities.

The City of New Orleans operates under a Home Rule Charter, which provides for a Mayor-Council form of government. Article I, Section 1-102, Home Rule Charter of the City of New Orleans. The Powers and Duties of the Mayor, as described by Article IV, Section 4-206, include, but are not limited to, oversight of the activities of boards and other agencies of City government; enforcement of the provisions of the Home Rule Charter, City ordinances, and all other laws; appointing positions relating to City business, including the Chief Administrative Officer and the City Attorney; submitting an operating budget to the Council for the City; and *signing contracts for the City*. The Selection Review Panels assist with the evaluations of contract proposals for the provision of professional services. Signing contracts for the City is an enumerated power of the Mayor. The Selection Review Panels are committees of a municipal authority under these particular circumstances, where they assist in the exercise of a mayoral function, and are not dissimilar in function from a planning or zoning commission.

Our office has previously considered the nature of committees created by mayors, and has required certain committees comply with Open Meetings Law. In Atty. Gen. Op. No. 79-1392, our office opined that a committee established by the mayor of the City of Bastrop was a public body required to comply with Louisiana's Open Meetings Law, where such a committee "is appointed by the chief executive of a political subdivision of the State and has been granted policy making and advisory functions in the extremely important area of public finance." Our office opined that the committee appointed by the mayor, in function, could be classified as a subcommittee of the municipal governing authority.

OPINION 08-0211
Mr. Steven J. Lane
Page No. 4

A mayoral advisory committee was required to comply with Open Meetings Law in Atty. Gen. Op. No. 05-0424, where the committee was established by the mayor to provide guidance on matters pertaining to the Police Department in Youngsville. Our office stated, for the purposes of the Open Meetings Law, the meaning of "public body" included a municipal authority with advisory functions. Similarly, in Atty. Gen. Op. No. 89-481, our office stated that a committee appointed by the mayor as chief executive officer was a subcommittee of a municipal authority under La. R.S. 42:4.2(A)(2), and a "public body" under the Open Meetings Law. Also, in Atty. Gen. Op. No. 95-313, our office found that a citizen committee established and appointed by the mayor for discussion, research and advice was subject to the Open Meetings Law.

Because there are no Louisiana cases directly on point, we note the position taken by Florida courts dealing with a similar issue. In *Silver Express Company v. District Board of Lower Tribunal Trustees of Miami-Dade Community College*, a contractor had submitted an unsuccessful proposal to provide flight training services and alleged violation of Florida's Open Meetings Law in their proposal consideration process. 691 So.2d 1099 (Fla. 3d DCA 1997). In this case, a committee was appointed, composed of college staff and one outside individual, to meet and evaluate the responses to the request for proposals. Where the committee served to "weed through the various proposals, to determine which were acceptable and to rank them accordingly," the court found they were subject to Florida's Open Meetings Laws. *Id.* at 1100.¹ Similarly, in *Leach-Wells v. City of Bradenton*, a selection committee was appointed to review proposals received by the City in response to a bid for proposals for a construction project. 734 So.2d 1168 (Fla. 2d DCA 1999). The function of the committee was to rank the top three firms, who would then make presentations to the City Council, and the Council would select the firm to construct the project. Where the committee was comprised of the city clerk, a local engineer, the public works director and a city councilman, it was not disputed that the committee was subject to Florida's Sunshine Law [Open Meetings and Public Records Law]. *Id.* at 1169. While this office recognizes the non-binding nature of case law in other jurisdictions, we nevertheless find these cases instructive.

Considering the importance of contracts for professional services awarded by the City of New Orleans, the importance of conducting public business in a transparent and open manner, and in light of previous Attorney General opinions, it is the opinion of this office that the Selection Review Panels described in Executive Order CRN 08-01 are public entities as defined by La. R.S. 42:4.2. Therefore, under the facts you presented in your request, the Selection Review Panels must comply with Open Meetings Law in evaluating proposals for the provision of professional services.

¹ Section 286.011(1) Florida Statutes (1995) provides: All meetings of any board or commission of any state agency or authority of any county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution at which official acts are to be taken are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times, and no resolution, rule, or formal action shall be considered binding except as taken or made at such meeting. The board or commission must provide reasonable notice of all such meetings.

OPINION 08-0211
Mr. Steven J. Lane
Page No. 5

Notwithstanding our opinion that the Selection Review Panels are subject to the Open Meetings Law, the Panels may conduct portions of their meetings in executive session, if such executive session are conducted in accordance with La. R.S. 42:6.1. We note that the Panels' ability to hold executive session is governed by La. R.S. 42:6.1, and not by any executive order of the mayor.

We note that La. R.S. 42:6.1(A) provides, in pertinent part:

A public body may hold an executive session pursuant to R.S. 42:6 for one or more of the following reasons:

(1) Discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person, provided that such person is notified in writing at least twenty-four hours before the meeting and that such person may require that such discussion be held at an open meeting, and provided that nothing in this Subsection shall permit an executive session for discussion of the appointment of a person to a public body. In cases of extraordinary emergency, written notice to such person shall not be required; however, the public body shall give such notice as it deems appropriate and circumstances permit.

(2) Strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, prospective litigation after formal written demand, or litigation when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body.

[...]

(10) Or any other matters now provided for or as may be provided for by the legislature.

Our office has also recognized the obligation to discuss any information which is "confidential" in executive session. As our office stated in Atty. Gen. Op. No. 05-0065, "[i]f the records are subject to a privacy claim or are privileged under the Public Records Act, then La. R.S. 42:6.1(A)(9) [which exception is now 42:6.1(A)(10)] may be interpreted to authorize an executive session to discuss the contents of the privileged records." In Atty. Gen. Op. No. 88-91, our office addressed the applicability of the Public Records Act to information solicited by a state agency through a request for proposal, as provided for by La. R.S. 39:1503. Our office stated that for general purposes, "bids for public contracts are matters of public record and become such upon receipt by the state." *Id.* However, citing Atty. Gen. Op. No. 87-320, our office also noted that "certain financial information must be exempted from disclosure due to

OPINION 08-0211

Mr. Steven J. Lane

Page No. 6

privacy considerations guaranteed by Article I, § 5 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974."²

Our office addressed proprietary, financial and statistical information which may be protected from disclosure in Atty. Gen. Op. No. 82-860, in which our office stated:

The threshold determination is whether a reasonable expectation of privacy exists against disclosure of information. If so, the public interest in obtaining the document must be weighed against the interest in privacy. *Webb v. City of Shreveport*, 371 So.2d 316 (La.App. 2nd Cir. 1979), writ denied 374 So.2d 657.

Proprietary, financial and statistical information may 'pertain to the business of the private person, firm or corporation' (R.S. 44:4(3)) and may therefore be confidential. If in the exercise of reasonable discretion by the responsible public officer, specific information contained in files in the custody of the Department is classified as confidential in nature, then it is our opinion that such record or the parts thereof so classified come within the scope of R.S. 44:4(3).

However, we note that any discussions in executive session must be limited to what is permitted by the Open Meetings Law. As required by La. R.S. 42:6, "no final or binding action may be taken during an executive session." Therefore, although a person or firm may be properly discussed in executive session for one of the reasons authorized by the Open Meetings Law, any binding action taken with respect to such person or firm must be taken in an open meeting.

Your second question asks us to address whether the New Orleans City Council is authorized to establish, through Ordinance or Motion, standards for open meetings that are equally applicable to the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch of the City of New Orleans, consistent with the Home Rule Charter, including Section 6-308, pertaining to contracts to which the City is a party. The Louisiana Constitution provides:

A home rule charter adopted under this Section shall provide the structure and organization, powers, and functions of the government of the local governmental subdivision, which may include the exercise of any power and performance of any function necessary, requisite, or proper for the management of its affairs, *not denied by general law or inconsistent with this constitution.*

² This opinion also noted the applicability of La. R.S. 44:4 as the basis for exempted certain financial information, which exempts from the Public Records Act, "...any records...in the custody or control of any officer, employee, agent, or agency of the state whose duties and functions are to investigate...the business of any person, firm or corporation in this state, when the records...pertain to the business of the private person, firm, or corporation and are in their nature confidential."

OPINION 08-0211
Mr. Steven J. Lane
Page No. 7

La.Const. Art. VI, §5(E) [Emphasis added].

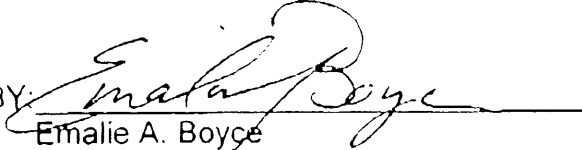
As our office stated in Atty. Gen. Op. No. 02-0258, a Home Rule Charter may impose more stringent requirements than the Louisiana Constitution or general law, but may not conflict with or supersede either.

Consistent with the view that the Selection Review Panels are subject to Open Meetings Law, the New Orleans City Council is authorized to establish standards for open meetings that are equally applicable to the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch of the City of New Orleans, as long as such standards do not conflict with or supersede the Louisiana Constitution or the Open Meetings Law. It is important to note, as previously mentioned, that Section 6-308 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of New Orleans gives the Mayor of New Orleans the authority to establish a competitive selection process by executive order for contracts for professional services administered by the offices, departments, boards, and other agencies of the Executive Branch. The Council's proposals to pass resolutions promoting transparency in the awarding of professional service contracts is permissible because the Louisiana Constitution and the Louisiana Revised Statutes require transparency from any public body falling within the definition of La. R.S. 42:4.2(A)(2), and a committee created pursuant to an executive order authorized by the Home Rule Charter must comply with requirements imposed by Louisiana law.

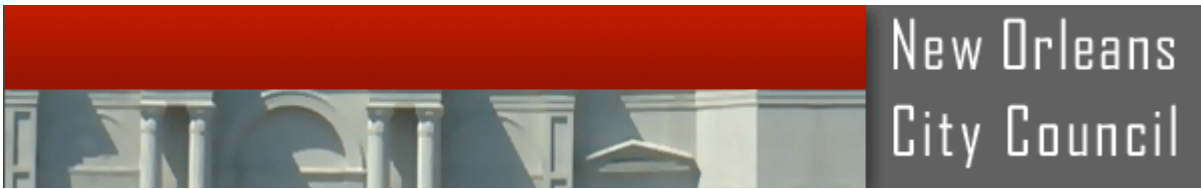
We hope that this opinion has adequately addressed the legal issues that you have raised. If our office can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best regards,

JAMES D. "BUDDY" CALDWELL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

BY: 
Emalie A. Boyce
Assistant Attorney General

JDC: EAB



Media Advisory

October 15, 2008

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session
Thursday, October 16th at 10 a.m.
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

What: Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Ordinance to allocate 2007 Economic Development Fund millage and unexpended collection Economic Development Fund millage
- Motions supporting funding for Orleans Public Defenders at a level that will bring the Office into compliance with the standards mandated by the Louisiana Public Defender Board
- Presentation to honor the Consular Corps of New Orleans for their commitment to the City
- Presentation on the outcome of the October 11 - 13 meetings with the Dutch to discuss new flood control ideas in New Orleans

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

When: Thursday, October 16, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Contact: Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
Email: rjpursell@cityofno.com

New Orleans City Council

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City Council October 16, 2008 Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

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The Council also honored the Consular Corps of New Orleans for their commitment to the City and received a report on the recovery of Louisiana from Senator Mary Landrieu.

Finally, the Council voted unanimously to defer approval of the 2007 Economic Development Fund grant applications and recommendations.

Supports Funding for Orleans Public Defenders



*Representatives from
Orleans Public Defenders Office*

Representatives from the Orleans Public Defenders (OPD) Office came before the Council today to give a report on the Office's mission, operational status and funding.

The Council adopted Motions M-08-576 and M-08-577 supporting funding for Orleans Public Defenders and encouraging the state to fund OPD at a level that will enable the Office to meet the standards mandated by the Louisiana Public Defender Board.

Criminal Justice Committee Chair District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "We understand the importance of the Orleans Public Defenders Office and the services it provides to our citizens. Funding Orleans Public Defenders at a level that will enable them to meet constitutionally mandated standards is critical to ensuring a criminal justice system that is just, effective and efficient and it is an essential step toward making New Orleans a safer City."

Addresses Flood Control in New Orleans



Councilmember Midura

The Council, at the request of District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura, addressed a presentation on the outcome of the October 11-13 meetings with the Dutch to discuss new flood control ideas in New Orleans.

The presentation featured diagrams detailing the City's current flood control measures and illustrating alternative flood control methods currently utilized in the Netherlands, and highlighted the need for multiple lines of defense as a fundamental strategy in the protection of New Orleans.

Councilmember Midura said, "Thank you for all of your hard work and the time you dedicated to addressing this issue. We know the importance of keeping this at the forefront of discussions and we look forward to evaluating what we can do to improve flood control in the City."

Addresses Louisiana Recovery Report from Senator Mary Landrieu



*U.S. Senator
Mary Landrieu*

Senator Mary Landrieu came before the Council today to distribute to Councilmembers a report on the state of Louisiana's recovery progress.

The Council thanked Senator Landrieu for providing them with important recovery updates and for all of her work in assisting with the recovery of Louisiana and the City of New Orleans.

Supports Prospect One International Art Biennial

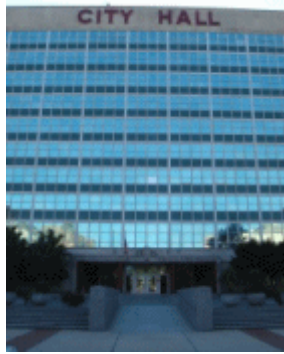


Prospect One Representatives

Representatives from Prospect One came before the Council today at the request of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head to discuss Prospect One International Art Biennial beginning on Friday, October 31, 2008.

Prospect One representatives gave a presentation on details of the upcoming event which will feature artists from around the world exhibiting art at galleries and venues throughout the City. The event is free and open to the public, and a free shuttle bus service will be provided to transport people to all the venues.

Councilmember Stacy Head said, "Thank you so much for all that you are doing - this is going to be a legacy for our City and will help make New Orleans a focus of the national and international art community. Our citizens will have the opportunity to travel all over the City and see exhibitions from artists from around the world."



Approves Property Tax Assessments Appeals Recommendations

The Council, acting as the Board of Review, unanimously approved the recommendations presented by Frilot, LLC in connection with the 2009 tax appeals for Orleans Parish.

The Council for the 2nd year contracted with Frilot, LLC to conduct a tax appeal hearing process in which over 435 tax appeals on 2009 assessments in the 1st thru 7th Municipal

Districts were submitted to the Orleans Parish Board of Review.

Frilot submitted to the Board the recommended adjustments to the assessments for each appeal. The Board voted to adopt resolutions R-08-1 and R-08-2 accepting the recommendations for disposition of the 2009 tax appeals in the 1st thru 7th Municipal Districts and to certify the 2009 tax rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission.

Frilot representatives emphasized the improvements in the process this year, highlighting the efficient and timely distribution of information and details on the process to residents via the City Council's website.

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Honors Consular Corps of New Orleans



Members of the Consular Corps of New Orleans

The Council, as its first Order of Business, honored the Consular Corps of New Orleans for their continued commitment to the City of New Orleans.

Honorary Consuls of more than fifteen countries appeared before the Council, at the request of Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow, to speak about their

experiences in New Orleans as well as the historic cultural ties that countries represented by the Consular Corps share with New Orleans.

The representatives also informed Councilmembers of international activities and events happening around the City and discussed the relationships each country has with Louisiana and New Orleans, trade relationships and economic development relationships.

Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow said, "We want to thank all of you and the countries that you represent for all of the hard work you do. New Orleans is a unique multicultural city and we recognize the importance of maintaining international relationships."



Addresses Economic Development Fund Grants

The Council addressed the 2007 Economic Development Fund (EDF) Grant applications and recommendations.

The Council voted unanimously to defer approval of the EDF grants. A substitute Ordinance to temporarily suspend the award deadline was introduced. The Council is expected to take final action at its December 18th regular meeting.

2007 EDF grants total nearly \$5 million of taxpayer money, with grants going to local small businesses and non-profit organizations who contribute to economic development in New Orleans.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "We understand the importance of these grants and we want to ensure that the process for awarding them is both equitable and efficient."

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City Council October 16, 2008 Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

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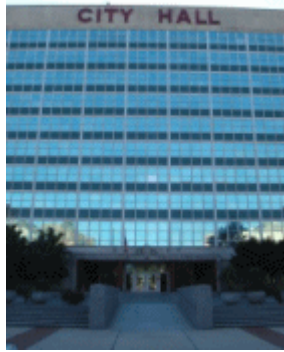


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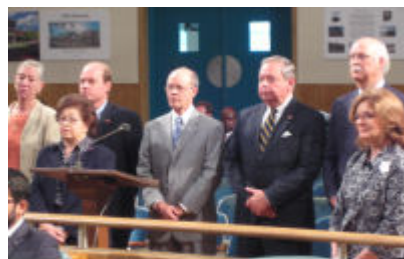
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Council Approves Property Tax Assessments Appeals Recommendations

News Release

October 16, 2008

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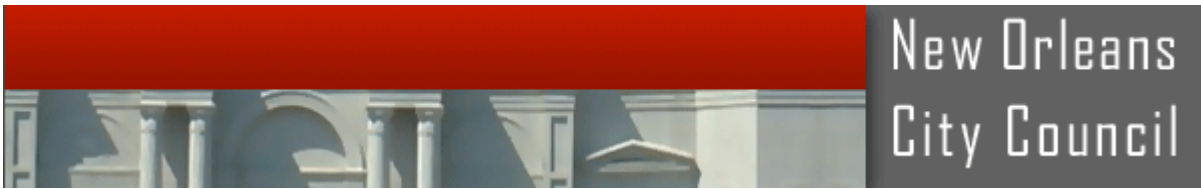
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Media Advisory

October 16, 2008

**Women's Committee to Address
Breast Cancer Awareness, Detection and Treatment
In Session on Friday Morning**

What: Women's Committee meeting to address breast cancer awareness, detection and treatment. Speakers and their topics include:

- Dr. Jeanette Magnus, Tulane University Health Sciences Center
Topic: Breast Cancer Epidemiology
- Dr. Mary Wright, Chief of Breast Surgery Tulane Breast Health Center
Topic: New Advances in Breast Cancer Care
- Randi Kaufman, MS Assistant Director Louisiana Comprehensive Cancer Control Program LSUHSC School of Public Health
Topic: Early Detection (ACS guidelines), LBCHP services in New Orleans (what they are and how to access) and new patient navigation program
- Hon. D. Bajoie, Community Outreach LSU Health & Sciences Center
Topic: Early Detection

When: Friday, October 17, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who: Committee Chair Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
Committee Member District "A" Councilmember Midura
Committee Member District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

Contact: Jacquelyn Cole
Communications / Special Projects
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
Ph: (504) 658-1072
Cell: (504) 914-2367
Email: jicole@cityofno.com

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Announcement

October 23, 2008



**District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Hosts Town Hall Meeting To Provide Update
On the Progress of Re-Opening of Rob ert's Fresh Market**

- WHAT:** Councilmember James Carter will hold a Town Hall Meeting that will feature special guest Marc Rob ert, owner of Rob ert's Fresh Market. Rob ert will discuss in detail the progress he has made towards re-opening the grocery store in the Faubourg Marigny location at St. Claude Ave. and Elysian Fields Ave.
- WHO:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Marc Rob ert, Owner of Rob ert's Fresh Market
- WHEN:** Wednesday, October 29, 2008
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** St. Paul Lutheran Church
2624 Burgundy St.
(Click [here](#) to view map)
- CONTACT:** Jonas Nash
Director of Community Relations
Office of District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Office: (504) 658-1030
Email: jknash@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

October 24, 2008



**Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow
To Address Critical Issues on Louisiana Disaster Shelters
At "Shelter Planning Summit"**

WHAT: "Shelter Planning Summit" organized by the Louisiana Department of Social Services (DSS) to address critical issues involving disaster shelters across Louisiana. The summit will consist of discussions organized around specific emergency sheltering issues, such as tracking and registration, shelter safety and cleanliness standards and shelter services such as food and medical care.

Council Vice President Fielkow said, "I'm glad that DSS is organizing this summit in response to issues surrounding the state shelter program during Hurricane Gustav. I personally met with many New Orleanians who stayed in shelters throughout Louisiana, and while some had positive experiences, there are a lot of improvements that need to be made to the system. It is never too early to plan for the next Hurricane season and ensure that the state's plans are continually improved upon."

WHO:

- Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow
- Lt. Colonel Jerry Sneed, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparation for the City of New Orleans
- Government representatives and invited guests from across the state

WHEN: Monday, October 27, 2008
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Shreveport Convention Center
400 Caddo St.
Shreveport, LA 71101
(Click [here](#) to view map)

CONTACT: Kate Schneiderman
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
Office: (504) 658-1063
Cell: (504) 905-9893
Email: krschneiderman@cityofno.com

New Orleans City Council

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Council to Receive City's Proposed 2009 Budget

Councilmembers & Staff Ready for November Budget Hearings

News Release

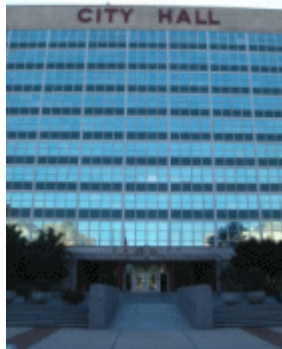
October 27, 2008

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
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rjpursell@cityofno.com

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New Orleans, LA - October 27, 2008 - At a Special Council meeting, Tuesday October 28 2008, the New Orleans City Council will receive the City's proposed 2009 Budget. Mayor Ray Nagin will present the budget to the Council at the special session. The budget must be adopted by the Council by December 1st.

During the last few weeks, Councilmembers and their staffs have been preparing for the Council's month-long review of the proposed City of New Orleans Budget. Leading the City Council's 2009 Budget Process is Chair of the Budget Committee Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell. As Budget Chair, she will ensure spending is prudent, particularly during these uncertain financial times.

Hedge-Morrell said, "During this process, we always have to make tough decisions. At the end of the day this budget must work for every citizen and ensure the City's long term financial viability by balancing revenues and expenditures. Through this budget process I will work to facilitate Councilmembers' priorities and requests. The Council will work to financially equip City departments with the ability to deliver services that will impact day-to-day quality of life issues."

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson emphasized the Council's continued commitment to open and transparent government.

Clarkson said, "Together, we will work to carefully review the proposed budget with the end goal of funding programs that are working best for the citizens of New Orleans. We will continue to support the vitally important issues of our community - public safety, housing and economic development."

According to Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow, the Council intends to send a clear message of the vital importance of this budget process and the tone it sets regarding effective governing.

"I promise all citizens that I will take a long and hard look at every budget item and will make sure that every dollar spent will be clearly accounted for. Improvements in our criminal justice, economic development, recreation and overall governmental performance are at the top of my priority list," said Fielkow.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura desires a City budget that will first and foremost highly impact public safety, as well as, focus on public infrastructure through repairs, improvements, and the eradication of blight.

According to Midura, "Transparency and accountability will be of the utmost importance in this analysis of the 2009 budget request."

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head, discussed the resolve of the Council to be efficient, accountable and restrained given the public's concern about the national economy.

"To that end, I hope to recommend to place in reserve budgets of departments that have proven to have contract management, budgetary, and effectiveness issues. I will also look carefully at the infrastructure needs of our community and ensure that we are properly funding this critical area of government," said Head.

District "C" Councilmember James Carter will continue a vigilant monitoring of funding for all components of the criminal justice system.

"During this budget process, we will continue our commitment to a safer city by strengthening and improving the criminal justice system. Toward this end, the Criminal Justice Leadership Alliance will continue its efforts to implement innovative best practices and proven public safety initiatives. Quality of life issues - blight, streets, drainage, overgrown lots, lighting - will also receive a thorough budget and performance review," said Councilmember Carter.

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis explained that she will be looking closely at proposed revenue given the current global economic challenges.

Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "I have deep concerns about the volatility of global markets and their impact on our bonding capacity. I will also look carefully at the \$411 million Community Development Block Grant budget and how well it is integrated into the proposed operating and Capital Budget."

Budget Hearings are scheduled throughout the month of November. Click [here](#) to view the Budget Hearing schedule.

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Council Receives Mayor's Proposed 2009 Budget

Budget Hearings to Begin November 5th

News Release

October 28, 2008

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The presentation included a PowerPoint presentation detailing the budget which was narrated by the Mayor. To view the PowerPoint presentation, 2009 Operating Budget and 2009 Executive Capital Budget click [here](#).

Following his presentation, Councilmembers commended the Mayor and his staff for the improved format of the budget document allowing Councilmembers easier reference to details regarding specific department budgets.

Councilmembers and Council staff are preparing for the Council's month-long review of the proposed budget.

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The Council must adopt the 2009 budget by December 1st.

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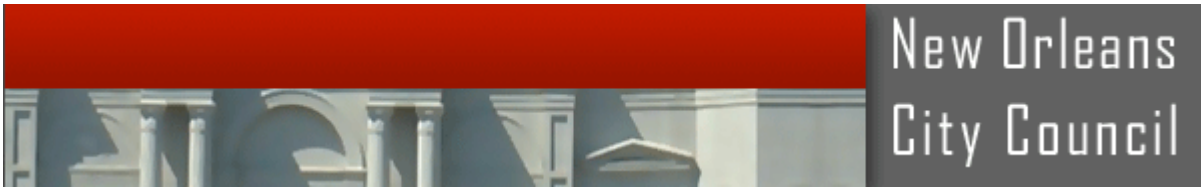
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Media Advisory

October 29, 2008

Housing and Human Needs Committee to Address HIV/AIDS Funding and Challenges Faced by Local Service Providers In Special Session Thursday Afternoon

What: Special Housing and Human Needs Committee hearing on HIV/AIDS funding and the challenges faced by local service providers in working with the City to provide community-based HIV/AIDS services. The hearing will focus on problems with delays in processing contracts and reimbursements to service providers by the City of New Orleans.

In November 2007, the National Minority AIDS Council visited with New Orleans area HIV/AIDS service providers and the New Orleans Department of Health to discuss potential solutions to the contract and payment delays. One year later, the community is still waiting for those solutions.

When: Thursday, October 30, 2008
2:00 p.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who: Committee Co-Chair District "B" Councilmember Head
Committee Co-Chair District "E" Councilmember Willard-Lewis
Committee Member District "C" Councilmember Carter
Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow
Panel 1 - Fran Lawless, Director, Mayor's Office of Health Policy
Panel 2 - Noel Twilbeck, Executive Director, NO/AIDS Task Force
Michael Hickerson, Executive Director, "In This Together"
David Munroe, Board Chair, "In This Together"
Roberta Brown, Concerned Citizens for a Better Algiers
Mark E. Johnson, Executive Director, Brotherhood, Inc.

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

Contact: Kate Schneiderman
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
Ph: (504) 658-1063
Cell: (504) 905-9893
Email: krschneiderman@cityofno.com

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Council Recognizes Clerks for Recent Professional Achievements

News Release

October 30, 2008

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082

rjpursell@cityofno.com

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Peggy Lewis and Lora Johnson Ms. Lewis has fulfilled all of the requirements of the Master Municipal Clerk Academy of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) and has earned the designation of Master Municipal Clerk from IIMC and the designation of Louisiana Master Municipal Clerk from the Louisiana Municipal Clerks Association. These designations are the highest and most prestigious designations offered by these organizations.

Ms. Johnson has fulfilled all of the requirements to earn the designation of Louisiana Certified Municipal Deputy Clerk from the Louisiana Municipal Clerks Association.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "We commend these women for their outstanding accomplishments. We are proud to work with these two long-time City employees and we thank them for all of the work they do to help us run our Council meetings effectively and efficiently."

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Announcement

October 31, 2008



District "B" Councilmember Head To Hold Town Hall Meeting in Gert Town

- WHAT:** Councilmember Stacy Head will hold a Town Hall Meeting in Gert Town to discuss crime prevention, infrastructure issues, a potential health clinic, youth recreation/programming/facilities, improvement of Earhart Blvd., the potential development and site selection of a multi-purpose center located at Mary Church Terrell School, and various other issues.
- WHO:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
Community members
Department of Public Works
City Planning
- WHEN:** Saturday, November 15, 2008
10:00 a.m.
- WHERE:** Greater King Solomon Baptist Church
3221 Audubon St.
(Click [here](#) to view map)
- CONTACT:** Ruth Idakula
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
Office: (504) 658-1020
Email: ridakula@cityofno.com

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Announcement

November 3, 2008



**District "A" Councilmember Midura Hosts
Town Hall Meeting to Discuss the Budget Process
And the Proposed 2009 Budget**

- WHAT:** Councilmember Shelley Midura will host a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the budget process and the Proposed 2009 Budget. Constituents are invited to come share their opinions.
- WHO:** District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
- WHEN:** Wednesday, November 12, 2008
6:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Grace Episcopal Church
3700 Canal St.
(Click [here](#) to view map)
- CONTACT:** David Gavlinski
Office of District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
Office: (504) 658-1010
Email: dsgavlinski@cityofno.com

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Budget Hearings to Begin November 5th

News Release

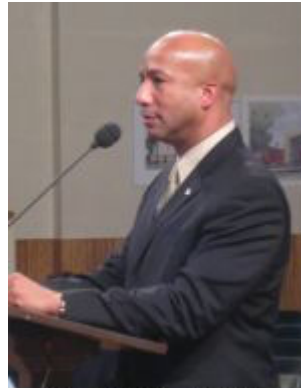
October 28, 2008

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Council President Clarkson
To Hold Press Conference on Monday
To Boost Proposed Master Plan Charter Amendment for City

News Release

November 2, 2008

Contact:
Jacquelyn Cole
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Councilmember-at-Large
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
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Cell: 504-577-3600
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New Orleans, LA - November 2, 2008 - City Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will lead a diverse coalition of interests at a Monday, November 3 press conference to tout the merits of an amendment to the City's charter that would mandate a Master Plan with the force of law. The issue is on the November 4 ballot. The press conference will be held at 11:00 a.m. on the steps at City Hall on the Perdido Street side.

Councilmember Clarkson said, "Our coalition behind this proposition reflects the face of New Orleans - white and black, Uptown and Downtown, business leaders and community leaders. We are all united behind the idea that it's time to get the politics out of planning in New Orleans."

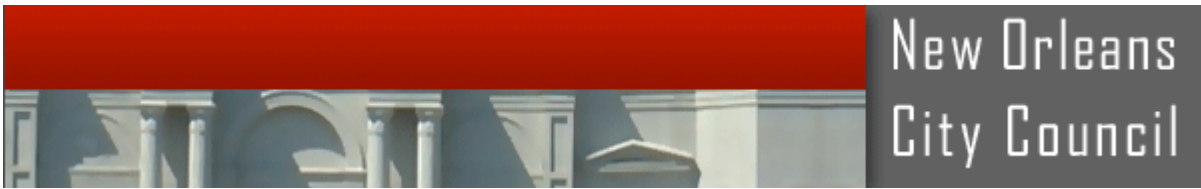
Clarkson and other proponents of the proposed charter change - including State Senator Ann Duplessis, other councilmembers, local ministers, members of the business community, and neighborhood leaders - will make statements and respond to questions at the press conference.

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Media Advisory

November 5, 2008

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session
Thursday, November 6th at 10 a.m.**

Agenda Highlights Listed Below

What: Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Ordinance requiring the City's Department of Safety and Permits to contract with an independent third party structural engineer to inspect and give final approval for the demolition of all Imminent Danger of Collapse (IDC) properties in historic districts
- Presentation from the Regional Planning Commission to discuss \$300,000 in new grants for small businesses
- Ordinance to adopt the New Orleans Regional Business Park's 2009 plan providing special services and Capital Improvements for the New Orleans Regional Business Park
- Council District "D" Report highlighting updates on District "D" community events, recovery projects including the Dwyer Drainage Improvement Project, and COPS3 - a New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) program allowing citizens to make contributions to NOPD to provide support for essentials not covered in the City of New Orleans budget

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

When: Thursday, November 6, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Contact: Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
Email: rjpursell@cityofno.com

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City Council November 6, 2008
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

November 6, 2008

Contact:

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New Orleans, LA - November 6, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council addressed presentations on Public Information kiosks in City Hall and workforce development programs at Delgado Community College.

The Council also recognized Clerk of Council Peggy Lewis and Assistant Clerk of Council Lora Johnson for recent professional achievements.

Addresses Presentation on Public Information Kiosks in City Hall



*Public Information Kiosk
Demonstration*

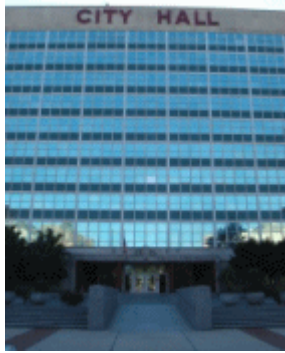
At the request of Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow, representatives of the Office of Public Advocacy and the Mayor's Office of Technology came before the Council today to give a presentation on the status of the Public Information kiosks in City Hall.

The representatives provided a description of the kiosk functions, as well as the types of information accessible through the kiosks.

Utilizing a calendar format, the kiosks display all scheduled public meetings and meeting details including date, time, location, and meeting agenda.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "The purpose of these kiosks is to provide a centralized location where the public can access information on all public meetings. We want to ensure that these kiosks are accessible and user-friendly."

The representatives brought in a kiosk machine to demonstrate the process of finding a meeting on the machine and accessing meeting details. The Offices are currently working on integrating a function on the kiosks that will allow users to search for specific meetings and details.



Supports Workforce Development

Dr. Ron Wright, Chancellor of Delgado Community College, came before the Council to give a presentation on workforce development at the request of Council President Clarkson.

Dr. Wright discussed Delgado's workforce development initiatives, as well as the importance of taking a proactive stance on this issue.

Councilmembers thanked Wright for informing them on Delgado's efforts to promote workforce development and asked that he return in the future to discuss the issue in more depth.

Recognizes Clerks for Recent Professional Achievements



Peggy Lewis and Lora Johnson

The Council recognized Clerk of Council Peggy Lewis and Assistant Clerk of Council Lora Johnson for recent honors bestowed upon them by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and the Louisiana Municipal Clerks Association.

Ms. Lewis has fulfilled all of the requirements of the Master Municipal Clerk Academy of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) and has earned the designation of Master Municipal Clerk from IIMC and the designation of Louisiana Master Municipal Clerk from the Louisiana Municipal Clerks Association. These designations are the highest and most prestigious designations offered by these organizations.

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City Council November 6, 2008
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

November 6, 2008

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New Orleans, LA - November 6, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council addressed presentations on Public Information kiosks in City Hall and workforce development programs at Delgado Community College.

The Council also recognized Clerk of Council Peggy Lewis and Assistant Clerk of Council Lora Johnson for recent professional achievements.

Addresses Presentation on Public Information Kiosks in City Hall



*Public Information Kiosk
Demonstration*

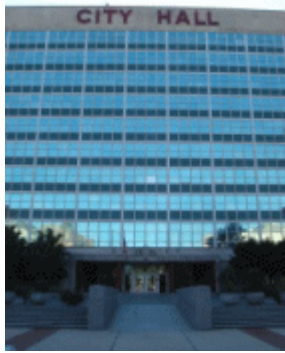
At the request of Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow, representatives of the Office of Public Advocacy and the Mayor's Office of Technology came before the Council today to give a presentation on the status of the Public Information kiosks in City Hall.

The representatives provided a description of the kiosk functions, as well as the types of information accessible through the kiosks.

Utilizing a calendar format, the kiosks display all scheduled public meetings and meeting details including date, time, location, and meeting agenda.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "The purpose of these kiosks is to provide a centralized location where the public can access information on all public meetings. We want to ensure that these kiosks are accessible and user-friendly."

The representatives brought in a kiosk machine to demonstrate the process of finding a meeting on the machine and accessing meeting details. The Offices are currently working on integrating a function on the kiosks that will allow users to search for specific meetings and details.



Supports Workforce Development

Dr. Ron Wright, Chancellor of Delgado Community College, came before the Council to give a presentation on workforce development at the request of Council President Clarkson.

Dr. Wright discussed Delgado's workforce development initiatives, as well as the importance of taking a proactive stance on this issue.

Councilmembers thanked Wright for informing them on Delgado's efforts to promote workforce development and asked that he return in the future to discuss the issue in more depth.

Recognizes Clerks for Recent Professional Achievements



Peggy Lewis and Lora Johnson

The Council recognized Clerk of Council Peggy Lewis and Assistant Clerk of Council Lora Johnson for recent honors bestowed upon them by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and the Louisiana Municipal Clerks Association.

Ms. Lewis has fulfilled all of the requirements of the Master Municipal Clerk Academy of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) and has earned the designation of Master Municipal Clerk from IIMC and the designation of Louisiana Master Municipal Clerk from the Louisiana Municipal Clerks Association. These designations are the highest and most prestigious designations offered by these organizations.

Ms. Johnson has fulfilled all of the requirements to earn the designation of Louisiana Certified Municipal Deputy Clerk from the Louisiana Municipal Clerks Association.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "We commend these women for their outstanding accomplishments. We are proud to work with these two long-time City employees, and we thank them for all of the work they do to help us run our Council meetings effectively and efficiently."

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Council Vice President Fielkow Attends Shelter Planning Summit To Address Issues and Discuss Solutions Involving State-Run Disaster Shelters Across Louisiana

News Release

November 7, 2008

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New Orleans, LA - November 7, 2008 - On October 27, 2008 in Shreveport, Louisiana, the Louisiana Department of Social Services (DSS) held a "Shelter Planning Summit" to address issues and discuss solutions involving state-run disaster shelters across Louisiana. The Summit was planned in the aftermath of shelter problems that arose during Hurricane Gustav.

New Orleans City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow and Lt. Colonel Jerry Sneed, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparation for the City of New Orleans, attended the Summit as delegates of Orleans Parish.

Prior to the Summit, seven core areas of improvement for state-run Critical Transportation Needs Shelters (CTNS) were identified:

- Registering Evacuees
- Shelter Capacity
- Shelter Health and Safety Standards
- Delivery of Services (food, medical, information and recreation)
- Human Services
- Management/Staffing Structure
- Communications

Council Vice President Fielkow said, "State-run evacuation and sheltering operations will only be successful if we collaborate with state, parish, federal government and non-governmental organizations. The Shelter Planning Summit was a critical first step towards improving our state-run shelters. I am confident that, by next hurricane

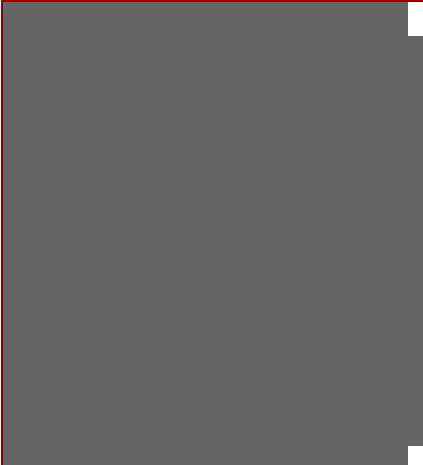
season, Louisiana will have a better and more comprehensive state-run shelter system."

The Summit held several break-out sessions to discuss the seven core areas of improvement (identified above), and both short-term and long-term solutions were identified. These potential solutions will next be taken up by smaller group sessions over the next few months. A final plan will be formulated and released in early 2009, prior to the commencement of the 2009 hurricane season.

Some of the proposed revisions to the state-run shelter plan currently being discussed include:

- Orleans and Jefferson Parishes will utilize manual registration systems at the Parish Pick-up Points, with data electronically updated once evacuees arrive at the shelter. Manual registration is preferable over electronic systems due to problems with internet connectivity at local Pick-up Points;
- State-run shelter facilities will be redesigned to accommodate space and privacy needs for feeding, recreation, personal hygiene and special needs residents. American Red Cross standards will be used in the redesign process;
- Each shelter will be stocked with a three day supply of Meals Ready to Eat (MREs), water and comfort items. Extra inventory will be warehoused to quickly replenish shelter supplies;
- Enhanced medical care, including behavioral health counselors, will be provided at each state-run site;
- Each state-run shelter will have radio, television, internet and phone capabilities to provide constant communication and information flow to residents;
- Louisiana will continue to operate four state-run shelters, but DSS will also utilize all of the non-state shelters that were made available during hurricanes Gustav and Ike. DSS is charged with coordinating with neighboring states to ensure adequate additional shelter capacity;
- There will be one DSS staff person designated at each shelter as the lead coordinator for that shelter. This staff member will have the authority to make decisions relating to the logistics and operation of that individual shelter.

Col. Sneed said, "The meeting was a first step in getting all



parties together with the new Secretary of DSS in an effort to discuss how to improve the shelter facilities in Louisiana. The discussions were very worthwhile and show the commitment the State has to ensure all shelter facilities provide the necessary services for our citizens during an evacuation." He continued, "I am very encouraged by these efforts, and I feel with all parties working together, all shelters will meet needed standards to provide our citizens with clean, properly equipped, and safe shelters during an evacuation."

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Council President Clarkson
To Meet with State Directors of Homeland Security
Regarding Sheltering New Orleans Evacuees during Natural Disasters

News Release

November 13, 2008

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New Orleans, LA - November 13, 2008 - Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will meet today with state Directors of Homeland Security from Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi.

The Directors of Homeland Security gathered in Baton Rouge yesterday for a seminar put on by the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. They travel to New Orleans this evening for dinner and further discussion.

Clarkson will discuss sheltering during natural disasters and offer thanks to the states that helped shelter New Orleans evacuees during Hurricane Gustav.

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Council Vice President Fielkow & New Orleans Airport Officials
Travel to Chicago for Fact-Finding Regarding Airport Privatization

*New Orleans Representatives to Meet with City of Chicago
And Chicago Midway Airport Officials*

News Release

November 13, 2008

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New Orleans, LA - November 13, 2008
- On November 13th and November 14th Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow and Louis Armstrong International Airport Director of Aviation Sean Hunter will conduct a fact-finding mission in Chicago on the privatization of the Chicago-Midway Airport. Meetings with Chicago Midway officials, Chicago City Council members and Chicago's Chief Financial Officer Paul Volpe are planned.

On October 18, 2008, the New Orleans City Council's Airport Committee heard testimony from the New Orleans Aviation Board regarding the recent privatization efforts of Chicago's Midway Airport, and the potential for a similar transaction involving New Orleans' Louis Armstrong International Airport.

Councilmember Fielkow commented, "Armstrong International Airport is a tremendous asset to New Orleans, but we have not realized its full potential yet as an economic generator. Privatization is one of several options that need to be seriously considered given its success in Europe and potentially in Chicago. Our trip to Chicago will hopefully shed some new light on the privatization process."

He continued, "The City Council has a part in the decision-making on the future of the airport, and it is our duty to collect as much information as possible on all the options."

Congress established the FAA's Airport Privatization Pilot Program to explore privatization as a means of generating access to various sources of private capital for airport improvement and development. Private companies may own, manage, lease and develop public airports. The pilot program began in September 1997. Airport privatization has been used successfully for many years abroad.

On September 14, 2006, the City of Chicago submitted a preliminary application for Chicago Midway International Airport, a large hub airport. In October 2006, the FAA accepted Midway's application. In September 2008, the City of Chicago selected the Midway Investment and Development Corporation to operate the airport. Currently, the FAA is collecting public commentary on the privatization effort, and the FAA plans to complete its review of the application by the end of 2008.

**PRIVATIZATION FACTS
FROM THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**

www.faa.gov

What is airport privatization?

Commercial airports in the United States are, for the most part, owned and operated by local or state governments. Public-use general aviation airports are both publicly and privately owned. The 1996 Reauthorization Act established the FAA's airport privatization pilot program to allow private companies to own, manage, lease, or develop up to five public airports.

Number and Category of Airports

The legislation authorized five airports to participate in the program. At least one must be a general aviation airport and no more than one large hub air carrier airport may participate. Under the pilot program, general aviation airports may be leased or sold, while the air carrier airport may only be leased. Midway is the first large hub airport to submit an application.

Exemption from Federal Requirement:

The statute authorizes the FAA to exempt an airport sponsor from certain requirements that could otherwise make privatization unattractive. First, the public airport sponsor may receive an exemption to use the lease or sale proceeds for non-airport purposes.

Generally, all proceeds from the lease or sale of airport land must be used for the capital or operating costs of the airport. This exemption requires the approval of 65 percent of the air carriers at the airport (by number of carriers and by landed weight). The public sponsor also can be exempted from an obligation to repay federal grants and return property acquired with federal assistance upon the lease or sale of the airport.

Conditions for Granting Exemptions

FAA approval is based upon a number of conditions listed in 49 United States Code § 47134. These include the private operator's ability to prove it will comply with the public operator's grant obligations, including the obligation to ensure continued access to the airport on reasonable terms. The private operator also must provide assurance that it will operate the airport safely, continue maintenance and improvement of the airport, provide security, mitigate noise and environmental impacts, and abide by any collective bargaining agreements already in place at the airport. The public operator also must provide a plan for continued operation of the airport in case of bankruptcy or other defaults of the private operator.

Federal Assistance

Under the pilot program, the private operator of an air carrier airport may receive Airport Improvement Program (AIP) entitlement and discretionary grants, collect Passenger Facility Charges, and charge reasonable fees. However, unless approved by 65 percent of air carriers at the airport, the private operator may not increase air carrier rates and 3 charges at a rate that exceeds the consumer price index. Private operators of general aviation airports can receive AIP discretionary grants.

Federal Oversight

Airports participating in the pilot program are subject to the same federal oversight as other public-use airports. In particular, air carrier airports must comply with the requirements of FAA airport safety regulations, 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 139, and with Transportation Security Administration requirements for airport security.

Application Process

A public airport sponsor and the private operator selected to purchase or lease an airport may request participation in the pilot program by filing an application for exemption under 49 U.S.C. §47134(a).

- Public sponsors may submit a preliminary application for FAA review and approval. It must contain summary narratives identifying the objectives of the privatization initiative, a description of the process and timetables for selecting a private operator, current airport financial statements, and a copy of the request for proposal.
- When the FAA approves the preliminary application, the applicant is guaranteed one of the five slots in the program, subject to FAA approval of the final application.

- The airport sponsor may select a private operator, negotiate an agreement, and submit a final application to the FAA. There is no timeline for the FAA to complete its review of the final application.

- After the FAA reviews and approves the final application and lease, it publishes a notice in the Federal Register for a 60-day public review and comment period. (For MDW, See FAA Docket Number 2006-25867 at www.regulations.gov).

- The FAA completes its review, prepares its Findings and Record of Decision (ROD), and addresses the public comments in the ROD.

- The FAA publishes its ROD and, if approved, observes the legal settlement and transfer of the airport from public owner and sponsor to the new private operator and sponsor.

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Council President Clarkson
To Address Harvard Women's Conference
On Disaster and Recovery in New Orleans

News Release

November 14, 2008

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New Orleans, LA - November 14, 2008 - Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will speak today before a group of 50 high-powered women from around the world gathering in New Orleans for the Harvard Kennedy School's annual "Women and Power" Conference.

The focus of this year's conference is "Disaster and Recovery: From Women Leaders' Points of View." Council

President Clarkson, who was in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina as a district Councilmember, will draw on her extensive experience to address "Why Women Can Make a Difference in Disaster and Recovery."

The "Women and Power" program is a joint venture of Harvard's Center for Public Leadership and the Women and Public Policy Program at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

The program, in existence since 2002, has brought together more than 250 women from around the world to the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. These women come from many sectors, including academic, corporate, media, non-profit/NGO, and elected and appointed public officials.

Previous conferences have been held in Miami, Los Angeles, New York City, and Washington, D.C.

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Media Advisory

November 14, 2008



**Councilmember Midura to Moderate Discussion Panel
For National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
Annual Convention in New Orleans**

- WHAT:** Councilmember Shelley Midura will moderate "Katrina: The New Orleans Experience," a panel discussion which is part of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' 120th Annual Convention Innovation, Efficiency and Leadership.
- The discussion will demonstrate how the New Orleans City Council and Entergy New Orleans navigated both the City and utility from the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina and weathered Entergy's ensuing bankruptcy without catastrophic rate increases.
- WHO:** Moderator: District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
- Speakers: Rod West - CEO of Entergy New Orleans
Clint Vince - Sonnenschein, Nath and Rosenthal
- WHEN:** Tuesday, November 18, 2008
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Sheraton New Orleans
Grand Couteau, 5th Floor
500 Canal Street
(Click [here](#) to view map)
- CONTACT:** Seung Hong
Office of District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
Office: (504) 658-1010
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Announcement

November 14, 2008



Councilmember Willard-Lewis Hosts Town Hall Meeting To Discuss Recovery Progress in District "E"

- WHAT:** Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis will hold a Town Hall Meeting to discuss recovery progress, drainage and flood protection in District "E". All residents are encouraged to attend.
- WHO:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
Sewerage & Water Board representatives
Army Corps of Engineers representatives
Other City Department and Agency representatives
- WHEN:** Tuesday, November 18, 2008
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Household of Faith Family Worship Church International
9300 I-10 Service Road
(Click [here](#) to view map)
- CONTACT:** Clarence Bickham
Chief of Staff
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
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Email: cbickham@cityofno.com

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Council Enters Final Two Weeks of Budget Review

News Release

November 17, 2008

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Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

New Orleans, LA - November 17, 2008 - Today, The New Orleans City Council enters its third week of hearings on the proposed 2009 City of New Orleans Budget. The budget, prepared and submitted to the Council by Mayor Ray Nagin in late October, proposes a 10 Mil

increase in property taxes for the upcoming year.

According to Budget Chair District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, the Council is currently reviewing the Mayor's proposed 10 Mil increase and is also hearing the formal requests of each City Department and agency.

"We do not think the millage increase proposed by the Mayor is prudent nor do we believe that it will assist the City's recovery efforts or impact positively future economic development. To that end, together with my colleagues we are working diligently to identify revenue and streamline the budget - without including the millage increase requested by the Mayor," Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said.

The Council hearings also include an annual review of department budget submissions. Among some of the items receiving close budget consideration by the City Council:

- Duplication of departmental services
- Communications costs, in particular, mobile telephone use by City employees
- Use of City owned vehicles
- City department travel budgets
- Funding and administration of crime cameras
- Streamlining public contracts
- Review City-held property for potential sale
- Encourage improved coordination of street and drainage projects between the Department of Public Works and the Sewerage and Water Board

- Review bond programs to identify funds remaining for additional projects
- Support development of a comprehensive process to search for Municipal and State Court projects

The Council's Budget Chair expressed dismay about the slow pace of recovery and the impediments to getting capital projects moving across the City.

"Each Councilmember has numerous specific problem projects in their districts. We want that process streamlined and effective. Until this issue is addressed, we will continue to express concern and frustration about the delays in getting these important infrastructure projects up and running," said Councilmember Hedge-Morrell.

Budget hearings resumed this morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chamber. The City's Budget must be adopted by December 1, 2008.

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Council Vice President Fielkow & New Orleans Airport Officials
Report Productive Trip to Chicago
Regarding Potential Airport Privatization

News Release

November 18, 2008

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New Orleans, LA - November 18, 2008 - Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow, Louis Armstrong International Airport Director of Aviation Sean Hunter and a New Orleans airport consultant returned from an airport privatization fact-finding trip last week to Chicago which yielded helpful information regarding the potential airport privatization of Armstrong International Airport.

Meetings were held with representatives of the Chicago City Council Committee on Aviation, the Chicago Department of Aviation, the Chicago Office of the Mayor, Finance Department and Chicago Midway Airport.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "We met with the key officials involved in Midway's privatization and heard about the process, both its pluses and minuses. It is an intriguing and potentially beneficial program that warrants continued consideration for Armstrong International Airport."

The potential privatization of Armstrong International Airport is one of several options currently being looked into by the New Orleans Aviation Board, the New Orleans City Council and the Southeast Regional Airport Authority.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) began its Airport Privatization Pilot Program in 1997 to explore privatization as a means of generating access to various sources of private capital for airport improvement and development.

Chicago Midway Airport is the first large-scale U.S. airport to undergo privatization and is currently awaiting final FAA approval. Privatization is commonplace overseas. The City of Chicago estimates that due to privatization of Midway, the City can utilize at least part of the proceeds for such projects as debt repayment, city infrastructure and pension investments as the FAA program allows privatization proceeds to be used outside of airport infrastructure. The City of Chicago, assuming FAA approval, will receive \$2.521 billion from Midway Investment and Development Company, the successful bidder for Midway Airport privatization.

During the course of the visit, the New Orleans delegation was advised that the Chicago privatization initiative was a 2-3 year process and involved a full valuation of Midway Airport. Agreement needed to be reached with the airlines at Midway Airport as well as efforts to seek legislative support from the Illinois State Legislature. Additionally, Chicago city officials, as part of the privatization agreement, took efforts to ensure that Chicago Midway employees were provided job security and that existing contractual relationships were honored.

Ultimately, the Chicago City Council was required to approve the privatization effort and it did so in a unanimous vote this fall. Chicago officials will be providing to New Orleans a full listing of the consultants and advisors which guided them in their decision-making process.

Under the Chairmanship of New Orleans City Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, the City Council Airport Committee, of which Councilmember Fielkow is a member, heard a recent presentation regarding Chicago's privatization efforts. This Committee will continue its due diligence efforts regarding Armstrong Airport and come up with a solution which best represents the citizens of New Orleans. In the interim, the New Orleans Aviation Board is currently involved in a process to select a firm to provide valuation of Armstrong Airport and to consider applying for the FAA Privatization Pilot Program.

Fielkow continued, "As New Orleans rebuilds and our region becomes stronger, we will need to make improvements to our airport in order to handle increasing capacity and 21st century transport demands. Additionally, the extra funding the City of New Orleans would have due to privatization could help shore up our budget and allow for investments in a variety of critical areas. Privatization is one option, and I look forward to working with Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, the full City Council, the New Orleans Aviation Board and the Southeast Regional Airport Authority in identifying the best possible solution for New Orleans."

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Comments:
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Total Editing Time: 0 Minutes
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Announcement

November 19, 2008



**District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Hosts Town Hall Meeting To Discuss
The Status of Mickey Markey Park
And Street Repair Projects**

- WHAT:** Councilmember James Carter will convene a Town Hall meeting in the Bywater neighborhood. Featured guest speakers are Larry Barabino, Jr., Director of New Orleans Recreation Department, and Robert Mendoza, Director of the Department of Public Works.
- Mr. Barabino will discuss the status of Mickey Markey Park in the Bywater neighborhood, and Mr. Mendoza will share information on street repair projects in the French Quarter, Marigny, Bywater, St. Claude and Treme-Lafitte areas.
- WHO:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Larry Barabino, Jr., Director of New Orleans Recreation Department
Robert Mendoza, Director of the Department of Public Works
- WHEN:** Thursday, November 20, 2008
6:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Holy Angels Convent Cafeteria
3500 St. Claude Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70117
(Click [here](#) to view map)
- CONTACT:** Jonas Nash
Director of Community Relations
Office of District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Office: (504) 658-1030

Email: jknash@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

November 19, 2008

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session
Thursday, November 20th at 10 a.m.
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

What: Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Military Day Presentation including the annual report of the Mayor's Military Advisory Committee, activity updates from active duty military leaders of local armed forces organizations, a military band, and representative groups of active military members from each service in attendance
- Resolution calling on Goody Clancy to do everything in its power to educate the residents of New Orleans about the master planning process, and about their role in shaping it and bringing it to completion
- Ordinance requiring the City of New Orleans to contract with an independent third party structural engineer to inspect and give final approval for the demolition of all Imminent Danger of Collapse (IDC) properties within the Neighborhood Conservation District
- Resolutions supporting applications to the state of Louisiana for the creation of the "Federal City Cultural Products District" and the "South Broad Street Cultural District"
- Resolution supporting efforts and reaffirming the Council's commitment toward passage of HR 4048: the Gulf Coast City Works Act, which would coordinate recovery projects, rebuild key infrastructure, ensure sustainable community development and aims to create a minimum of 100,000 jobs

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

When: Thursday, November 20, 2008
10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Contact: Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
Email: rjpursell@cityofno.com

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City Council November 20, 2008
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

November 20, 2008

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Additionally, the Council passed an Ordinance specifying the demolition process of properties located within the Neighborhood Conservation District, and a Resolution addressing airport privatization.

The Council also honored local armed forces and received activity updates from military leaders as part of the annual Military Appreciation Day, and introduced an Ordinance to extend the suspension of the domicile requirement for City employees.

Honors Local Armed Forces Organizations



Mayor's Military Advisory Committee Members and Military Leaders

The Mayor's Military Advisory Committee came before the Council today to conduct the annual Military Appreciation Day activities including the Committee's annual report, performances by

the Marine band, representative groups of active military members from each service in attendance, and activity updates from active military leaders of local armed forces organizations.

Committee Chairman General David Mize USMC Ret, led the presentation and introduced military leaders from the U.S. Army Reserve, Louisiana Army National Guard, US Marine Corps, US Coast Guard and the U.S. Navy.

Each military leader presented the Council with an update on the activities of their respective armed forces organization as well as news of interest to the community.

General Mize said, "We want to express our deep gratitude for the Council's continuous support and recognition. We are honored to have the opportunity to come before you today and provide the Council and the community with information and updates on the local armed forces."

Mayor Ray Nagin was also present to acknowledge the armed forces representatives present and to express his gratitude for their dedication and commitment to the City of New Orleans.

Supports Education on Master Planning Process



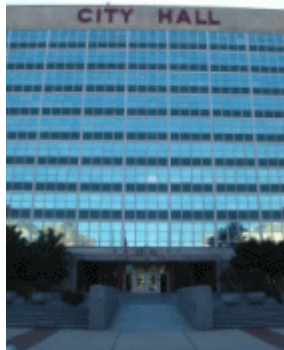
*Councilmember-at-Large
Clarkson*

The Council passed Resolution R-08-619, authored by Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, calling on Goody Clancy, the consultant retained by the City to help prepare the Master Plan, to do everything in its power to educate the residents of New Orleans about the master planning process and about their role in shaping it and bringing it to completion.

The Resolution also asks that Goody Clancy do their part to reassure residents that it will not present the City Council with a plan that "shrinks the footprint" of the City.

Councilmember Clarkson said, "This is an important step forward in our recovery and it is important that all of our citizens are informed and get involved in the process of creating the Master Plan."

For more information on the Master Plan and the planning process click [here](#).



Addresses Demolition Process in Neighborhood Conservation District

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,243, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson, Fielkow and Head, requiring the City of New Orleans to contract with an independent third party structural engineer to inspect and give final approval for the demolition of all Imminent Danger of Collapse (IDC) properties within the Neighborhood Conservation District.

The Ordinance will not affect demolitions in areas that fall outside of affected districts and where demolitions are necessary - neighborhoods such as New Orleans East, Lakeview and Gentilly.

Supports Gulf Coast City Works Act



Councilmember-at-Large
Fielkow

The Council passed Resolution R-08-618, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Midura, supporting efforts and reaffirming the Council's commitment toward passage of HR 4048: the Gulf Coast City Works Act.

The Act would coordinate recovery projects, rebuild key infrastructure and ensure sustainable community development. Additionally, the Act aims to create a minimum of 100,000 jobs.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "The Gulf Coast Civic Works Act, if passed by the U.S. Senate, will set the groundwork for local revitalization efforts. The combination of local and federal cooperation ensures that our community has a direct effect on our rebuilding efforts. The bill provides a minimum of 100,000 jobs and comprehensive job training for Gulf Coast residents, while soliciting input from local citizens and officials in the rebuilding process. I am very proud that the City Council supported the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act today and I urge Congress to support it."

The Resolution reflects the Council's commitment to working closely with local community groups, the Office of the Governor of Louisiana, our state and federal legislators, the U.S. Representatives House Committee on Education and Labor, and the Office of the President of the United States to further strengthen and enact this legislation as it moves through Congress.

Supports Creation of Cultural Products Districts



Councilmember Carter

The Council passed Resolution R-08-621, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson and Carter, supporting an application to the state of Louisiana for the creation of the "Federal City Cultural Products District."

The Council also passed Resolution R-08-622, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson and Head, supporting an application to the state of Louisiana for the creation of the "South Broad Street Cultural District."



Councilmember Head

District "C" Councilmember Carter said, "The creation of these cultural districts serves to highlight those areas of the City with unique cultural influence and to promote community revitalization."

The creation of Cultural Districts is part of Act 298 of the 2007 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature which authorizes Local Governing Authorities to create Cultural Districts as a mechanism for community revitalization through the creation of hubs of cultural activity.

Addresses Airport Privatization



The Council adopted Resolution R-08-645, co-authored by Councilmembers Hedge-Morrell and Fielkow, calling on the New Orleans Aviation Board to begin research on airport privatization, and if appropriate, make an application to the FAA to be considered for the Airport Pilot Privatization Program.

A similar path was recently followed by Chicago Midway Airport that, if approved by the FAA, may result in a \$2.5 billion infusion of cash to the City of Chicago.

Introduces Extension of Suspension of Domicile Requirement



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

The Council introduced Ordinance Calendar No. 27,261, co-authored by Councilmembers Hedge-Morrell, Fielkow, Head and Clarkson, to extend the suspension of the domicile requirement for City employees to December 31, 2012.

The current suspension will expire on December 31st of this year.

The Ordinance will come up for consideration by the Council at the next regular meeting on December 1st.

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City Council November 20, 2008
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

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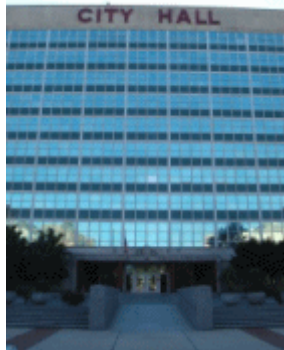
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Statement

November 21, 2008



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell Statement Regarding 2009 City Budget

Citizens of New Orleans:

Today, concluded the last day of budget hearings for the 2009 Budget. Throughout the budget hearing process, the Council has heard the formal requests of each City Department and Agency.

The Council is currently reviewing the Mayor's proposed 10 Mil increase. We are focused on adopting a budget that will assist the City's recovery efforts and impact positively future economic development and a safer city for all New Orleanians.

My colleagues and I will be deliberating over the next week to reach a consensus by the charter mandate of December 1st.

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Council President Clarkson to be Honored
As One of City Business' "Women of the Year"
At Luncheon Today

News Release

November 21, 2008

Contact:
Jacquelyn Cole
Office of
Councilmember-at-Large
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
Ph: 504-658-1070
Cell: 504-914-2367
jcole@cityofno.com

New Orleans
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - November 21, 2008 - Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will be honored today as one of New Orleans City Business' Women of the Year.

Each year, City Business honors fifty women, chosen for their outstanding professional and community leadership. This year marks the tenth celebration of these outstanding women.

Council President Clarkson was chosen for her career in public service, which spans almost 20 years and includes eight years in the state legislature, two terms as District "C" Councilmember, and her present term as Councilmember-At-Large.

Council President Clarkson will be honored for her proudest accomplishments in this term: breaking ground at Federal City, the largest economic development project in the state, as well as leading New Orleans in the passage of two amendments to the City Charter, the first of which permanently established the Office of the Inspector General and the second of which gave New Orleans a Master Plan with the force of law.

Clarkson was honored once before as a "Woman of the Year" for her work in cleaning up the French Quarter as a district Councilmember.

One overall "Woman of the Year" will be announced at the luncheon today, which will be held at the Sheraton Hotel at Noon. All honorees will be profiled in the January issue of City Business.

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Media Advisory

November 25, 2008



**Councilmember Hedge-Morrell
Holds Press Conference to Announce the
Culmination of "Project Let Me Read"**

What: Councilmember Hedge-Morrell will hold a press conference on Wednesday morning to announce the culmination of "Project Let Me Read", a campaign to generate books and funds to re-stock the shelves of public school libraries devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The campaign was spearheaded by Hedge-Morrell, City Council Education Committee Chair, and Southern University's and Grambling State University's football programs in August. The project will come to a close with Grambling's presentation of books at the press conference Wednesday morning.

When: Wednesday, November 26, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who: District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
Lynn Dawson, Grambling Athletic Director
Sharon Perkins, Grambling Association Athletic Director
Valencia Clemons, Grambling Coor of Special Events
Ashford Perkins, Grambling Finance Officer

Aaron James, Bayou Classic Committee Member

Contact: Jared Brossett

Office of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

Phone: (504) 658-1040

Cell: (504) 701-6993

Email: jbrossett@cityofno.com

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City Council December 1, 2008 Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

December 1, 2008

New Orleans, LA - December 1, 2008 - Today, the New Orleans City Council adopted the 2009 Capital and Operating Budgets for the City of New Orleans and unanimously rejected the 10-mill property tax increase proposed by Mayor Ray Nagin.

Among the areas addressed by budget amendment were; elimination of the Office of Municipal Investigation, reduction of the crime camera program, reserving 50% of the City's Sanitation Department Budget and funding of the District Attorney and Public Defender Offices.



Councilmember at Large
Clarkson

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Our most important goal today was to pass a balanced budget, to continue to fund our city's recovery without placing an increased tax burden on our citizens. I'm pleased to say we accomplished that."

Council Budget Chairman Cynthia Hedge-Morrell added, "The Council was unified in its desire to not raise taxes. It was important that we not roll the millage forward and that we make the best financial decisions possible for the citizens of New Orleans."



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell



Councilmember at-Large
Fielkow

"The budget for 2009 is the result of tough decisions that were made in order to responsibly and progressively move this city forward. While we could not fund everything at the levels we would like given economic realities, I feel confident that sensible solutions were reached," said Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow.

Amendments to the Budget

Among the amendments made to the Budget; use the remaining \$10 million in Community Disaster Loan money received from the Federal Government following Hurricane Katrina; eliminate duplication of services by not funding the Office of Municipal Investigation based on the Inspector General's assertion that the functions of OMI can be assumed by the Inspector General's Office.

The Council also voted to reduce the Operating Expenses of the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) by just over \$1 million. The money, previously reserved for the crime camera program, will be transferred to the District Attorney's office. The District Attorney's office also received a budget increase. The increase included \$1.2 million for personnel and \$250,000 for diversionary programs.

Council Budget Chair Hedge-Morrell confirmed that a portion of the money will remain in the budget to repair the crime cameras ruined by Hurricane Gustav, stating that the transfer of money to the District Attorney's office is a more practical application of the money and will assist in making the city safer for all New Orleanians.

The Public Defenders Office was funded by reducing the following CAO budget items: equipment maintenance by \$500,000, fuel reduction costs not to affect First Responders by \$800,000 and the budget consultant firm services by \$500,000.

Also appropriated was \$97,000 to Juvenile Court for funding of law clerks.

The Council, addressing the City's Department of Sanitation Budget, voted to reserve 50% (\$20.5 million) of the department's budget until the Council is satisfied that the solid waste contracts are in compliance.

Approves Extension of Suspension of Domicile Requirement

In other business, the Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,261, co-authored by Councilmembers Hedge-Morrell, Fielkow, Head and Clarkson, extending the suspension of the domicile requirement for City employees. The suspension of the domicile requirement will be effective until December 31, 2012 or until it is withdrawn, whichever should occur first. The reinstatement of the requirement will not affect any City employee hired prior to December 31, 2012.

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Media Advisory

December 3, 2008

Recovery Committee To Hear Presentations on The Status of Recovery Projects in New Orleans and The Recovery Project Process This Afternoon

What: The Recovery Committee will hear presentations on recovery projects in New Orleans this afternoon. Representatives from Montgomery Watson, project manager for hundreds of recovery projects in New Orleans, will provide an update on their current recovery projects. Bill Chrisman, Director of Capital Projects in New Orleans, will also appear before the committee to explain the recovery project process in detail from design to completion.

When: Wednesday, December 3, 2008
2:00 p.m.

Where: City Council Chambers

Who: Committee Co-Chair Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson
Committee Co-Chair District "E" Councilmember Willard-Lewis
Committee Member District "A" Councilmember Midura
Committee Member District "B" Councilmember Head
Committee Member District "C" Councilmember Carter
Committee Member District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell
Representatives from Montgomery Watson
Director of Capital Projects Bill Chrisman

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

Contact: Jacquelyn Cole
Communications / Special Projects
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
Ph: (504) 658-1072

Cell: (504) 914-2367
Email: jlcole@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

December 8, 2008

**Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee
To Hear Testimonies on the Public-Private Partnership,
Business Disaster Mitigation Task Force and
Harrah's Open Access Plan on Tuesday Morning**

What: The Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee will hear testimonies on the public-private partnership, Business Disaster Mitigation Task Force and Harrah's Open Access Plan on Tuesday morning. Belinda Little-Wood, executive director of Office of Recovery Development Administration, will provide updates on the public-private partnership and BRAC; Michael Hecht, President and CEO of GNO, Inc., will discuss the Business Disaster Mitigation Task Force; and Cynthia Connick, executive director of Rivergate Development Corporation, will speak about Harrah's Open Access Plan.

When: Tuesday, December 9, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who: Committee Chair Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow
Committee Member District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell
Committee Member District "E" Councilmember Willard-Lewis
Alternate Committee Member District "B" Councilmember Head
Belinda Little-Wood, Office of Recovery Development Administration (ORDA)
Michael Hecht, President and CEO of GNO, Inc.
Cynthia Connick, Executive Director of Rivergate Development Corporation

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

Contact: Katherine Schneiderman

Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
Ph: (504) 905-9893
Email: krschneiderman@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

December 11, 2008



**Councilmember Willard-Lewis To Attend
"Christmas In The East" Celebration
Sponsored by ENONAC
Friday December 12th**

- WHAT:** Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis will attend the "Christmas In The East" celebration on Friday, December 12th. The family Christmas event is sponsored by the Eastern New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission and will feature games, horse-driven carriage rides, a space walk, face painting, music and Santa Claus. All community members are invited.
- WHO:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
Community members
- WHEN:** Friday, December 12, 2008
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Jazz City Java Coffee Shop parking lot
5555 Bullard Avenue
(Click [here](#) to view map)
- CONTACT:** Clarence Bickham
Chief of Staff
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

Office: (504) 658-1050
Email: cbickham@cityofno.com

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Statement

December 12, 2008



**District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
Responds to Mayor C. Ray Nagin's
2009 Budget Vetoes and Cuts**

Citizens of New Orleans:

Budget projections indicate the City faces severe financial crises for the years 2010-2013. The budget, as originally passed by the Council, discounted the upwards of \$25 million deficits facing the City from 2010-2013, which would peak at \$51 million in 2012. The Mayor's veto and accompanying cuts help reduce and push off the crisis for another year, but this financial crisis is not going away, and the City has to begin to live within its means.

I am pleased that the millage increase is no longer on the table and that the Mayor has responded to the Council's budget proposal with cuts in expenditures rather than a millage increase to fill the budget gap. I am also pleased that the Mayor is proposing that the remaining \$10 million of the Community Disaster Loan money will not be tapped until 2010 and that the City's reserves will be increased to a responsible 8 percent. Because of the future looming budget crises, I am inclined to support these measures.

Is this the path towards a balanced budget that I would have chosen? No it is not, but I appreciate the spirit of compromise being extended by the Mayor by abandoning the millage increase. Is this budget an improvement over the one currently proposed by the Council? I believe it is, with some caveats, especially in regards to concerns I have for criminal justice system funding.

I would like to see some tweaks made to the Mayor's new proposal, but I also believe it is a more fiscally responsible one than both his original proposal, as well as the budget passed by the Council. What we cannot do is continue to reduce tax rates while increasing our spending.

I am going to continue to advocate for fiscal discipline with our City budget, but it will require sacrifices and compromise from elected officials and citizens alike.

Contact: Seung Hong
Chief of Staff
Office of District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
Phone: (504) 658-1010
Email: shong@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

December 9, 2008



**Councilmember Stacy Head To Attend
Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Celebrating
Irish Channel and St. Mary Overlay Projects Completion
On Thursday Morning**

What: Councilmember Stacy Head will attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Irish Channel and St. Mary Overlay Projects completion on Thursday morning. The ceremony marks the rehabilitation of 1.75 miles of roadway throughout the Irish Channel and St. Mary neighborhoods.

When: Thursday, December 11, 2008
11:00 a.m.

Where: Burke Park (Uptown)
Annunciation St, between 2nd & 3rd St.
(Click [here](#) for map)

Who: District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
Community members

Contact: Jason Abate
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head

Phone: (504) 658-1021

Email: jabate@cityofno.com

Background: As a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, an estimated 17,000 individual sites (roadway and sidewalks) and 6,000 blockers were damaged due to flooding in 80 percent of the City. To date, the City has completed 13 roadway and walking path projects and also completed more than 2,275 repairs to city streets and sidewalks damaged by the storms of 2005.

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Statement

December 12, 2008



**Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell,
Council Budget Committee Chair,
Responds to Mayor C. Ray Nagin's
2009 Budget Vetoes and Cuts**

Citizens of New Orleans:

As Council Budget Chair, I intend to call an emergency Council Budget Committee meeting to review the Mayor's proposed cuts and line item vetoes.

Among the areas cut that is of gravest concern is the Council's original appropriation to the District Attorney's Office. This directly affects the criminal justice system's ability to provide effective public safety community response.

While we agree in principal with the Mayor's view of the use of Community Disaster Loan money, the Council will continue, as we have throughout this budget process, to encourage the Mayor in his role to identify other sources of funding to meet the budget gap - which will not raise taxes or reduce delivery of critical services.

We are not only going to look at the Mayor's line item vetoes but specifically additional cuts proposed including hiring freezes and across the board departmental cuts. My deepest concern is how these cuts will impact the delivery of services next year and beyond.

We are committed to resolving all of these budget concerns in the coming days.

Contact: Jared Brossett
Chief of Staff
Office of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
Cell: (504) 701-6993

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Announcement

December 16, 2008



**District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Hosts Town Hall Meeting To Discuss
Planned Street Repairs For MacArthur Blvd**

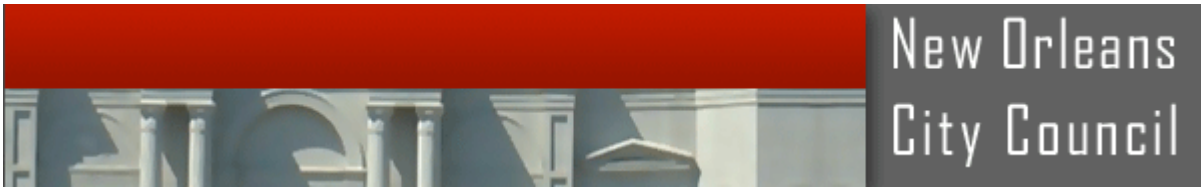
- WHAT:** Councilmember James Carter will convene a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday evening to discuss the street repairs planned for MacArthur Blvd. Robert Mendoza, Director of the Department of Public Works, will be in attendance to provide constituents with additional information about the street repairs.
- WHO:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Robert Mendoza, Director of the Department of Public Works
- WHEN:** Wednesday, December 17, 2008
6:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Aurora United Methodist Church
3300 Eton Street
New Orleans, LA 70131
(Click [here](#) to view map)
- CONTACT:** Jonas Nash
Director of Community Relations
Office of District "C" Councilmember James Carter
Office: (504) 658-1030
Email: jknash@cityofno.com

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Media Advisory

December 16, 2008

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Additional Regular Session
Wednesday, December 17th at 2 p.m.**

Agenda Highlights Listed Below

What: Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Consideration of action relative to Mayor Nagin's December 12, 2008 veto of the Budget of Revenues and Budget of Expenditures Ordinances adopted by the Council on December 1, 2008

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

When: Wednesday, December 17, 2008
2:00 p.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Contact: Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
Email: rjpursell@cityofno.com

Note: The Council will still meet in regular session as scheduled on Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in the City Council Chamber

New Orleans City Council

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Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow; District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura; District "B" Councilmember Stacy S. Head; District "C" Councilmember James Carter; District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.

City Council December 17, 2008 Additional Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

December 17, 2008

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
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The Council also introduced an Ordinance to be addressed on January 8, 2009 which will amend the 2009 Budget partially restoring the Community Disaster Loan (CDL) to a \$5.4 million level.

Budget Committee Chair Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "The time has come for this Council to ensure a balanced budget and act in the best interest of the citizens of New Orleans. This budget process has been arduous and tedious - but at the end of the day we are united in our 2009 budget course and confident that we have been fiscally responsible on behalf of the citizens of this City."

The budget passed by the Council fully restores \$1.45 Million funding for the Office of the District Attorney and authorizes an additional \$700,000 as originally requested by the District Attorney.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Over the past few days, the Council has worked tirelessly to come to a consensus on this budget. We've come together to ensure the criminal justice system is fully funded, while maintaining a balanced and fiscally responsible budget. I want to particularly recognize Councilmember Hedge-Morrell for her leadership in this endeavor."

The Council's action restores \$1.2 Million funding for the Office of the Indigent Defender and an additional \$500,000 is expected to be generated from the implementation of a fee on red-light tickets. The total funding is expected to be approximately \$1.7 Million.

Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow said, "I am pleased that today the Council passed a fiscally responsible budget which advances the priorities of this City. Most critical was the Council's move today to fully fund the requests of two of our public safety stewards - the Office of the District Attorney and the Office of the Indigent Defender. Additionally, by appropriating \$100,000 for afterschool programming, the Council leveraged \$1 million dollars from the private sector for our children and was able to address the important need for quality afterschool care in New Orleans."

The adopted budget also includes:

- Full restoration of \$100,000 funding for the Aquatics program
- Continuation of de-funding of \$379,000 for the Office of Municipal Investigation appropriating those dollars to the Department of Public Works
- Fully restoration of \$100,000 to the LSU Cooperative Extension Service and \$25,000 to Crimestoppers
- Reduction of the appropriation for "take home" administrative vehicles, exempting first responders. This will save the City a total of \$2 Million Dollars - \$800,000 on Fuel and Maintenance and \$1.2 Million on new car acquisition beyond those needed for public safety. Additionally, there will be no new cars issued without a utilization study excepting public safety. This savings allows the diversion of funds to critical criminal justice and public safety needs as well as provides a funding source of \$500,000 for performance based auditing.

District "C" Councilmember Carter said, "I am proud that the City Council's actions continue to prioritize issues of public safety and further the City's overall recovery."

Sanitation Department

The Council placed 25% of the Sanitation Department's Budget in reserve pending the outcome of the ongoing solid waste collection audit.

The Council encouraged the Mayor to support full funding of \$4 Million of SDT's enhancement sanitation contractual services.

Contractually, it is within the Mayor's power to authorize the enhancement sanitation services for the French Quarter. The Council expressed its hope that the Mayor will agree with the Council and the public to utilize the service provided by SDT under its current contract.

Community Disaster Loans and Reserve Fund Balance

The Council also addressed its previous decision to use the Community Disaster Loans (CDL) and the Reserve Fund Balance, stating that the long-term sustainability of New Orleans is their first priority.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "The Council's actions support the restoration of the CDL to its \$10 million level and leave the reserve fund balance at the fiscally responsible level of eight percent. This Budget also supports programs that this body feels are essential to the safety and operation of the City, especially sanitation service in the French Quarter and funding for the criminal justice system's District Attorney and Public Defender."

Rather than roll-forward the millage, and raise taxes on citizens to balance the budget - as recommended by Mayor Nagin, the Council agreed to reductions to City department budgets.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "Government services - or lack thereof - impact most the neediest of New Orleans citizens. It is with this in mind that I have worked to assure that our limited funds are spent efficiently and for the greatest return possible. This Council worked very hard throughout the Budget process to avoid raising taxes and properly fund the most important services."

With the exception of Public Safety, Sanitation and Recreation, the Council agreed to a 5.58% reduction of every City Department's budget. This will save the City slightly over \$4.7 Million. This action will reduce the impact on use of the CDL by more than 50%.

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis opposed the override. She explained the rationale for her vote by saying that she wished she had had the option to veto line item by line item. She acknowledged that there were appropriations that the Mayor proposed that she was not completely comfortable supporting. However, there were recommendations by the Mayor that she could support.

She explained that, having served at the State and the City level, she was particularly sensitive to prioritization of essential and critical services to ensure the stabilization and re-development of all of our neighborhoods. Given the choices, she felt she made the best decision possible.

"I selected the position that was less detrimental to City employees, residents of my district and the whole of the City. We owe nothing less to the taxpayers of New Orleans. The recommendations by my colleagues on fiscal cuts will adversely affect employees of City Hall. Those suffering the brunt of departmental cuts will be unclassified employees. Also, during this process, I received communications from residents of the French Quarter suggesting that to maintain their twice-daily trash pick-up, services in my district should be cut back to once a week. This position is totally unacceptable to me," said Councilmember Willard-Lewis.

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Council Vice President Fielkow Donates \$25,000
Towards "Field of Dreams" Project in the 9th Ward

News Release

December 17, 2008

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New Orleans, LA - December 17, 2008 - New Orleans City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow has pledged \$25,000 to George Washington Carver High School's "Field of Dreams" project in the 9th Ward, pending the school's receipt of a \$200,000 NFL grant earmarked for athletic fields. The "Field of Dreams" project was initiated by Carver Athletic Director Brian Bordainick and is intended to develop a first-rate athletic facility

which will serve as a catalyst for the rebuilding and recovery of the 9th Ward community.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "I am extremely impressed with the passion and efforts of Mr. Bordainick and the 'Field of Dreams' initiative which will provide first-class athletic and recreational opportunities for the 9th Ward community. As a former New Orleans Saints executive, I am very familiar with the NFL Grassroots Facility Grant and very much hope that Mr. Bordainick and Carver High School will be selected. The creation of quality recreational opportunities for our youth needs to be a priority for our city and the 'Field of Dreams' project is a great step in the right direction."

Fielkow, as chair of the City Council's Youth and Recreation Committee, is an advocate of rebuilding and improving recreation in New Orleans. Under his leadership, the City Council has increased the operating budget of the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD), pushed for the restoration of aquatics programs for all New Orleanians and called for the full restoration and advancement of afterschool programs for all students.



About Field of Dreams

Brian Bordainick launched the Field of Dreams effort in November 2008 to rebuild the school's athletic fields, which were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The school's football team was resurrected this fall for the first time since the storm and currently plays on an abandoned lot. Individuals and community organizations are helping the school reach its fundraising goal by purchasing bricks on Carver's "Walkway of Hope."

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**Council Budget Committee Chair Makes Statement
On Behalf of the City Council
Relative to the City's 2009 Budget**

After considerable input and recommendations from my fellow councilmembers, as Council Budget Chair, I am privileged to present the position of the majority of the New Orleans City Council relative to the City's 2009 Budget.

The time has come for this Council to ensure a balanced budget and act in the best interest of the citizens of New Orleans. This budget process has been arduous and tedious - but at the end of the day we are united in our 2009 budget course and confident that we have been fiscally responsible on behalf of the citizens of this City.

The majority of us have chosen to override Mayor Nagin's vetoes. Our action to override keeps in place the budget this Council passed on December 1st - retaining funding for critical public safety needs and important educational programs for our City's children.

The intent of our action today:

1. Fully restores \$1.45 Million funding for the Office of the District Attorney. We have also authorized an additional \$700,000 as originally requested by the District Attorney.
2. Fully restores \$1.7 Million funding for the Office of the Indigent Defender. A portion of the funding will come from the General Fund with the balance from the implementation of a fee on red-light tickets.
3. Fully restores \$200,000 funding for the After School Partnership and the Aquatics program.
4. Continues de-funding of \$379,000 for the Office of Municipal Investigation appropriating those dollars to the Department of Public Works.
5. Fully restores \$100,000 to the LSU Cooperative Extension Service; \$25,000 to Crimestoppers.
6. We are reducing the appropriation for "take home" administrative vehicles, exempting first responders. This will save the City a total of \$2 Million - \$800,000 on Fuel and Maintenance and \$1.2 Million on new car acquisition beyond those needed for public safety. Additionally, there will be no new cars issued without a utilization study excepting public safety. This savings allows the diversion of funds to critical criminal justice and public safety needs, as well as provides a funding source of \$500,000 for performance based auditing.

Regarding the Sanitation Department:

It is the Council's intent to place 25% of the Sanitation Department's Budget in reserve pending the outcome of the ongoing solid waste collection audit.

Further it is this Council's intent that the Mayor support full funding of \$4 Million of SDT's enhancement sanitation contractual services.

Contractually, it is within the Mayor's power to authorize the enhancement sanitation services for the French Quarter. It is our hope that he will agree with the Council and the public to utilize the service provided by SDT under its current contract.

The Council has looked long and hard at its previous decision to use the Community Disaster Loans and the Reserve Fund Balance.

In retrospect - we find this to be too risky given the current economic climate. The long-term sustainability of New Orleans is our first priority.

Rather than roll forward the millage, and raise taxes on citizens to balance the budget - as recommended by Mayor Nagin, we agree to proposed reductions to City Department budgets.

With the exception of Public Safety, Sanitation and Recreation, the Council has agreed to a 5.58% reduction of every City Department's budget. This will save the City slightly over \$4.7 Million. This action will reduce the impact on use of the CDL by more than 50%.

The City Charter provides that the City Council can, in this additional regular meeting, override budget vetoes and introduce amendments to its originally proposed budget.

Today, we will take action to override the Mayor's vetoes as previously outlined and introduce amendments to the 2009 Budget which will partially restore the CDL to a \$5.4 million level.

To that end, I move to override the Mayor's Veto.

Contact: Jared Brossett
Chief of Staff
Office of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
Cell: (504) 701-6993

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Statement

December 17, 2008



Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow Statement

Re: Ryan White HIV/AIDS Funding Delay

New Orleans, LA - December 17th, 2008 - I am deeply disturbed and frustrated by the media reports today indicating that the City's 2009 application process for Ryan White AIDS funding is delayed again.

(To view today's article, click [here](#).)

In October 2008, I requested that the Council's Housing and Human Needs Committee review in detail the history of the City's Ryan White AIDS funding. Specifically, the Committee hearing sought answers to the delays encountered in signing contracts with the selected service providers.

This is a crucial issue in that many of these service providers are small non-profits which rely on these funds to operate. Again, I urge the City and the officials responsible for executing the program to do whatever is necessary so that HIV/AIDS funding can be provided in a timely fashion to those who need it the most. The roughly 4,000 New Orleans citizens living with HIV and AIDS cannot continue to suffer. This is, literally, a matter of life and death.

Another Committee meeting is in the process of being convened in early January so that we can again monitor the progress and expedite both Ryan White and HOPWA funding.

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District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis opposed the override. She explained the rationale for her vote by saying that she wished she had had the option to veto line item by line item. She acknowledged that there were appropriations that the Mayor proposed that she was not completely comfortable supporting. However, there were recommendations by the Mayor that she could support.

She explained that, having served at the State and the City level, she was particularly sensitive to prioritization of essential and critical services to ensure the stabilization and re-development of all of our neighborhoods. Given the choices, she felt she made the best decision possible.

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New Orleans, LA - December 18, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council passed Resolutions supporting the restoration of Medicare-Medicaid crossover payments and the submission of a proposal by the City of New Orleans in conjunction with the Police Jury Association of Louisiana and the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau to host the 2013, 2014 and/or 2015 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference and Exposition.

Additionally, the Council adopted a Motion requesting that the Inspector General review best practices of budgetary processes and perform an analysis of the City's current budget processes, and an Ordinance supporting the allocation of the 2007 Economic Development Fund millage.

The Council received a presentation introducing Congressman-Elect Cao to the Council and congratulating him on his election, as well as a presentation from NOPD Superintendent Warren Riley updating the Council on the crime situation in the City.

Congratulates Congressman-Elect Cao



*Congressman-Elect
Anh "Joseph" Cao*

Congressman-Elect Anh "Joseph" Cao came before the Council today to introduce himself and receive the congratulations of the Council on his recent election.

Councilmembers congratulated Cao and expressed some of their individual priorities for the City's recovery, including coastal restoration and flood protection, criminal justice reform, and economic development.

Cao expressed his gratitude to the Council for their support and their comments and stated that he is looking forward to working closely with each Councilmember to address issues of importance to the City of New Orleans.

Addresses NOPD Crime Report



Superintendent Riley

New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Superintendent Warren Riley came before the Council today to give an update on the crime situation in the City and the progress made by the NOPD.

Chief Riley presented information and data regarding:

- City-wide crime rates
- Number of NOPD officers and the success of NOPD recruitment programs
- Status of police department units and districts relocation into permanent facilities
- Updates on equipment and technology programs
- Details on the Crime Lab facility
- Details on Youth Educational Community Programs

Criminal Justice Committee Chair Councilmember James Carter said, "This Council is dedicated to public safety and criminal justice, and we understand the importance of all parties- police, citizens, judges and public officials- working together to address the root causes of the City's crime problem. We have to continue to work to instill confidence in our citizenry that we are working every day to address these issues and immediate violent crime reduction."

Chief Riley expressed his gratitude to the Council for their continuous support and stated the department's intent to work with District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro in the future.



*Inspector General
Robert Cerretti*

Requests Inspector General Review of Budgetary Processes

The Council passed Motion M-08-688, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow, Hedge-Morrell, Clarkson, Head, Carter and Willard-Lewis, requesting that the Inspector General conduct a thorough national review of best practices in budgetary processes in mayor-council municipalities.

The Motion also requests that the Inspector General perform an analysis of the City's current annual operating budget adoption and ongoing budget oversight processes.

Council Vice-President Arnie Fielkow said, "As many of us have stated during the 2009 Budget review process, there is often not enough time or information which permits us the opportunity for as thorough a vetting of the budget as we would like, or that the public deserves. Through this report, it is my hope that we can better determine what improvements should be made to the current budget review process."

The Office of Inspector General is expected to present these findings to a joint meeting of Budget/Governmental Affairs Committees for review and consideration.

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The Council passed Resolution R-08-724, co-authored by Councilmember Willard-Lewis, Midura and Hedge-Morrell, authorizing the submission of a proposal by the City of New Orleans, in conjunction with the Police Jury Association of Louisiana and the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, to host the 2013, 2014 and/or 2015 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference and Exposition.

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District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis said, "This event represents a tremendous opportunity for economic development during a summer month when tourism is traditionally slow in New Orleans. NACo is a prestigious national association, and we would be honored to host their Annual Conference and Exposition in our unique international City."

Raquel Dufauchard of the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau was present to detail the economic benefits of the conference, as well as emphasize the national attention that an event of this nature would bring to the City.

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Councilmember-at-Large
Clarkson

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Low-income Medicare beneficiaries also have Medicaid, and in 2000 Louisiana decreased payments for low-income Medicare beneficiaries which "crossed-over" from Medicare to Louisiana Medicaid for payment.

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The Resolution cites the fact that it is now illegal for low-income Medicare beneficiaries to receive the same benefits which wealthy beneficiaries receive, therefore creating a financial incentive for physicians to move into wealthy neighborhoods.

The Resolution reflects the Council's belief that this situation decreases psychiatric access and heightens New Orleans' mental health crisis.

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Media Advisory

December 17, 2008

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session
Thursday, December 18th at 10 a.m.
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

What: Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Presentation introducing Congressman-Elect Anh "Joseph" Cao to the City Council and congratulating him on his election
- Presentation by NOPD Superintendent Warren Riley updating the Council on the crime situation in the City
- Resolution requesting the State of Louisiana to restore Medicare-Medicaid crossover payments so that all Medicare beneficiaries in New Orleans have equal access to their Medicare benefits
- Motion requesting that the Inspector General conduct a thorough nationwide review of best practices of budgetary processes in mayor/council municipalities, and perform an analysis of the City's current annual operating budget adoption and ongoing budget oversight processes
- Resolution authorizing the submission of a proposal by the City of New Orleans, in conjunction with the Police Jury Association of Louisiana and the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, to host the 2013, 2014, and/or 2015 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference and Exposition

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

When: Thursday, December 18, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Contact: Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
Email: rjpursell@cityofno.com

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City Council December 18, 2008
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

December 18, 2008

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
rjpursell@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - December 18, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council passed Resolutions supporting the restoration of Medicare-Medicaid crossover payments and the submission of a proposal by the City of New Orleans in conjunction with the Police Jury Association of Louisiana and the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau to host the 2013, 2014 and/or 2015 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference and Exposition.

Additionally, the Council adopted a Motion requesting that the Inspector General review best practices of budgetary processes and perform an analysis of the City's current budget processes, and an Ordinance supporting the allocation of the 2007 Economic Development Fund millage.

The Council received a presentation introducing Congressman-Elect Cao to the Council and congratulating him on his election, as well as a presentation from NOPD Superintendent Warren Riley updating the Council on the crime situation in the City.

Congratulates Congressman-Elect Cao



*Congressman-Elect
Anh "Joseph" Cao*

Congressman-Elect Anh "Joseph" Cao came before the Council today to introduce himself and receive the congratulations of the Council on his recent election.

Councilmembers congratulated Cao and expressed some of their individual priorities for the City's recovery, including coastal restoration and flood protection, criminal justice reform, and economic development.

Cao expressed his gratitude to the Council for their support and their comments and stated that he is looking forward to working closely with each Councilmember to address issues of importance to the City of New Orleans.

Addresses NOPD Crime Report



Superintendent Riley

New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Superintendent Warren Riley came before the Council today to give an update on the crime situation in the City and the progress made by the NOPD.

Chief Riley presented information and data regarding:

- City-wide crime rates
- Number of NOPD officers and the success of NOPD recruitment programs
- Status of police department units and districts relocation into permanent facilities
- Updates on equipment and technology programs
- Details on the Crime Lab facility
- Details on Youth Educational Community Programs

Criminal Justice Committee Chair Councilmember James Carter said, "This Council is dedicated to public safety and criminal justice, and we understand the importance of all parties- police, citizens, judges and public officials- working together to address the root causes of the City's crime problem. We have to continue to work to instill confidence in our citizenry that we are working every day to address these issues and immediate violent crime reduction."

Chief Riley expressed his gratitude to the Council for their continuous support and stated the department's intent to work with District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro in the future.



*Inspector General
Robert Cerretti*

Requests Inspector General Review of Budgetary Processes

The Council passed Motion M-08-688, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow, Hedge-Morrell, Clarkson, Head, Carter and Willard-Lewis, requesting that the Inspector General conduct a thorough national review of best practices in budgetary processes in mayor-council municipalities.

The Motion also requests that the Inspector General perform an analysis of the City's current annual operating budget adoption and ongoing budget oversight processes.

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Statement

December 29, 2008



**Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson Statement
Re: The Passing of Marshall Truehill**

New Orleans, LA - December 29th, 2008 - We are deeply saddened by the untimely death of Rev. Marshall Truehill. A better friend this City has seldom had.

As an educator, a clergyman, and a planner, Marshall served New Orleans as a strong leader known for his integrity and intelligence. A true voice of reason, Marshall never hesitated to speak his mind. You could agree or disagree with him, but you always respected his opinion.

At the City Council's January 8, 2009 meeting, as our first order of business, the Council will honor Marshall's legacy in the company of his family. We invite all those who loved and respected Marshall to join us in remembering him.

We also extend our love, sympathy, and prayers to his family.

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Statement

December 29, 2008



Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow Statement

Re: Rev. Marshall Truehill, Jr.

New Orleans, LA - December 29th, 2008 - New Orleans lost a compassionate advocate with the sudden death of Rev. Marshall Truehill, Jr. on Christmas Day.

Known to many as a faithful voice for those who felt forgotten and ignored, his lifetime accomplishments were varied and well-documented, crossing economic, social and racial boundaries.

His lifelong commitment to building a better New Orleans is an enduring legacy that will continue to inspire people in the midst of our recovery. My thoughts and prayers are with Rev. Truehill's family and friends.

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NOLA Council News

December 31, 2008 Vol. 1, No. 14

Click [here](#) to view full Newsletter or click on links below to view individual articles.

- [City Council December 18, 2008 Regular Meeting Summary](#)
- [Supports Medicare-Medicaid Crossover Payments](#)
- [Supports Proposal to Host NACo Conference & Exposition](#)
- [Addresses Allocation of Economic Development Fund Millage](#)
- [Receives NOPD Crime Report](#)
- [Council Vice President Donates \\$25,000 Toward "Field of Dreams" Project in the 9th Ward](#)
- [Council Budget Committee Chair Makes Statement on Behalf of the City Council Relative to the City's 2009 Budget](#)
- [City Council December 17, 2008 Additional Regular Meeting Summary](#)
- [City Council December 1, 2008 Regular Meeting Summary](#)



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