

Statement

January 6, 2009



**Councilmember Head Statement**

**Re: Ja'Shawn J. Powell**

New Orleans, LA - January 6, 2009 - All of New Orleans is deeply saddened by the tragic death of Ja'Shawn J. Powell in Central City.

I would like to express my deepest condolences to Ja'Shawn's mother and family for their loss. As a mother, I believe there is no stronger bond than that shared by mother and child. Ja'Shawn's bright spirit and childhood innocence are emblematic of all the children of New Orleans, and he shall be missed.

As we mourn the loss of Ja'Shawn, I'd like to inform the public that his family has set up the Ja'Shawn J. Powell Memorial fund with Liberty Bank to defray the costs of the funeral.

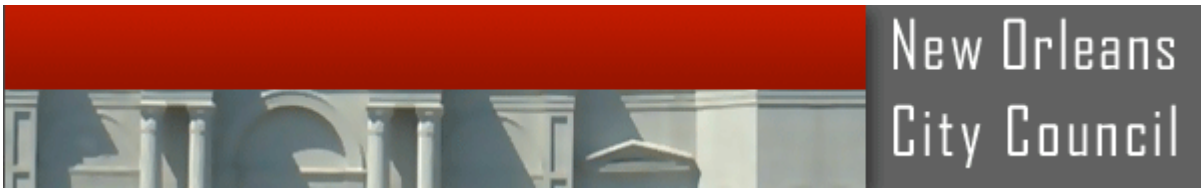
Those interested in making a donation can deposit in person (click [here](#) for locations) or mail a donation to Liberty Bank, P.O. Box 60131, New Orleans, LA 70160.

My thoughts and prayers are with Ja'Shawn's family during these difficult times.

**New Orleans City Council**

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Media Advisory

January 7, 2009

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session  
Thursday, January 8th at 10 a.m.  
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

**What:** Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Resolution honoring the memory of Reverend Marshall Truehill Jr.
- Resolutions honoring retiring Judges Raymond Bigelow, Dennis Waldron, C. Hearn Taylor and Justice Pascal F. Calogero for their years of service to the citizens of New Orleans
- Presentation honoring Reverend C. James Smith for his years of service and dedication to the City Council
- Report on the new public service announcement video showcasing the first responders of New Orleans
- Ordinance amending the Economic Development Fund (EDF) to require a Five Year Economic Development Plan from the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC), in which the priorities and expenditures for each year of the five year period will be specifically outlined. Part of the amendment calls for recommending a portion of the 2008, 2009 and 2010 EDF funds go towards a Public-Private Partnership for economic development and to Community Development Financial Institutions.
- Ordinance temporarily suspending, for a three month period, all relevant provisions of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of the City of New Orleans to allow the placement of Temporary Housing Structures on private property affected and damaged by Hurricane Katrina in Council District "D"

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, January 8, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
Email: [rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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Council Vice President Fielkow and Community Leaders Announce  
Inaugural "A Dream & A Goal MLK Weekend Classic"  
To Be Held in New Orleans January 18-19, 2009

*800 Local Students to Kick-off Two-Day Celebration  
Culminating in a Public Ceremony at the Louisiana Superdome:  
Events Made Possible Through Generous Donation by Georges Enterprises*

News Release

January 7, 2009

Contact:  
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New Orleans, LA - January 7, 2009

- Today, a diverse group of community leaders announced the inaugural 'A Dream & A Goal MLK Weekend Classic' in New Orleans on January 18-19, 2009. This historic occasion will commemorate the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday while bringing together over 800 student-athletes, coaches and administrators from across New Orleans. The two-day event will kick-off with 20 basketball games

at four local high schools, followed by participation in the annual MLK Holiday March and culminating in a public event that will celebrate the legacy of Dr. King at the Superdome. The event is made possible through a generous donation by businessman John Georges and Georges Enterprises.

New Orleans City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow, a co-founder of the 'Weekend Classic' said, "New Orleans is a city with many challenges and a population still recovering from Hurricane Katrina. The 'Weekend Classic' enables boys and girls from different schools, neighborhoods and backgrounds to come together in the spirit of Dr. King in a great unifying event for all of New Orleans." He adds, "While this country is facing deep economic challenges, I am honored that John Georges saw the community value in this event and agreed early on to be our leading sponsor."

John Georges partnered with the 'Weekend Classic' as its lead sponsor due to the Classic's goal of positively impacting the local community, especially youth, over the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday weekend.

"Councilmember Fielkow asked me to provide a grant to 'A

Dream & A Goal' because he knows I believe that during these tough economic times, those who are able to step up and help should now more than ever before. By holding the Classic over the MLK Holiday, the lessons of Dr. King and his emphasis on community involvement will leave a lasting impact on the young athletes far beyond their time on the court. Indeed, the full 'Weekend Classic' is very important to the entire community, and I am proud that I could help make it happen this year. Georges Enterprises is a firm believer in community engagement, and that is why we chose to support this worthy event," says John Georges, CEO of presenting sponsor Georges Enterprises.

The community leaders spearheading this event include Council Vice President Fielkow, the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the MLK Holiday Planning Commission, George Shinn and the New Orleans Hornets, the Recovery School District, Orleans Parish School Board, the New Orleans Recreation Department, the Jewish Community Center and Hands On New Orleans. The early support of John Georges and Georges Enterprises enabled the 'Weekend Classic' to come to fruition.

"The Sports Foundation is proud to serve as the managing entity of the inaugural 'A Dream & A Goal Weekend Classic'. The board and the staff of the Sports Foundation understand the importance of youth sporting events in our community. The Classic will have a positive impact on our kids," says Ron Gardner, Chairman of the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation.

On Sunday, January 18th, over 800 local student-athletes will take part in five basketball games at four local high school gyms. At each gym, there will be one NORD game, a junior high girl's game, a junior high boy's game, a girl's high school game and a boy's high school game. In between the games, a short MLK-themed educational piece will be conducted by members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

All basketball game participants will join in the annual MLK march from Louis Armstrong Park to the Louisiana Superdome on Monday, January 19th. At the Superdome event, which begins at noon and will be open to the public, the legacy and lessons of Dr. King will be taught through live music, dance and education. The participating student-athletes and their coaches will then receive free tickets to that afternoon's New Orleans Hornets vs. Indiana Pacers game in the New Orleans Arena, courtesy of the New Orleans Hornets.

"The Hornets are steadfast supporters of the greater New Orleans community, especially of our youth. We are delighted to support the 'Weekend Classic' in its goals of educating people on the legacy of Reverend Dr. King and supporting meaningful service in the community," says

George Shinn, Owner of the New Orleans Hornets.

In the weeks leading up to the 2009 Weekend Classic, all student-athletes will participate in a community-service project with their respective schools. The projects will be coordinated by the New Orleans Hornets, along with Hands On New Orleans and other local community service organizations. These projects will strengthen the lessons of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. while engaging local youth with their community.

Reverend Norwood Thompson, Jr., Southern Christian Leadership Conference - New Orleans Chapter President and co-chair of the New Orleans MLK Holiday Planning Commission, said "Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a great champion of civic involvement and younger generations are answering his call. Involving local youth from diverse backgrounds in sport and community service will instill the importance of giving back into these young people to their communities."

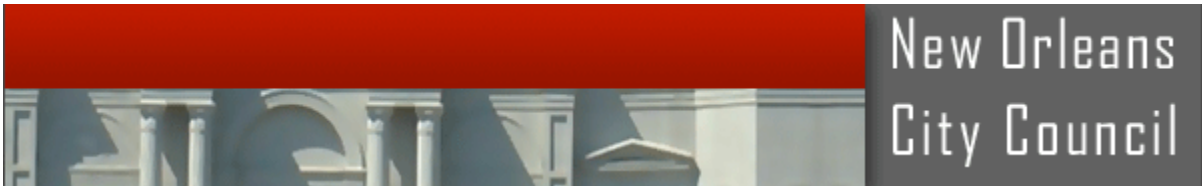
Local radio stations WWL-AM and WBOK-AM have joined together as radio sponsors of the 'Weekend Classic'. Additional media sponsors include The Times Picayune, the New Orleans Tribune and the Louisiana Weekly. The Greater New Orleans Foundation and the New Orleans Hornets are Silver Sponsors. Bronze Sponsors are Cox Communications, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, First NBC Bank, First Bank and Trust, Gulf Coast Bank & Trust and the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation.

More information is available at <http://www.adreamandagoal.com>

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## City Council January 8, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

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Contact:

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**New Orleans, LA - January 8, 2009** - Today the New Orleans City Council passed an Ordinance temporarily extending the Temporary Housing Structure removal deadline in District "D".

Additionally, the Council adopted Resolutions honoring the memory of Reverend Marshall Truehill Jr., and honoring retiring Judges Raymond C. Bigelow, Dennis Waldron, C. Hearn Taylor and Justice Pascal F. Calogero for their years of service to the citizens of New Orleans.

The Council received a report from Dr. Juliet Saussy on the new public service announcement video showcasing the First Responders of New Orleans, as well as a presentation honoring Reverend C. James Smith for his years of dedication to the City Council.

The Council President will call a Special Meeting on Monday morning at 10:30 a.m. to consider the Budget items that went unaddressed at today's meeting.

*Honors Memory of Reverend Marshall Truehill Jr.*



*Miranda Farr Truehill*

As its first Order of Business, the Council passed Resolution R-09-2 honoring the memory of Reverend Truehill and acknowledging his vision, perseverance, and loyalty that paved the way for future generations.

Rev. Truehill's wife, Miranda Farr Truehill, along with friends and family, were present in the Council Chamber as the Council honored his legacy.

The Council recognized Rev. Truehill's religious leadership and community activism throughout the City of New Orleans. They also expressed their sympathy and deep gratitude to Rev. Truehill's family for his many years of service to the New Orleans community.

*Extends Temporary Housing Structure Removal Deadline in District "D"*



*Councilmember Hedge-Morrell*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,299, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, temporarily suspending, for a three month period, all relevant provisions of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of the City of New Orleans to allow the placement of Temporary Housing Structures on private property affected and damaged by Hurricane Katrina in Council District "D".

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "This extension is designed to allow residents in District "D" to remain in their temporary housing structures while they continue to rebuild their homes."

*Recognizes Retiring Judges*



### *Recognizes Retiring Judges*



*Judge Raymond Bigelow and  
Judge Dennis Waldron*

The Council passed Resolutions R-09-3, R-09-4, R-09-5 and R-09-9, extending the Council's appreciation to Judge C. Hearn Taylor, Judge Dennis Waldron, Judge Raymond C. Bigelow and Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. for their years of service.

Judge Raymond C. Bigelow and Judge Dennis Waldron appeared before the Council to receive recognition for their years of work in the City of New Orleans.

Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow said, "Thank you for your incredible leadership and service to the City of New Orleans. We are so appreciative of all that you have done throughout the years, and we wish you all a happy retirement."

### *Honors Retiring Chaplain Rev. C. James Smith*



*Reverend C. James Smith*

The Council honored Reverend C. James Smith for his years of service and dedication to the City Council.

Rev. Smith appeared before the Council, along with family, friends and community and religious leaders.

The Council issued a proclamation recognizing and honoring the Reverend for his 28 years of comfort, blessings and service to the City Council and all constituents.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Reverend Smith has truly been a guiding hand and an inspiration to the City Council and to the New Orleans community. We thank him for his kindness, his counsel and his spirit - we will miss him and wish him all the best."

***Addresses Presentation on New Orleans First Responders Public Service Announcement***



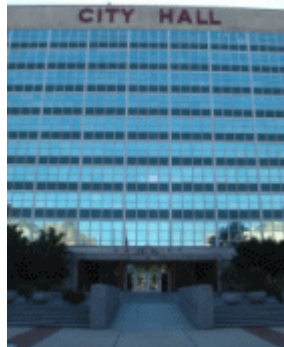
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Dr. Saussy informed the Council that the public service announcement was a collaborative effort by all First Responders, including EMS and Police and Fire departments.

The announcement showed First Responders in different areas of the City, demonstrating their commitment to serve and assist all citizens. The video highlighted the cultural diversity of the City by incorporating different languages, including Spanish, Vietnamese, and Sign Language, throughout the announcement.

***Plans to Address Budget Items at Special Meeting Monday***

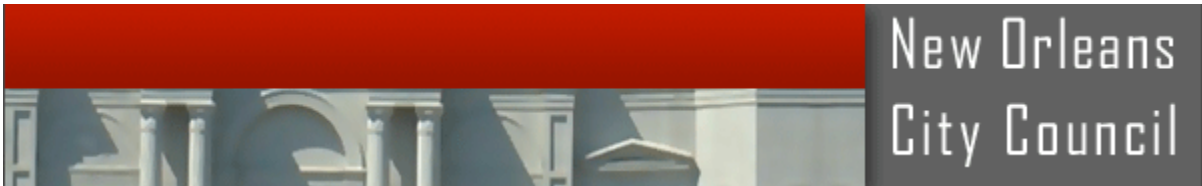


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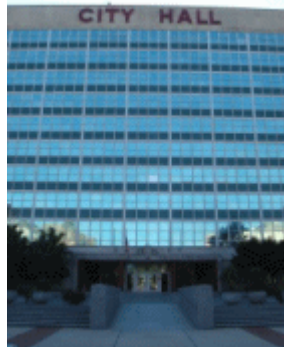
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Statement

January 9, 2009



**Council Vice President Fielkow Statement  
On Today's "Strike Against Crime"**

New Orleans, LA - January 9, 2009 - Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow issued the following statement in support of today's 'Strike Against Crime' organized by Silence is Violence to spotlight the need for New Orleans to proactively address crime in our city:

"Two years ago a group of citizens, moved by the murders of two young New Orleans activists, organized a citywide observance to stop the escalating violent crime.

That small group's march to City Hall grew to thousands of people from all neighborhoods and backgrounds from across New Orleans. It energized our larger community to place the very highest priority on solving the crime that has plagued our city for years. There has been some progress, but every life lost and every family changed by violence pays too great a price.

I am personally participating in today's Strike Against Crime, organized by Silence Is Violence, by joining both the Victims Memorial at Noon and the Soccer In The Street match at 4 p.m. at Lafayette Square. I will continue to focus my work on those initiatives that offer our young people constructive alternatives to the unsupervised and often illegal activities that are commonplace in our community.

From our schools and neighborhoods, to our criminal justice system, to those in government and in commerce, the work of reducing crime in New Orleans requires everyone's courageous and steadfast participation.

I hope that today's Strike Against Crime will not be a one-time event. To really affect substantive change, we must continue to be united for a better way of life and to hold everyone responsible for the future of our city."

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Media Advisory

January 12, 2009

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## Housing and Human Needs Committee to Hear Updates on The Status of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Grant Funding Process And HOPWA Funds on Tuesday Morning

**What:** Housing and Human Needs Committee will hear a status update on the Ryan White HIV/AIDS grant funding process, including the status of the 2008 awards and the timeline for the 2009 grant process.

The Committee will also receive an update on HOPWA, Housing Opportunities for People With Aids, funds, including the status of the 2008 allocation and distribution plan and requirements for the 2009 allocation.

**When:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009  
10:00 a.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  
Fran Lawless, Director, Mayor's Office of Health Policy  
Dr. Kevin Stephens, Director, New Orleans Health Department  
Chester M. Nevels, Director, Neighborhood Services and Facilities, ORDA

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

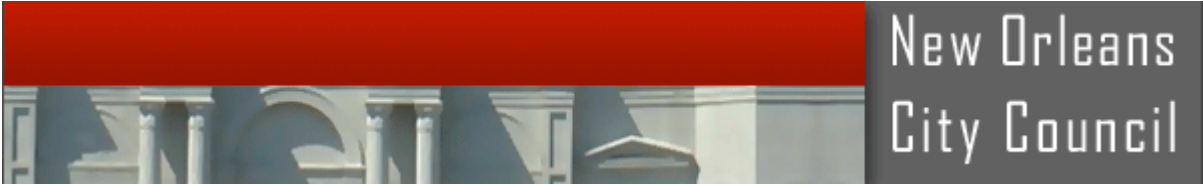
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**City Council January 12, 2009  
Special Meeting Summary**

**News Release**

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**New Orleans, LA - January 12, 2009** - Today the New Orleans City Council, in a Special Council meeting, addressed five Ordinances continued from the Regular Council meeting of January 8th.

The Council passed Ordinances requesting monthly notice of performance from the Department of Sanitation and Contractors, as well as amending the 2009 Budget of Revenues and 2009 Budget of Expenditures.

Additionally, the Council unanimously agreed to compromise with Mayor Nagin to continue the "enhanced cleaning services" in the French Quarter through October 2009.

### *Addresses Sanitation Department Performance Audit*



*Councilmember-at-Large  
Clarkson*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,269, authored by Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, to require monthly notice of performance from the Department of Sanitation and Contractors.

Additionally, the Ordinance provides that an in-house performance-based audit of the Sanitation Department will be conducted.

Through the use of an in-house audit, the Council can re-allocate the funds that would have been used to pay for an external audit.

### *Addresses 2009 Budget Items*



The Council passed the following Ordinances related to the 2009 Budget:

- **Ordinance Calendar No. 27,272** to amend the 2009 Operating Budget of Revenues to adjust the estimate for Other Financing Sources to conform with the 2009 Operating Budget of Expenditures, and establish the Community Disaster Loan (CDL) at approximately \$2.4 million

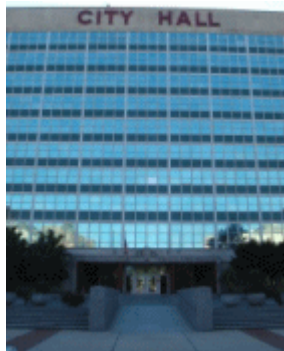
- **Ordinance Calendar No. 27,273** to amend the 2009 Operating Budget of Expenditures in the following ways:

1. Adjust the reduction of appropriations for other operating expenses in departments from 5.58% to 3%, excepting criminal justice and public safety departments
2. Remove the appropriation for the Office of the Indigent Defender, and state the Council's dedication to assist the Office in pursuing state assistance to add a fee onto red light camera tickets to generate funding of approximately \$600,000 (note: funding for this office was appropriated as part of Ordinance Calendar No. 27,274)
3. Adjust the appropriation for the Office of Inspector General
4. Restore \$30 million CDBG funds from the reserve
5. Replaces \$500,000 appropriation of the Chief Administrative Office

- **Ordinance Calendar No. 27,274** to amend the 2009 Operating Budget of Expenditures to transfer \$500,000 of Other Operating expenses from the budget of the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) to the Office of the Indigent Defender

- **Ordinance Calendar No. 27,289** to amend the 2009 Operating Budget of Expenditures to transfer funds within the budget of the Sanitation Department. This transfer results in a reduction of the reserve of Sanitation contracts from 50% to 25%

Budget Committee Chair Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "The Council unanimously passed the 2009 budget. We pledge to ensure that services will be available for all citizens and that ongoing discussions will take place with Mayor Nagin throughout this budget year. The recovery construction projects are totaled to be 1.1 Billion this year and revenues will be closely analyzed through the Council's monthly budget committee meetings. As this Council stated in November of 2008, our priority is to ensure that vital services are not cut to the citizens of New Orleans."



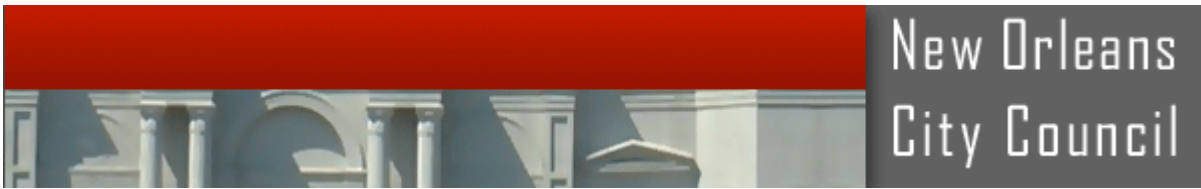
#### *Addresses French Quarter Sanitation Services*

The Council also unanimously agreed to compromise with Mayor Nagin to ensure that SDT continues to provide "enhanced cleaning services" in the French Quarter through October 2009.

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Media Advisory

January 12, 2009

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Special Session  
Monday, January 12th at 10:30 a.m.**

**Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

**What:** Among the items to be addressed at today's New Orleans City Council Special Meeting are the following Ordinances, which were continued from the meeting of January 8, 2009:

- Ordinance to require monthly notice of performance from the Department of Sanitation and Contractors

The following Ordinances are related to the 2009 City of New Orleans Budget:

- Ordinance to adjust the estimate for Other Financing Sources
- Ordinance to adjust the appropriations in various departments
- Ordinance to transfer Other Operating expenses from the budget of the Chief Administrative office to the budget of the Council
- Ordinance to transfer funds within the budget of the Sanitation Department

To view the Meeting Notice click [here](#).

**When:** Monday, January 12, 2009  
10:30 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
Email: [rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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**City Council January 12, 2009  
Special Meeting Summary**

**News Release**

**January 12, 2009**

**Contact:**

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

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City Council](#)

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**New Orleans, LA - January 12, 2009** - Today the New Orleans City Council, in a Special Council meeting, addressed five Ordinances continued from the Regular Council meeting of January 8th.

The Council passed Ordinances requesting monthly notice of performance from the Department of Sanitation and Contractors, as well as amending the 2009 Budget of Revenues and 2009 Budget of Expenditures.

Additionally, the Council unanimously agreed to compromise with Mayor Nagin to continue the "enhanced cleaning services" in the French Quarter through October 2009.

### *Addresses Sanitation Department Performance Audit*



*Councilmember-at-Large  
Clarkson*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,269, authored by Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, to require monthly notice of performance from the Department of Sanitation and Contractors.

Additionally, the Ordinance provides that an in-house performance-based audit of the Sanitation Department will be conducted.

Through the use of an in-house audit, the Council can re-allocate the funds that would have been used to pay for an external audit.

### *Addresses 2009 Budget Items*



The Council passed the following Ordinances related to the 2009 Budget:

- **Ordinance Calendar No. 27,272** to amend the 2009 Operating Budget of Revenues to adjust the estimate for Other Financing Sources to conform with the 2009 Operating Budget of Expenditures, and establish the Community Disaster Loan (CDL) at approximately \$2.4 million

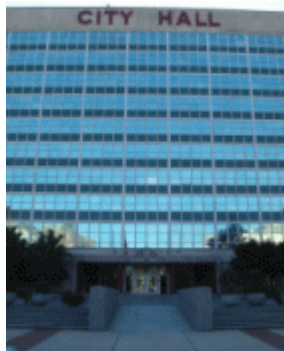
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Budget Committee Chair Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "The Council unanimously passed the 2009 budget. We pledge to ensure that services will be available for all citizens and that ongoing discussions will take place with Mayor Nagin throughout this budget year. The recovery construction projects are totaled to be 1.1 Billion this year and revenues will be closely analyzed through the Council's monthly budget committee meetings. As this Council stated in November of 2008, our priority is to ensure that vital services are not cut to the citizens of New Orleans."



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Announcement

January 14, 2009



**Councilmember Head & Central City Health Coalition  
Host Community Health Fair**

- What:** Councilmember Stacy Head in partnership with The Central City Health Coalition will host a Community Health Fair including free flu shots, blood pressure screenings, LaCHIP Enrollment, HIV testing, a men's health chat and seminars on depression and stress. All community members are invited.
- Who:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
The Central City Health Coalition  
Community Members
- Sponsors include:  
Metropolitan Human Services District, City of New Orleans Health Department, Department of Health and Hospitals, Covenant Presbyterian Urban Ministry Institute, Central City Economic Opportunity Corporation, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans Children's Health Project, Central City Behavioral Health Center, Central City Partnership and the New Orleans Police Department, 6th District
- When:** Friday, January 23, 2009  
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Where:** Allie Mae Williams Auditorium  
2020 Jackson Avenue  
Click [here](#) for map
- Background:** The Central City Health Coalition is spearheaded by the Central City Partnership. The Central City Partnership is a collaboration of community-based organizations, faith-based institutions, public schools, universities, law enforcement and government agencies, community leaders and residents. The mission of the partnership is to revitalize the New Orleans Central City Community by promoting health and wellness and increasing access to care and services.

**Contact:** Barbara Lacen-Keller  
Director of Constituent Services  
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
Office: (504) 658-1022  
Email: [blacenkeller@cityofno.com](mailto:blacenkeller@cityofno.com)

Laniqua Roussell  
Community Health Fair Co-Chair  
(504) 881-4342

Jason Dove  
Community Health Fair Co-Chair  
(504) 453-6793

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Announcement

January 14, 2009



**District "B" Councilmember Head  
To Lead Neighborhood Clean-up in Gert Town**

- WHAT:** Councilmember Stacy Head will lead a neighborhood clean-up in Gert Town. Community members are invited to attend and assist in the clean-up activities.
- WHO:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
Community members
- WHEN:** Saturday, January 24, 2009  
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Greater King Solomon Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
3221 Audubon St.  
(Click [here](#) to view map)
- CONTACT:** Barbara Lacen Keller  
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
Office: (504) 658-1020  
Email: [blacenkeller@cityofno.com](mailto:blacenkeller@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory

January 15, 2009



**Council President Clarkson To Address  
Domestic Violence Against Women  
At Women's Committee Meeting  
On Friday Morning**

**WHAT:** Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will address domestic violence against women at Friday morning's Women's Committee Meeting. Representatives from New Orleans Family Justice Center and Domestic Violence Services for Catholic Charities will appear before the Committee to discuss domestic violence and its impact on the New Orleans community.

The Committee will also discuss the coordinated community response resulting from the creation of the New Orleans Family Justice Center.

**WHO:** Special Guests

- Mary Claire Landry, Director, New Orleans Family Justice Center and Domestic Violence Services for Catholic Charities
- Theresa Marchese, Coordinator, New Orleans Family Justice Center

Committee Members

- Chair: Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
- District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- Alternate: District "C" Councilmember James Carter

**WHEN:** Friday, January 16, 2009  
10:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** City Council Chamber

**CONTACT:** Jacquelyn Cole  
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
Office: (504) 658-1070  
Cell: (504) 914-2367  
Email: [jlcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jlcole@cityofno.com)

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## Council Vice President Fielkow to Bring Open Meetings Law Legislation To February 5th Council Meeting

*Attorney General Issues Second Opinion*

*Affirming Council's Right to Enforce Greater Government Transparency*

News Release

January 15, 2009

Contact:

Kate Schneiderman

Office of

Councilmember-at-Large  
Arnie Fielkow

Ph: 504-658-1063

Cell: 504-905-9893

[krschneiderman@cityofno.com](mailto:krschneiderman@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans, LA - January 15, 2009 - Today, New Orleans City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow announced his intent to move forward on legislation further opening up the City of New Orleans professional service contracting process to the public. Council Vice President Fielkow plans to bring the legislation to the Council Meeting on February 5, 2009.

"I am very heartened by the opinion issued by Attorney General Buddy Caldwell which, for the second time, affirms the Council's rights to legislate in this area and further supports the intent of the legislation to make the City's professional service contracting process subject to the Louisiana Open Meetings Law. This legislation, if approved by Council, will go a long way in ensuring the openness and transparency of how we do business for the benefit of our citizens," said Fielkow.

The legislation filed by Vice President Fielkow involves both an Ordinance directed towards the Executive Branch of city government and a Motion directed towards the Legislative Branch of city government. Both pieces of legislation aim to increase transparency in city contracting processes.

The Ordinance Cal. 27,069 reinforces that every professional service contract procurement process done by the City is subject to the state's Open Meetings Law.

(Click [here](#) to read the Ordinance)

The Motion further refines the City Council's professional service contracting process by ensuring its compliance with the state's Open Meetings Law. (Click [here](#) to view the Motion)

the Motion)

The legislation, originally introduced in August, has been held up pending review by the state Attorney General's office. The Attorney General recently issued an affirmation of his original October 15, 2008 opinion on the matter, which maintains the City Council's right to pass Vice President Fielkow's legislation.

To view the Attorney General's October 15, 2008 letter of opinion, click [here](#).

To view the Attorney General's January 9, 2009 letter of opinion, click [here](#).

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Media Advisory

January 21, 2009

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session  
Thursday, January 22nd at 10 a.m.  
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

**What:** Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Resolution honoring retired Judge Yada T. Magee for her years of service to the citizens of New Orleans
- Presentation by Leslie Jacobs, Founder of Educate Now!, on the state and transformation of New Orleans public schools
- Presentation by Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and Ernest Collins, introducing to the Council all those people whose work and dedication made the Mahalia Jackson Theatre possible

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, January 22, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
Email: [rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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Announcement

January 21, 2009



**Councilmember Willard-Lewis  
Announces Outdoor Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
Commemorating the Launch of The "Lil' Easy" Transit Service  
In the Lower Ninth Ward**

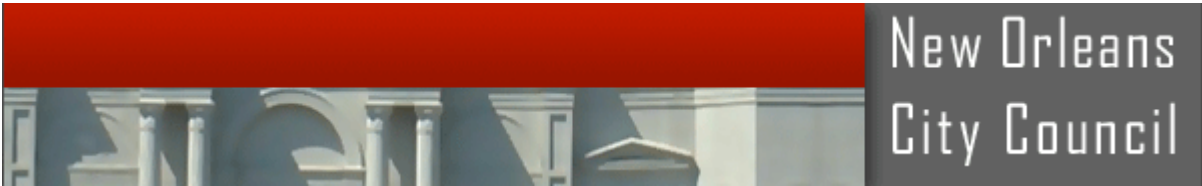
- What:** Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, in partnership with The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Board of Commissioners and Veolia Transportation, will host an outdoor ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the launch of The "Lil' Easy", a new transit service for the Lower Ninth Ward. All community members are invited.
- Who:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
RTA Board of Commissioners  
Veolia Transportation  
Community Members
- When:** Monday, January 26, 2009  
10:30 a.m.
- Where:** Entrance to the Lower Ninth Ward  
N. Claiborne Ave. at Tennessee St.  
Click [here](#) for map
- Contact:** Clarence Bickham  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
Email: [cbickham@cityofno.com](mailto:cbickham@cityofno.com)  
Office: (504) 658-1050  
Cell: (504) 485-1979

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New Orleans  
City Council

**City Council January 22, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary**

**News Release**

**January 22, 2009**

Contact:  
Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
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[rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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**New Orleans, LA - January 22, 2009** - Today the New Orleans City Council passed an Ordinance repealing provisions of the City Code relative to the Office of Municipal Investigation.

The Council also introduced on first reading an Ordinance expediting the construction of five libraries throughout the City.

Additionally, the Council received a presentation on the City's public schools and recognized the many people whose efforts made the reopening of the Mahalia Jackson Theatre possible.

*Addresses Presentation on New Orleans Public Schools*

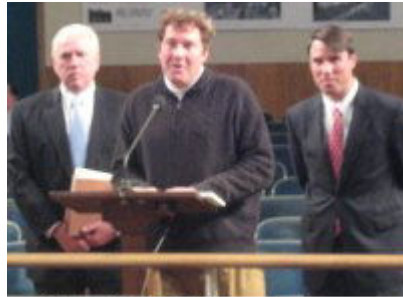


*Leslie Jacobs,  
Founder of Educate Now!*

Leslie Jacobs, Founder of Educate Now! - a non-profit dedicated to effective and sustainable reform of New Orleans public schools, came before the Council today to give a presentation on the state and transformation of New Orleans public schools.

Jacobs discussed school performance measures, improvement rates, community involvement, the success of charter schools, demographics, support from state and non-profits, as well as internal school financing.

Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson said, "We are grateful for this very comprehensive and informative report - education is a priority for this City and this Council and we will continue to work to improve the public school system."



*Stan Smith, Woody Koppel  
and Brett Bonin*

Additionally, Orleans Parish School Board President Woody Koppel, District 3 Board Member Brett Bonin, and Chief Financial Officer Stan Smith came before the Council to give a brief update on the progress of Orleans Parish schools.

Koppel expressed the Board's gratitude to the Council for their dedication to improving the public education system and welcomed the Council's feedback and ideas.

*Addresses Changes in City Code Re: Office of Municipal Investigation*



*Councilmember Head*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,270, authored by Councilmember Head, to repeal provisions of the Code of the City of New Orleans relative to the Office of Municipal Investigation (OMI).

The Council decided to eliminate this department during the Budget process, as the duties of the OMI are duplicative with the duties of the Office of Inspector General.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "We as a Council worked very hard this year to present a cost-efficient and fair Budget. Through the elimination of the OMI we were able to redirect funds previously allocated to that office to other agencies and departments."

### *Recognizes Mahalia Jackson Theatre Contributors*



*Bill Chrisman, Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, Ernest Collins and Cindy Connick*

Director of Capital Projects Bill Chrisman, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, Head of the Office of Arts & Entertainment Ernest Collins and Executive Director of the Canal Street Development Corp.

Cindy Connick, came before the Council today to introduce the many people whose work and dedication made the reopening of the Mahalia Jackson Theatre possible.

Cynthia Sylvain-Lear called out the names of all the businesses, agencies, departments and others who worked to make the grand reopening of the Theatre a reality. Many individuals involved in the reopening of the Theatre were present in the Council Chamber to be recognized for their efforts.

Councilmembers spoke of the impressive grand reopening of the Theatre and thanked all those involved for their tireless work in recreating a New Orleans cultural icon.

### *Supports Construction of Five New Libraries*



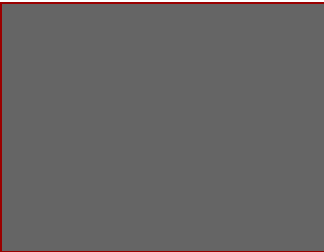
*Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson*

The Council introduced on first reading Ordinance Calendar No. 27,324, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, to add five additional projects to the list of approved projects to permit design-build procedures to be implemented, all of them public libraries.

The design-build method expedites the City's recovery projects by streamlining the contracting process, making it possible for one company to get a combined contract for both the design and build of a project.

The City of New Orleans previously passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,059 authorizing 21 projects to be developed through the design-build procedures developed and approved by the Division of Administration, Office of Facility Planning and Control for utilization by the City of New Orleans.

The five additional projects are Algiers Regional Library, Nora Navra Library, Norman Mayer Library, Robert E. Smith Library and New Orleans East Regional Library.

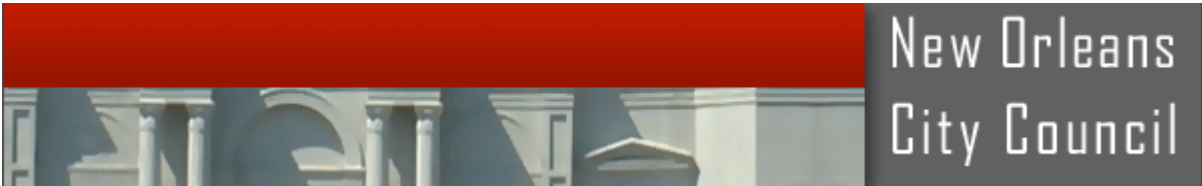


Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "It is important that we do everything possible to expedite the completion of recovery projects throughout the City - the design-build method works to do just that."

### **New Orleans City Council**

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**City Council January 22, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary**

**News Release**

**January 22, 2009**

Contact:  
Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
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[rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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City Council](#)

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**New Orleans, LA - January 22, 2009** - Today the New Orleans City Council passed an Ordinance repealing provisions of the City Code relative to the Office of Municipal Investigation.

The Council also introduced on first reading an Ordinance expediting the construction of five libraries throughout the City.

Additionally, the Council received a presentation on the City's public schools and recognized the many people whose efforts made the reopening of the Mahalia Jackson Theatre possible.

*Addresses Presentation on New Orleans Public Schools*



*Leslie Jacobs,  
Founder of Educate Now!*

Leslie Jacobs, Founder of Educate Now! - a non-profit dedicated to effective and sustainable reform of New Orleans public schools, came before the Council today to give a presentation on the state and transformation of New Orleans public schools.

Jacobs discussed school performance measures, improvement rates, community involvement, the success of charter schools, demographics, support from state and non-profits, as well as internal school financing.

Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson said, "We are grateful for this very comprehensive and informative report - education is a priority for this City and this Council and we will continue to work to improve the public school system."



*Stan Smith, Woody Koppel  
and Brett Bonin*

Additionally, Orleans Parish School Board President Woody Koppel, District 3 Board Member Brett Bonin, and Chief Financial Officer Stan Smith came before the Council to give a brief update on the progress of Orleans Parish schools.

Koppel expressed the Board's gratitude to the Council for their dedication to improving the public education system and welcomed the Council's feedback and ideas.

*Addresses Changes in City Code Re: Office of Municipal Investigation*



*Councilmember Head*

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Cynthia Sylvain-Lear,  
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Announcement

January 23, 2009



### Neighborhood Clean-Up in Gert Town Rescheduled to February 7th

- WHAT:** The Gert Town neighborhood clean-up previously scheduled for this Saturday, January 24th has been rescheduled to Saturday, February 7th. The clean-up will be led by Councilmember Stacy Head, and community members are invited to attend and assist in the clean-up activities.
- WHO:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
Community members
- WHEN:** Saturday, February 7, 2009  
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** To Be Announced
- CONTACT:** Barbara Lacen Keller  
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
Office: (504) 658-1020  
Email: [blacenkeller@cityofno.com](mailto:blacenkeller@cityofno.com)

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Statement

January 30, 2009

## New Orleans City Council Statement Regarding Resignation of Inspector General Robert Cerasoli

New Orleans, LA - January 30, 2009 - We would like to express our gratitude to New Orleans' first Inspector General Robert Cerasoli for his tireless efforts over the last 17 months serving as an independent watchdog over City government.

Cerasoli's long-term vision and mutually respectful relationship with the Council was a clear catalyst for a voter approved City Charter change that solidified permanent financing for the office.

Under his leadership, operational and policy standards were set ensuring the fluid continuation of the Office of Inspector General for years to come. This will be his legacy to the government and citizens of New Orleans.

We offer reassurance to all citizens that the Council will stand by the Office of Inspector General and pledge our support of its independent work to ensure transparency and accountability in government.

We wish Mr. Cerasoli the very best for his health and a happy retirement.

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## NOLA Council News

January 31, 2009 Vol. 2, No. 3

Click [here](#) to view full Newsletter or click on links below to view individual articles.

- [Councilmember Willard-Lewis Launches "Lil' Easy" Transit Service in the Lower Ninth Ward](#)
- [Councilmember Head & Central City Health Coalition Host Community Health Fair](#)
- [City Council January 22, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary](#)
- [Councilmember Fielkow to Bring Open Meetings Law Legislation to February 5th Council Meeting](#)
- [City Council January 12, 2009 Special Meeting Summary](#)
- [Addresses Sanitation Department Performance Audit](#)
- [City Council January 8, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary](#)
- [Extends Temporary Housing Structure Removal Deadline in District "D"](#)
- [Councilmember Fielkow and Community Members Host Inaugural "A Dream & A Goal MLK Weekend Classic"](#)



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Statement

February 2, 2009



Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow Statement  
Re: Enhanced French Quarter Sanitation Services

New Orleans, LA - February 2nd, 2009 - The following is a statement issued today from New Orleans City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow regarding the 2009 budget issue:

"It is truly regrettable that the question of providing enhanced sanitation services to the French Quarter is still being debated. The City Council has expressed for several months the absolute need for this service to be maintained for the benefit of both our local citizens and tourists. This was provided for in the budget passed by the City Council on December 1, 2008, confirmed in the Council's override of the Mayor's veto two weeks later and reconfirmed in the final budget passed by the Council on January 12, 2009. Following this January 12th Council vote, the Mayor publicly supported the final budget passed by the Council.

It makes no business sense to eliminate such a service when it has been a huge success story for this city post-Katrina and the fact that the French Quarter and other downtown areas generate in excess of one third (1/3) of city revenue. It is this city revenue which funds services to the rest of the community. This position is further strengthened by the fact that we are about to enter a high-tourism season, with literally thousands of guests coming from throughout the U.S. and around the world to Mardi Gras. The City Council is the one entity which has consistently advocated for these enhanced services and continues to do so today.

The public should understand that the funds needed to provide these enhanced services, based upon the Mayor's position the past several days, represents less than one half (1/2) of one (1) percent of the city's general fund budget. I call upon the Mayor to do what is necessary contractually to immediately put in place, and fund, these necessary enhanced sanitation services.

There has been much discussion over the past several days about identifying an alternate revenue source to pay for these enhanced sanitation services. I believe that the fiscally sound budget passed by this City Council on January 12th, which provided for the enhanced sanitation services, should be honored and respected by the Mayor. Alternatively, and in the spirit of avoiding a protracted legal fight which is not in the best interests of our citizens, I would be supportive of either additional cuts from other discretionary budgeted areas or usage of revenue from the pre-Katrina Economic Development Fund (EDF).

If the latter, it is my hope and expectation that the Mayor will continue to support the other major initiative also being funded through the EDF, namely the creation of a public-private partnership to handle the city's economic development efforts going forward. This is a project which has been in planning for over two years and one that the Mayor has consistently expressed his support, both publicly and privately. The Mayor's unequivocal commitment to this initiative was further expressed in his State of the City address last spring. Any withdrawal of such support would be both disingenuous and highly detrimental to New Orleans citizens and businesses.

It is time today that we conclude the debate on the enhanced sanitation services and I am prepared to cast my support as stated above."

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Councilmember Carter  
Congratulates Students and Teachers of Algiers Charter Schools  
On their Outstanding Achievements

News Release

February 2, 2009

Contact:  
Jonas Nash  
Office of  
Councilmember  
James Carter  
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New Orleans, LA - February 2, 2009 - Councilmember James Carter celebrates the outstanding achievement gains made by the students of the Algiers Charter Schools and congratulates the teachers on their performance awards.

At a media event held today at Fischer Charter School, teachers and administrators were presented with awards honoring their professional growth and accomplishment.

Six of the Algiers Charter Schools achieved significant academic growth in the past year - Martin Behrman, Alice M. Harte, William J. Fischer, Edna Karr, O.P. Walker and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"I am proud of academic growth of the Algiers Charter Schools Association," said Councilman James Carter.

He continued, "The recovery of our City made a tremendous step forward today, telling the world that we are putting education and our children first."

The Algiers Charter Schools have embraced the Teacher Advancement Program, which places the professional improvement of teachers and administrators at the center of school improvement efforts.

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Council Vice President Fielkow's Legislation  
Ensuring More Transparent City Contract Competitive Selection Process  
To Come Up for Vote at Tomorrow's Council Meeting

*Legislation Requires Mayor and Council Professional Services Contracting Process  
To be Subject to State Open Meetings Law*

News Release

February 4, 2009

Contact:  
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New Orleans, LA - February 4, 2009 - Tomorrow, at the regular City Council meeting, Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow's legislation to ensure that the city's competitive selection process for professional service contracts is subject to Louisiana's Open Meetings Law will come up for final vote. The legislation calls for further openness and transparency by both the Executive and Legislative branches of City Government.

Council Vice President Fielkow said, "Any time we talk about awarding public dollars for city contracted services, it should be done in a totally open process to the public. Unfortunately, this has not been the case for the professional services contracting process in New Orleans city government. My legislation calls for the City of New Orleans to embrace transparency and openness in its contracting processes and make this process subject to the required Louisiana Open Meetings Law."

The two pieces of legislation to be voted on tomorrow are:

- An Ordinance requiring that the Executive Branch of City Government, through its professional service contracting process, comply with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law
- A Motion which mandates that the City Council, in its professional service contracting process, also fully comply with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law

The legislation was originally introduced and endorsed by the Council's Governmental Affairs Committee on July 7, 2008. The Louisiana Attorney General, prompted by a request from the Council, rendered an advisory opinion that meetings involving the awarding of professional services contracts are indeed subject to the Louisiana Open Meetings Law. See the Louisiana Attorney General's advisory opinion in full [here](#).

Mayor Nagin's Administration requested a reconsideration by the Attorney General of his advisory opinion in late October 2008. On January 9, 2009 the Louisiana Attorney General reaffirmed its original opinion. See the Louisiana Attorney General's reaffirmed opinion in full [here](#).

Fielkow added, "New Orleans is making great strides towards further openness and efficiency in city government. However, every public dollar the City spends must be accounted for and citizens deserve to know where their money is being spent. This legislation is simply another incremental step towards ensuring greater operational transparency for the benefit of all citizens of New Orleans."

The Bureau of Government Research (BGR), the New Orleans Office of Inspector General (OIG), Mayor Nagin's "Bring New Orleans Back" Commission and "Forward New Orleans: A Set of Principles" from the New Orleans Business Council have all repeatedly called for a standardized and transparent professional services contracting process in New Orleans. Council Vice President Fielkow's legislation directly addresses the concerns and wishes of good government and citizen groups.

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City Council February 5, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

February 5, 2009

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

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**New Orleans, LA - February 5, 2009** - Today the New Orleans City Council passed a Motion and an Ordinance requiring that the City's competitive selection process for professional services contracts comply with the Louisiana Open Meetings law, and a Motion requesting that the Administration come into compliance with the law on the Executive Branch's number of take-home vehicles.

The Council also introduced an Ordinance to reconcile the conflicting ordinances related to the domicile of City employees and take-home vehicles, and voted to override the Mayor's veto of an Ordinance pertaining to the 2009 Budget funding allocation for the Youth Study Center.

Additionally, the Council passed legislation urging the extension of the Disaster Housing Assistance Program, requesting a report on the cost and feasibility of the implementation of wireless internet services in the Council Chamber, and expediting the construction of five libraries throughout the City.

Councilmembers also addressed Mardi Gras presentations by the Krewe of Zulu, Krewe of Muses, and Krewe of Choctaw.

## *Supported Transparent Competitive Selection Process*



*Leonard Odom, Interim Inspector General; Michael Cowan, Ethics Review Board; Bob Brown, Business Council; Janet Howard, Bureau of Governmental Research; David Marcello, The Public Law Center; Greg Rusovich, Business Council*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,069 and Motion M-08-380, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, requiring that both the Executive and Legislative branches of City Government, in their professional service contracting processes, comply with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law.

Councilmember Arnie Fielkow said, "This legislation calls for further openness and transparency by both the Executive and Legislative branches of City Government when dealing with professional service contracts and the awarding of public dollars. It is critical that this is done in a totally open process to the public."

The Louisiana Attorney General rendered an advisory opinion that meetings involving the awarding of professional services contracts are subject to the Louisiana Open Meetings Law. See the Attorney General's advisory opinion in full [here](#).

Mayor Nagin's Administration requested a reconsideration by the Attorney General of his advisory opinion and the Attorney General reaffirmed its original opinion. See the Attorney General's reaffirmed opinion in full [here](#).

Interim Inspector General Leonard Odom, along with representatives from the Bureau of Governmental Research (BGR), the New Orleans Business Council, the Ethics Review Board, the Public Law Center, and other good government and citizen groups came before the Council to give their opinions and recommendations on the matter.

Click [here](#) to view an additional News Release on these legislative instruments.

## *Addressed Take-Home Cars Compliance*

The Council passed Motion M-09-49, co-authored by Councilmembers Midura and Head, requesting that the Mayor present on or before March 13th a plan for compliance with the City Code mandating that the executive branch assign no more than 50 take-home cars to employees.

The Motion also states that the plan must: designate which of the current take-home vehicles should be considered the 50 take-home vehicles permitted by the City Code, provide protocol for the disposition of the vehicles in excess of the quota, and establish an official policy to determine which posts within City government will be permitted the use of take-home vehicles.



*Julie Schwam Harris,  
Intergovernmental Relations*

Julie Schwam Harris of the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations presented the Administration's opinion on the matter, stating that the Administration is taking a systematic approach to evaluating whether or not 50 take-home vehicles is an adequate number to meet the needs of the Executive Branch.

Adherence to the 50 car rule would allow take-home vehicles for the approximately 15 administrative department heads as well as additional vehicles for the Mayor's own use.

Councilmembers Midura and Head also introduced Ordinance Calendar No. 27,254 to reconcile the conflicting ordinances related to the domicile of City employees and take-home vehicles.

In a January 30, 2009 response to the Inspector General's vehicle report, the administration cited ordinance "contradict[ion]" as a reason for failing to comply with the City ordinances prohibiting more than the administration's 50 take-home cars.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head stated, "This Ordinance should remove any argument that take-home vehicles are appropriate for administration employees residing outside of Orleans Parish. This is intended to ensure that administrative executives who choose to live outside of our Parish do not subject the City to liability, maintenance or gas costs based on that lifestyle decision."

Click [here](#) to view an additional News Release on these legislative instruments.

## *Supports Funding for the Youth Study Center*



*Bill Chrisman,  
Director of Capital Projects*

The Council voted to override the Mayor's veto of Ordinance Calendar No. 27,303, authored by Councilmember Midura, requiring that prior to expenditure of the 2009 Budget funds appropriated for the Youth Study Center, Capital Projects and Human Services present the conceptual design submission of the Youth Study Center to the Criminal Justice Committee for approval prior to entering into the construction document phase of the project.

Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "We should exercise our responsibility as legislators over the redevelopment of this very important facility. We must collaborate with national experts to implement national best practices in the redevelopment of this facility to ensure that we have all the necessary tools to improve the lives of youth while advancing the interests of public safety."

Director of Capital Projects Bill Chrisman came before the Council to reaffirm his support of the Ordinance and the incorporation of best practices into the Youth Study Center, and to emphasize the need for additional funding to properly rebuild the facility.

## *Urged Extension of Recovery Housing Program*



The Council passed Resolution R-09-50, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Midura, urging the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and FEMA take immediate action to extend for one year the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP).

The program, administered by HUD and FEMA, assists Louisiana residents still in need after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The rental assistance provided under DHAP has been instrumental in allowing Louisiana families to remain in their local communities while the state and federal governments work to stabilize the affordable housing market.

Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow said, "DHAP is currently scheduled to end on February 28th, potentially placing thousands of high-risk families including elderly, disabled and families with children, at risk of homelessness. The short-term extension of this program will allow the state to work with the federal government to assess the needs of the remaining



households, assist the transition of families out of the program, and develop a plan to support those with outstanding needs."

### ***Explored Implementation of Wireless Internet in Council Chamber***



The Council passed Resolution R-09-51, coauthored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Midura, to assess the feasibility of implementation of wireless internet services in the Council Chamber.

The Resolution requests that the Director of the Council Utilities Regulatory Office investigate the cost and any related issues regarding implementation of wireless internet in the Chamber and report back to the Council's Cable & Telecommunications Committee within 45 days with a report on these items.

### ***Expedited the Construction of Five Libraries***



*Councilmember-at-Large  
Clarkson*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,324, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, to add five additional projects to the list of approved projects to permit design-build procedures to be implemented, all of them public libraries.

The City of New Orleans previously passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,059 authorizing 21 projects to be developed through design-build procedures.

The five libraries are Algiers Regional Library, Nora Navra Library, Norman Mayer Library, Robert E. Smith Library and New Orleans East Regional Library.

Director of Capital Projects Bill Chrisman came before the Council to give an explanation of the design-build method which expedites the City's recovery projects by streamlining the contracting process, making it possible for one company to get a combined contract for both the design and build of a project. Chrisman also gave brief updates on the construction of these five new libraries and timelines for completion.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "The construction of these libraries is a true testament to recovery in New Orleans. Through the design-build method teams of architects and contractors work together to expedite the completion of rebuilding projects throughout the City."

## *Supported New Orleans Mardi Gras Krewes*

As the three Special Orders of Business, the Council welcomed three Mardi Gras Krewes to the chamber.



*Members of the Krewe of Zulu*

Krewe of Zulu members, along with the King and Queen of Zulu, thanked the Council for their support and announced a newly opened exhibit in the Lakeside Shopping Mall which displays Zulu kings and Krewe members dating back to the early days of the organization in recognition of the Krewe's centennial year. Zulu members also gave details on the Coronation Ball and recognized the Krewe of Muses for their assistance and support of Zulu after Hurricane Katrina.



*Members of the Krewe of Muses*

Members of the Krewe of Muses appeared before the Council to speak about this year's parade theme and the Krewe's annual Honorary Muse. Councilmembers recognized the Krewe for its creativity and its inclusive membership open to all women over eighteen years old. The Muses representatives thanked the Council for their ongoing support of the Krewe.



*Members of the Krewe of Choctaw*

The Krewe of Choctaw was represented in the Chamber by several Krewe members who spoke about the Krewe's beginnings in Algiers and its upcoming 75th Anniversary. Krewe members highlighted the Krewe's upcoming river parade this Saturday, February 7th, which brings both East Bank and West Bank revelers together to enjoy Carnival festivities.

## 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.

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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

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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

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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 (8<sup>th</sup> 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.

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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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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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



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privacy considerations guaranteed by Article I, § 5 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974."<sup>2</sup>

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.*

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<sup>2</sup> 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."

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La.Const. Art. VI, §5(E) [Emphasis added].

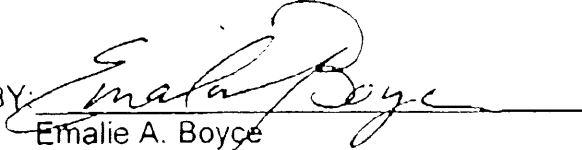
As our office stated in Atty. Gen. Op. No. 02-0258, a Home Rule Charter may impose more stringent requirements than the Louisiana Constitution or general law, but may not conflict with or supersede either.

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

Councilmembers Head and Midura  
To Introduce Legislation Re: City Take-Home Cars  
At Tomorrow's Regular Council Meeting

News Release

February 4, 2009

Contact:  
Jason Abate  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Stacy Head  
Ph: 504-658-1020

[jabate@cityofno.com](mailto:jabate@cityofno.com)

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City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - February 4, 2009 - In a January 30, 2009 response to the Inspector General's vehicle report, the administration cited ordinance "contradict[ion]" as a reason for failing to comply with the City ordinances prohibiting more than the administration's 50 take-home cars (excluding police and fire vehicles).


In an effort to clear any road-blocks to the administration's compliance with City ordinances related to legally-allowed take-home cars, Councilmembers Midura and Head plan to introduce an Ordinance at the City Council meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2009 that will reconcile the conflicting ordinances related to the domicile of City employees and take-home vehicles.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head stated, "This Ordinance should remove any argument that take-home vehicles are appropriate for administration employees residing outside of Orleans Parish."

She further stated that "This is not intended to penalize people for living outside the parish, but instead to ensure that administrative executives who choose to live outside of our Parish do not subject the City to liability, maintenance or gas costs based on that lifestyle decision."

Additionally, in order to draw focus on adherence to the 50 car rule, which would allow take-home vehicles for the 15 or so administrative department heads as well as additional vehicles for the Mayor's own use, the Councilmembers will introduce a Motion which calls on the administration to comply with the existing law and to turn over vehicles in excess of the quota by March 13, 2009.

The Fourth Quarter 2008 Take-Home Vehicle Report furnished to the City Council on January 30, 2009 by the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer of the Equipment Maintenance Division supports the findings of the Inspector General in the Interim Report on the Management of the Administrative Vehicle Fleet that the executive branch total of vehicles far exceeds the permitted quota by ordinance.



Councilmember Head continued, "After careful review it may even be possible to restrict the number of take-home vehicles further than 50. The public needs to remember that these actions have no bearing on pool vehicles. Pool vehicles should be available for City employee use including: the Department of Safety and Permits, Historic District Landmarks Commission (HDLC), and the Mayor's communications staff."

### **New Orleans City Council**

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Statement

February 10, 2009



**Council Vice President Fielkow Statement**  
**Re: Value of the New Orleans Saints and Hornets**

New Orleans, LA - February 10, 2009 - Today, Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow issued the following statement in response to the news that the State of Louisiana is expected to be more than \$27 million short of what it owes the New Orleans Saints and Hornets next year:

"The current debate which took place in Baton Rouge today regarding the benefit of keeping the NFL/New Orleans Saints and NBA/New Orleans Hornets in our community is one which I feel is unnecessary. There is no question that both the Saints and Hornets, and the Leagues in which they are members, bring tremendous benefit and value to the City of New Orleans, the State of Louisiana and the entire Gulf South region.

As a relatively small market in the context of professional sports, we are indeed fortunate to have two major league sports teams and they are a treasured asset that this community, state and region can ill afford to lose. Both teams have created an emotional attachment among the residents which is deep and very unifying. The community takes great pride in having these teams call New Orleans home, and a loss of either would create a huge void. One need only consider the events post-Katrina, i.e. the majestic night of the Superdome's reopening, record-season ticket sales for both teams and the emotional relief both clubs have provided in the face of a challenging quality of life environment, to fully appreciate the deep emotional impact these sports teams have among our citizens.

From an economic standpoint, both the Saints and Hornets provide an unparalleled return on investment to our community, both in terms of overall economic impact and direct financial benefits. The international and national advertising and publicity these clubs and their leagues bring to our city are things which we could never afford to purchase. Additionally, the potential for another Super Bowl in 2013 and hopefully again in future years would bring hundreds of millions of dollars of additional economic benefit to the community.

The bottom line is that the New Orleans Saints and New Orleans Hornets are part of the fabric of our community and need to remain here for the benefit of future generations. I am fully cognizant of the economic challenges being faced by our state and city, but hope that the decision-makers at both the state and franchise levels will be able to creatively formulate a revenue plan which will allow the current contractual agreements to be honored and for long-term partnerships to be created."

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Announcement

February 13, 2009



**Councilmember Willard-Lewis to Attend Demolition  
Of East New Orleans Regional Library  
On Monday Afternoon**

- What:** Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, along with other elected officials and community members, will attend the demolition of the East New Orleans Regional Library. The library was damaged by Katrina and will be replaced by a new regional library at the existing site. The new facility will be a three-story raised building with ground floor parking. The East New Orleans Regional Library is the only New Orleans Public Library east of the Industrial Canal.
- Who:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
Other Elected Officials  
Community Members
- When:** Monday, February 16, 2009  
2:30 p.m.
- Where:** 5641 Read Boulevard  
New Orleans East  
Click [here](#) for map
- Contact:** Clarence Bickham  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
Email: [cbickham@cityofno.com](mailto:cbickham@cityofno.com)  
Office: (504) 658-1050  
Cell: (504) 485-1979

## **New Orleans City Council**

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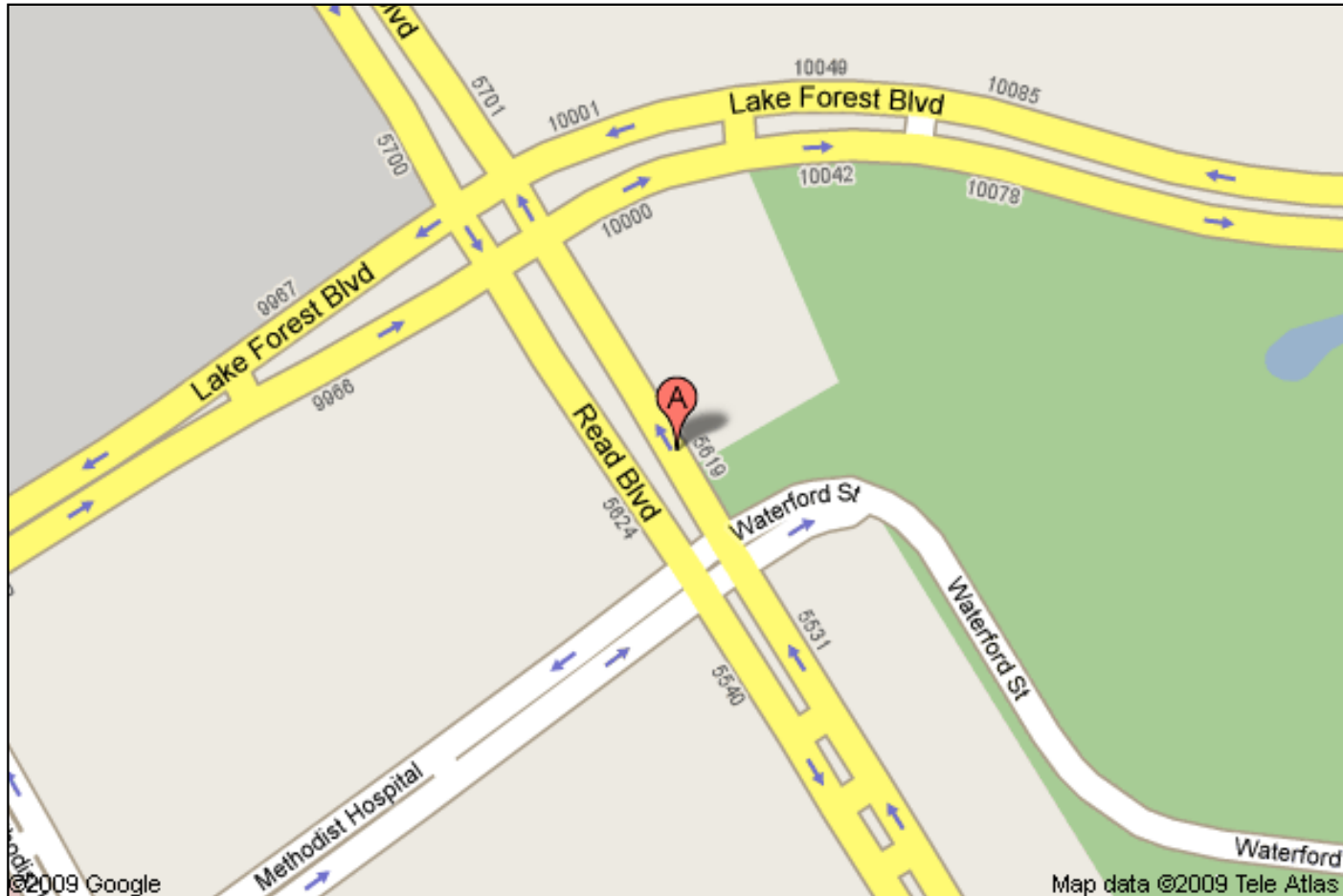
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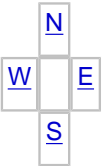
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**Councilmembers Fielkow and Clarkson Bring History of Plessy v. Ferguson  
To February 19th Regular Council Meeting**

*Presentation Commemorating  
Historic Supreme Court Case Plessy v. Ferguson  
Will be Broadcast on NOA-TV*

**News Release**

**February 16, 2009**

**Contact:**

Kate Schneiderman  
Office of Councilmember-at-  
Large

Arnie Fielkow

Ph: (504) 658-1060

[krschneiderman@cityofno.com](mailto:krschneiderman@cityofno.com)

[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - February 16, 2009 - Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow and Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, together with their Council colleagues, will offer New Orleans citizens a special opportunity to learn more about New Orleanian Homer Plessy and his central involvement in the landmark United States Supreme Court case Plessy v. Ferguson. The case is customarily cited as the beginning of the modern civil rights movement in the United States.

In a special presentation before the February 19th Regular City Council meeting, Professor Keith Weldon Medley, author of *We As Freeman*, will lead the program with his narrative and visual presentation that explores Homer Plessy's life and the Plessy v. Ferguson 1896 Supreme Court case. Narratives and a PowerPoint presentation will offer the viewing public an extraordinary opportunity to hear this intriguing story, perfectly timed to coincide with Black History Month.

Council Vice President Fielkow said, "The Plessy v. Ferguson court case is one of the most important events in our nation's history and drastically affected civil rights in our country for years. New Orleans played a central role in this history and I feel strongly that we must share this rich history with all New Orleans citizens, especially our youth."

Invitations to attend the presentation in the City Council Chamber have been extended to the schools of the Recovery School District (RSD), Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) and the Algiers Charter School Association (ACSA).

"I hope our remembrance of this landmark civil rights case, which originated in New Orleans, will foster a renewed commitment to equal rights and opportunity for all people in our City," commented Council President Clarkson, who since 1992 has been involved in the effort to have the site of Homer Plessy's planned arrest on a New Orleans railcar commemorated.

Descendents of Mr. Plessy and Mr. Ferguson, Keith Plessy and Phoebe Ferguson, came together and formed the Plessy and Ferguson Foundation for Education and Outreach, with a mission to use public programs and the arts to teach the history of civil rights and the role of this particular case in American and New Orleans history. They have been invited to participate, as well.

The presentation will start at 9 a.m. on Thursday, February 19th in the City Council Chamber. New Orleans Access Television (NOA-TV) will broadcast the program on the government access channel.

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Statement

February 16, 2009



**Councilmember Fielkow Statement**

**Re: Mayor's Veto of Professional Services Contract Ordinance**

New Orleans, LA - February 16, 2009 - Today, Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow issued the following statement upon being notified of Mayor Nagin's Veto of Ordinance Number 23,288:

"I am disappointed, though not surprised, to learn of Mayor Nagin's veto of the Professional Services Contract Ordinance today. This legislation, to ensure that the City's competitive selection process for professional service contracts is in compliance with Louisiana's Open Meetings Law, was unanimously supported by the City Council at our February 5th Council meeting.

No new arguments have been advanced in the Mayor's veto and the Mayor's previous legal arguments against this legislation have twice been rejected by the Louisiana Attorney General.

This legislation simply requires our city's contracting process (both Mayor's and Council's) to fully comply with state law - it does not take away the right of the Mayor to craft the contract review process, nor does it infringe on the Mayor's Executive Powers.

This issue is about transparency, fairness and making our government more responsive to the people. I intend to ask the Council to consider overriding the veto at our February 19th meeting."

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Statement

February 17, 2009



**Councilmember Fielkow Statement  
Re: Mayor's New Proposed Executive Order  
Further Eroding Openness and Transparency  
In City Contracting Process**

New Orleans, LA - February 17, 2009 - Today, Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow issued the following statement upon learning of the Mayor's newly proposed Executive Order governing the city's professional service contracting process:

"On February 5th, the New Orleans City Council unanimously approved an Ordinance creating enhanced openness and transparency in both the Executive and Legislative branches of local government relating to the awarding of professional service contracts. This Ordinance, which was supported by a broad cross-section of the community and passed 7-0 by the Council, was vetoed by Mayor Nagin on February 12, 2009. In the Mayor's public statements on the issue, he himself justified his veto by saying he wanted openness and transparency in city government.

Regrettably, city officials learned today that the Administration placed an official notice in the back pages of Monday's Times Picayune Sports section outlining a proposed new Executive Order governing the city's professional service contracting process. The proposed new Executive Order would replace the current system of having a Selection Review Panel comprised of mayoral aides and outside appointees reviewing professional service contracts, a process which according to the Louisiana Attorney General, needs to be in compliance with the Louisiana Open Meeting laws. The Mayor's current process does not comply with the Louisiana Open Meeting law and was the basis for the Council's Ordinance on February 5th.

Under the proposed new Executive Order contained in Monday's Times Picayune back page, and in an effort to avoid the Louisiana Open Meetings laws, the Mayor, instead of embracing enhanced openness and transparency, has taken several steps backwards. The Mayor has returned the city's professional service contracting process to an era of closed door decision-making. Indeed, if the proposed new Executive Order goes into effect, the only individuals reviewing and consulting on the proposals will be employees appointed directly by the Mayor, namely the Chief Administrative Officer, the City Attorney and/or the Office of Recovery and Development Administration (ORDA) Director. Their evaluation of contracts and input to the Mayor may be either verbal or written, thus ensuring that the public, including the Inspector General, will now be totally excluded from the selection process.

The City Council's actions two weeks ago ensured that the contracting process would be open and transparent and that the public could be informed and engaged as to how their dollars are being used. Meetings would have been publicly noticed, citizens would have been able to view and participate and minutes of all meetings would have been kept. Sadly, despite the Mayor's stated intentions to achieve openness and transparency, his current actions contradict his words and negatively affect a citizen base which desperately seeks to have its city government operate in the sunshine.

Who loses in this?  
The public.

Who loses the most?  
Those in our community who have historically been shut out of the decision making process in this City, who have not shared in economic opportunities and who have historically competed on an uneven playing field.

This is what the Council's February 5th Ordinance was designed to combat.

I am confident that my Council colleagues will join me to override the Mayor's veto of Ordinance Cal. No. 23,388 this Thursday. The Ordinance passed by the unanimous Council at the February 5th City Council meeting is still relevant, even with the Mayor's newly proposed Executive Order.

I further urge citizens to express their outrage at the Administration's decision to effectively remove their voice from the awarding of professional service contracts.

In the words of President Barack Obama, spoken at his inauguration only a few weeks ago:

"[T]hose of us who manage the public's dollars will be held to account, to spend wisely, reform bad habits, and do our business in the light of day, because only then can we restore the vital trust between a people and their government." "

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Announcement

February 17, 2009

## Public Hearing Tomorrow To Address City Government Transparency Issues

**What:** Mayor Nagin will hold a public hearing tomorrow to address the following issues:

- Professional Services Contracts
- City take-home vehicles

**When:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009  
Noon

**Where:** City Council Chamber

For additional background information click [here](#).

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

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Statement

February 18, 2009



**Council President Clarkson Statement**  
**Re: Mayor's Public Hearing**  
**Concerning Professional Services Contracts and Take-Home Vehicles**

New Orleans, LA - February 18, 2009 - Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson has issued the following statement regarding the City's professional services contracting process addressed at the Mayor's public hearing today:

"At a public hearing this afternoon, Mayor Nagin outlined an executive order to suspend panel review of professional services contracts. I am strongly opposed to this executive order, which will have the effect of further excluding the public from a process that is already in need of greater transparency and accountability.

To paraphrase one public comment from today's hearing, the money that fuels city government does not belong to the Mayor. It does not belong to the City Council. It belongs to the people, and they have every right to see how it is spent.

On February 5, the Council voted unanimously to approve an ordinance that would open the professional services contracting process to greater public scrutiny. The Mayor vetoed this ordinance, saying it was an attempt by the legislative branch to take power from the executive branch. In fact, this legislation is an attempt to give greater power to the people. And I fully intend to vote to override the Mayor's veto at tomorrow's Council meeting to see that a more public process is etched into City law.

The public support for greater openness in the professional services contracting process today was overwhelming. In light of this, I urge the Mayor to consider rescinding his executive order, reinstate the selection review panel, and comply with the Council's ordinance."

---

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson also issued the following statement regarding city take-home vehicles addressed at the Mayor's public hearing today:

"On February 5, the City Council voted 7-0 to approve a motion requesting that the Mayor's Office adopt a plan to reduce the number of take-home vehicles used by city employees. This ordinance does not affect vehicles used by first responders or public safety officers. It affects only the "administrative fleet" of cars - those managed under the Mayor's Office, the Chief Administrator's Office, and the City Council.



Also during the February 5th Council meeting, a separate ordinance was introduced that would prevent city employees who live outside of Orleans Parish from possessing a take-home car. This ordinance is not expected to come up for vote before the full Council until March, after it has been thoroughly reviewed by the Governmental Affairs Committee.

Although I support considering policies that limit take-home car use for city workers domiciled outside of Orleans Parish, I believe an exemption should be given to public safety officers and first responders. I hope and expect that the Council will be able to work together in committee to arrive at legislation that is responsible, supports our first responders, and upholds our commitment to public safety."

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Media Advisory

February 18, 2009

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session  
Thursday, February 19th at 10 a.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 veto of Ordinance Calendar No. 27,069, adopted by the Council on February 5, 2009, requiring that the City's competitive selection process for professional service contracts be subject to Louisiana Open Meetings Law
- Report from FEMA informing the Council of their options regarding the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) which set flood levels throughout the City and therefore affect insurance rates
- Mardi Gras presentation featuring the Mardi Gras Indians
- Presentations honoring Ronnie Burns, Former President of the Sugar Bowl and Paul Valteau, Civil Sheriff for their service to the City

Additionally, beginning at 9 a.m. before the Council Meeting there will be a presentation commemorating the historic Supreme Court case Plessy vs. Ferguson.

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, February 19, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
Email: [rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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## City Council February 19, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

February 19, 2009

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[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

**New Orleans, LA - February 19, 2009** - Today, the New Orleans City Council unsuccessfully tried to override the Mayor's veto of Ordinance Calendar Number 27,069, which was adopted by the Council on February 5, 2009 and sought to require that the executive branch's competitive selection process regarding professional services contracts be subject to Louisiana Open Meetings Law.

The Council also honored leadership of the Sugar Bowl and the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation, and addressed a Mardi Gras presentation featuring the Mardi Gras Indians.

Additionally, a special presentation was given in the Council Chamber before the Council meeting on the 1896 landmark U.S. Supreme Court case Plessy vs. Ferguson.

### ***Addressed Ordinance Regarding Transparent Competitive Selection Process***

With only five Councilmembers present when the matter was addressed, the City Council was unsuccessful in its effort to override the Mayor's veto of Ordinance Calendar Number 27,069, which was originally adopted by the Council on February 5, 2009.

The veto override vote was four to override (Councilmembers Fielkow, Clarkson, Midura and Head), one recusal (Councilmember Hedge-Morrell) and two absent (Councilmembers Carter and Willard-Lewis).

The ordinance sought to mandate compliance with the state's Open

Meetings Law relative to the executive branch's competitive selection process for professional services contracts. Two weeks ago, the Council imposed the same requirement upon itself and the limited number of professional services contracts under its jurisdiction by amending the Council's Rules to impose the same requirement it sought to impose upon the executive branch.

In a related matter, the Administration placed an official notice in the back pages of Monday's Times Picayune Sports section outlining a proposed new Executive Order to suspend panel review of professional services contracts.

***Honored Sugar Bowl and Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation Leadership***

The Council honored Ronnie Burns, former President of the Sugar Bowl, for his dedication and service to the City of New Orleans.



***Richard Smith and Ronnie Burns***

Mr. Burns appeared before the Council along with Richard Smith, the current President of the Sugar Bowl.

Burns expressed his sincere gratitude to the Council for their support throughout the years and discussed the Sugar Bowl's upcoming 75th Anniversary, outlined the economic benefits that the Sugar Bowl brings to the City and highlighted some of the organizations community outreach activities.

The Council also honored Civil Sheriff Paul Valteau for his recent efforts on the Executive Committee of the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation (GNOSF) and for his service to the City throughout the years.



*Ron Gardner, Paul Valteau and Jay Cicero*

Sheriff Valteau appeared before the Council with GNOSF President Jay Cicero and GNOSF Board Chair Ron Gardner.

Sheriff Valteau has served for the past three years as the Chairman of the R +L Carriers New Orleans Bowl, and his leadership has been instrumental in the growth of the event in the hospitality community.

Sheriff Valteau thanked the Council for taking the opportunity to honor him and the Sports Foundation, and acknowledged Cicero and Gardner for their dedication and hard work with the GNOSF.

#### *Supported Mardi Gras Indians*



*Representatives of the Mardi Gras Indians*

Family members of Big Chief Tootie Montana and representatives of the Mardi Gras Indians came before the Council today to be recognized for their historical and cultural significance.

Big Chief Allison "Tootie" Montana was the oldest continuously masking Mardi Gras Indian in the City of New Orleans, masking for forty years.

The group spoke about the history and traditions of the Mardi Gras Indians and noted the importance of remembering and honoring that history.

The Council issued a proclamation declaring that the first day of Carnival Season 2009 and every year thereafter be designated as "Big Chief Tootie Montana Day."

The representatives thanked the Council for recognizing Tootie Montana and

his dedication to the Mardi Gras Indians and the City of New Orleans.

*Received Special Presentation on  
Historic Supreme Court Case Plessy vs. Ferguson*



*Students from Frederick Douglass, McDonogh 35  
and NOCCA schools with Professor Medley*

In a special presentation in the Council Chamber before the Council meeting, Professor Keith Weldon Medley, author of *We As Freeman*, led a program with narrative and visual presentations that explored Homer Plessy's life and the Plessy v. Ferguson 1896 Supreme Court case.

The case is customarily cited as the beginning of the modern civil rights movement in the United States.

The presentation, co-sponsored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Clarkson and timed to coincide with Black History Month, was attended by students from Frederick Douglass, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) and McDonogh 35 schools.

Council Vice President Fielkow said, "The Plessy v. Ferguson court case is one of the most important events in our nation's history and drastically affected civil rights in our country for years. New Orleans played a central role in this history and I feel strongly that we must share this rich history with all New Orleans citizens, especially our youth."

"I hope our remembrance of this landmark civil rights case, which originated in New Orleans, will foster a renewed commitment to equal rights and opportunity for all people in our City," commented Council President Clarkson, who since 1992 has been involved in the effort to have the site of Homer Plessy's planned arrest on a New Orleans railcar commemorated.

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News Release

February 19, 2009

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Big Chief Allison "Tootie" Montana was the oldest continuously masking Mardi Gras Indian in the City of New Orleans, masking for forty years.

The group spoke about the history and traditions of the Mardi Gras Indians and noted the importance of remembering and honoring that history.

The Council issued a proclamation declaring that the first day of Carnival Season 2009 and every year thereafter be designated as "Big Chief Tootie Montana Day."

The representatives thanked the Council for recognizing Tootie Montana and

his dedication to the Mardi Gras Indians and the City of New Orleans.

*Received Special Presentation on  
Historic Supreme Court Case Plessy vs. Ferguson*



*Students from Frederick Douglass, McDonogh 35  
and NOCCA schools with Professor Medley*

In a special presentation in the Council Chamber before the Council meeting, Professor Keith Weldon Medley, author of *We As Freeman*, led a program with narrative and visual presentations that explored Homer Plessy's life and the Plessy v. Ferguson 1896 Supreme Court case.

The case is customarily cited as the beginning of the modern civil rights movement in the United States.

The presentation, co-sponsored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Clarkson and timed to coincide with Black History Month, was attended by students from Frederick Douglass, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) and McDonogh 35 schools.

Council Vice President Fielkow said, "The Plessy v. Ferguson court case is one of the most important events in our nation's history and drastically affected civil rights in our country for years. New Orleans played a central role in this history and I feel strongly that we must share this rich history with all New Orleans citizens, especially our youth."

"I hope our remembrance of this landmark civil rights case, which originated in New Orleans, will foster a renewed commitment to equal rights and opportunity for all people in our City," commented Council President Clarkson, who since 1992 has been involved in the effort to have the site of Homer Plessy's planned arrest on a New Orleans railcar commemorated.

Descendents of Mr. Plessy and Mr. Ferguson, Keith Plessy and Phoebe Ferguson, came together and formed the Plessy and Ferguson Foundation for Education and Outreach, with a mission to use public programs and the arts to teach the history of civil rights and the role of this particular case in American and New Orleans history.

## New Orleans City Council

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Announcement

February 23, 2009



**Council President Clarkson  
To Ride on the Original "Hello Dolly!" Broadway Carriage  
In Orpheus Tonight**

**WHAT:** Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will ride in Orpheus tonight on the original "Hello Dolly!" carriage used in the Broadway production of the musical. Orpheus Captain Sony Borey asked the Council President to ride the carriage under the theme of "Hello Jackie! It's nice to have you back where you belong!" honoring her return to the Council after two years out of politics. The Council President will be joined by members of her family and staff.

**WHEN:** Monday, February 23, 2009  
5:45 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Orpheus parade follows the traditional Uptown route, beginning at Napoleon Ave. and Tchoupitoulas St., turning down St. Charles Ave., running down Canal St. and ending at the Convention Center.

**CONTACT:** Jacquelyn Cole  
Director of Communications  
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
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Cell: (504) 577-3600  
Email: [jlcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jlcole@cityofno.com)

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## City Council Reconvenes Recessed February 19, 2009 Regular Meeting

News Release

February 26, 2009

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

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New Orleans, LA - February 26, 2009 - Today the New Orleans City Council reconvened its recessed February 19, 2009 regular meeting in the Council Chamber.

At the suggestion of the Ordinance's lead author Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow, reconsideration of overriding the Mayor's veto of Ordinance Calendar Number 27,069, requiring compliance with the state's Open Meetings Law relative to the executive branch's competitive selection process for professional services contracts, was not brought up, and the meeting was adjourned.

Following the meeting a discussion on race relations in the City ensued. Councilmembers, community leaders and citizens participated in the discussion, voicing their concerns and opinions on the subject.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell proposed a symposium on race, to take place later this year. Hedge-Morrell took the lead to schedule the event in conjunction with the Urban League of Greater New Orleans.

AmericaSpeaks, a national group involved in post-Katrina planning in the City, will organize a series of meetings aimed at bringing together African American, white, Hispanic and Asian neighborhood, religious and community leaders to discuss race relations challenges in the City.

Councilmembers and community leaders will be invited to participate in the event as well.



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## City Council Reconvenes Recessed February 19, 2009 Regular Meeting

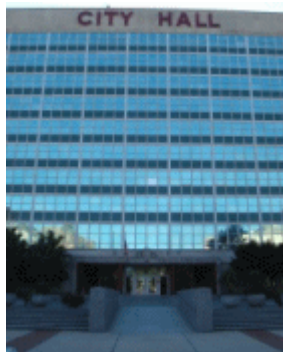
News Release

February 26, 2009

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Announcement

February 27, 2009

## Councilmembers Clarkson and Carter To Join in Grand Reopening of Lakewood Country Club this Morning

**What:** Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson and District "C" Councilmember James Carter will join leaders of Lakewood Country Club this morning for the grand reopening of the celebrated Lakewood Golf Course on the Westbank of New Orleans.

The course, originally constructed in 1961, was once a premier golf course in Louisiana, hosting 26 New Orleans Opens. On the verge of bankruptcy in 2003, the facility and surrounding land was purchased by the New Orleans Firefighters Pension Fund. Since that time, the course has undergone an extensive, \$9 million renovation. This development is only the first phase in a master plan that calls for an upscale golf resort, a 4-star luxury hotel, condominiums and more.

Council President Clarkson was intimately involved with the development of Lakewood during her time serving as District "C" Councilmember and has remained involved as Councilmember-at-Large. Councilmember Carter has likewise remained involved in this vital rehabilitation as Algiers' District Councilmember.

**When:** Friday, February 27, 2009  
11:00 a.m.

**Where:** Lakewood Country Club  
4801 General De Gaulle Dr., Algiers  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Contact:** Jacquelyn Cole  
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
Ph: (504) 658-1070  
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## NOLA Council News

February 28, 2009 Vol. 2, No. 4

Click [here](#) to view full Newsletter or click on links below to view individual articles.

- [City Council Reconvenes Recessed February 19, 2009 Regular Meeting](#)
- [City Council February 19, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary](#)
- [Receives Special Presentation on Historic Supreme Court Case Plessy vs. Ferguson](#)
- [Council President Clarkson Statement Re: Mayor's Public Hearing Concerning Professional Services Contracts and Take-Home Vehicles](#)
- [Councilmember Willard-Lewis Attends Demolition of East New Orleans Regional Library](#)
- [Councilmembers Head and Midura Introduce Legislation Re: City Take-Home Cars](#)
- [Supports Transparent Competitive Selection Process](#)
- [City Council February 5, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary](#)
- [Councilmember Carter Congratulates Students and Teachers of Algiers Charter Schools on their Outstanding Achievements](#)
- [Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow Statement Re: Enhanced French Quarter Sanitation Services](#)



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Media Advisory

February 4, 2009

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**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session  
Thursday, February 5th at 10 a.m.  
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

**What:** Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Legislation to require that the City's competitive selection process for professional service contracts be subject to Louisiana Open Meetings Law
- Resolution urging the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development and FEMA take immediate action to extend for one year the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP) for Louisiana residents still in need after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
- Resolution requesting the Council Utilities Regulatory Office investigate and report on the cost, feasibility and any related issues regarding the implementation of wireless internet services in the Council Chamber
- Ordinance expediting the construction of five libraries throughout the City
- Mardi Gras Presentations featuring the Krewe of Zulu, Krewe of Muses and Krewe of Choctaw

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, February 5, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
Email: [rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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Council Vice President Fielkow's Legislation  
Ensuring More Transparent City Contract Competitive Selection Process  
To Come Up for Vote at Tomorrow's Council Meeting

*Legislation Requires Mayor and Council Professional Services Contracting Process  
To be Subject to State Open Meetings Law*

News Release

February 4, 2009

Contact:  
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New Orleans, LA - February 4, 2009 - Tomorrow, at the regular City Council meeting, Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow's legislation to ensure that the city's competitive selection process for professional service contracts is subject to Louisiana's Open Meetings Law will come up for final vote. The legislation calls for further openness and transparency by both the Executive and Legislative branches of City

Government.

Council Vice President Fielkow said, "Any time we talk about awarding public dollars for city contracted services, it should be done in a totally open process to the public. Unfortunately, this has not been the case for the professional services contracting process in New Orleans city government. My legislation calls for the City of New Orleans to embrace transparency and openness in its contracting processes and make this process subject to the required Louisiana Open Meetings Law."

The two pieces of legislation to be voted on tomorrow are:

- An Ordinance requiring that the Executive Branch of City Government, through its professional service contracting process, comply with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law
- A Motion which mandates that the City Council, in its professional service contracting process, also fully comply with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law

The legislation was originally introduced and endorsed by the Council's Governmental Affairs Committee on July 7, 2008. The Louisiana Attorney General, prompted by a request from the Council, rendered an advisory opinion that meetings involving the awarding of professional services contracts are indeed subject to the Louisiana Open Meetings Law. See the Louisiana Attorney General's advisory opinion in full [here](#).

Mayor Nagin's Administration requested a reconsideration by the Attorney General of his advisory opinion in late October 2008. On January 9, 2009 the Louisiana Attorney General reaffirmed its original opinion. See the Louisiana Attorney General's reaffirmed opinion in full [here](#).

Fielkow added, "New Orleans is making great strides towards further openness and efficiency in city government. However, every public dollar the City spends must be accounted for and citizens deserve to know where their money is being spent. This legislation is simply another incremental step towards ensuring greater operational transparency for the benefit of all citizens of New Orleans."

The Bureau of Government Research (BGR), the New Orleans Office of Inspector General (OIG), Mayor Nagin's "Bring New Orleans Back" Commission and "Forward New Orleans: A Set of Principles" from the New Orleans Business Council have all repeatedly called for a standardized and transparent professional services contracting process in New Orleans. Council Vice President Fielkow's legislation directly addresses the concerns and wishes of good government and citizen groups.

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and Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; Council Vice-President and 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.

Councilmembers Head and Midura  
To Introduce Legislation Re: City Take-Home Cars  
At Tomorrow's Regular Council Meeting

News Release

February 4, 2009

Contact:  
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Councilmember  
Stacy Head  
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New Orleans, LA - February 4, 2009 - In a January 30, 2009 response to the Inspector General's vehicle report, the administration cited ordinance "contradict[ion]" as a reason for failing to comply with the City ordinances prohibiting more than the administration's 50 take-home cars (excluding police and fire vehicles).


In an effort to clear any road-blocks to the administration's compliance with City ordinances related to legally-allowed take-home cars, Councilmembers Midura and Head plan to introduce an Ordinance at the City Council meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2009 that will reconcile the conflicting ordinances related to the domicile of City employees and take-home vehicles.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head stated, "This Ordinance should remove any argument that take-home vehicles are appropriate for administration employees residing outside of Orleans Parish."

She further stated that "This is not intended to penalize people for living outside the parish, but instead to ensure that administrative executives who choose to live outside of our Parish do not subject the City to liability, maintenance or gas costs based on that lifestyle decision."

Additionally, in order to draw focus on adherence to the 50 car rule, which would allow take-home vehicles for the 15 or so administrative department heads as well as additional vehicles for the Mayor's own use, the Councilmembers will introduce a Motion which calls on the administration to comply with the existing law and to turn over vehicles in excess of the quota by March 13, 2009.

The Fourth Quarter 2008 Take-Home Vehicle Report furnished to the City Council on January 30, 2009 by the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer of the Equipment Maintenance Division supports the findings of the Inspector General in the Interim Report on the Management of the Administrative Vehicle Fleet that the executive branch total of vehicles far exceeds the permitted quota by ordinance.



Councilmember Head continued, "After careful review it may even be possible to restrict the number of take-home vehicles further than 50. The public needs to remember that these actions have no bearing on pool vehicles. Pool vehicles should be available for City employee use including: the Department of Safety and Permits, Historic District Landmarks Commission (HDLC), and the Mayor's communications staff."

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City Council February 5, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

February 5, 2009

Contact:  
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**New Orleans, LA - February 5, 2009** - Today the New Orleans City Council passed a Motion and an Ordinance requiring that the City's competitive selection process for professional services contracts comply with the Louisiana Open Meetings law, and a Motion requesting that the Administration come into compliance with the law on the Executive Branch's number of take-home vehicles.

The Council also introduced an Ordinance to reconcile the conflicting ordinances related to the domicile of City employees and take-home vehicles, and voted to override the Mayor's veto of an Ordinance pertaining to the 2009 Budget funding allocation for the Youth Study Center.

Additionally, the Council passed legislation urging the extension of the Disaster Housing Assistance Program, requesting a report on the cost and feasibility of the implementation of wireless internet services in the Council Chamber, and expediting the construction of five libraries throughout the City.

Councilmembers also addressed Mardi Gras presentations by the Krewe of Zulu, Krewe of Muses, and Krewe of Choctaw.

## *Supported Transparent Competitive Selection Process*



*Leonard Odom, Interim Inspector General; Michael Cowan, Ethics Review Board; Bob Brown, Business Council; Janet Howard, Bureau of Governmental Research; David Marcello, The Public Law Center; Greg Rusovich, Business Council*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,069 and Motion M-08-380, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, requiring that both the Executive and Legislative branches of City Government, in their professional service contracting processes, comply with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law.

Councilmember Arnie Fielkow said, "This legislation calls for further openness and transparency by both the Executive and Legislative branches of City Government when dealing with professional service contracts and the awarding of public dollars. It is critical that this is done in a totally open process to the public."

The Louisiana Attorney General rendered an advisory opinion that meetings involving the awarding of professional services contracts are subject to the Louisiana Open Meetings Law. See the Attorney General's advisory opinion in full [here](#).

Mayor Nagin's Administration requested a reconsideration by the Attorney General of his advisory opinion and the Attorney General reaffirmed its original opinion. See the Attorney General's reaffirmed opinion in full [here](#).

Interim Inspector General Leonard Odom, along with representatives from the Bureau of Governmental Research (BGR), the New Orleans Business Council, the Ethics Review Board, the Public Law Center, and other good government and citizen groups came before the Council to give their opinions and recommendations on the matter.

Click [here](#) to view an additional News Release on these legislative instruments.

## *Addressed Take-Home Cars Compliance*

The Council passed Motion M-09-49, co-authored by Councilmembers Midura and Head, requesting that the Mayor present on or before March 13th a plan for compliance with the City Code mandating that the executive branch assign no more than 50 take-home cars to employees.

The Motion also states that the plan must: designate which of the current take-home vehicles should be considered the 50 take-home vehicles permitted by the City Code, provide protocol for the disposition of the vehicles in excess of the quota, and establish an official policy to determine which posts within City government will be permitted the use of take-home vehicles.



*Julie Schwam Harris,  
Intergovernmental Relations*

Julie Schwam Harris of the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations presented the Administration's opinion on the matter, stating that the Administration is taking a systematic approach to evaluating whether or not 50 take-home vehicles is an adequate number to meet the needs of the Executive Branch.

Adherence to the 50 car rule would allow take-home vehicles for the approximately 15 administrative department heads as well as additional vehicles for the Mayor's own use.

Councilmembers Midura and Head also introduced Ordinance Calendar No. 27,254 to reconcile the conflicting ordinances related to the domicile of City employees and take-home vehicles.

In a January 30, 2009 response to the Inspector General's vehicle report, the administration cited ordinance "contradict[ion]" as a reason for failing to comply with the City ordinances prohibiting more than the administration's 50 take-home cars.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head stated, "This Ordinance should remove any argument that take-home vehicles are appropriate for administration employees residing outside of Orleans Parish. This is intended to ensure that administrative executives who choose to live outside of our Parish do not subject the City to liability, maintenance or gas costs based on that lifestyle decision."

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## *Supports Funding for the Youth Study Center*



*Bill Chrisman,  
Director of Capital Projects*

The Council voted to override the Mayor's veto of Ordinance Calendar No. 27,303, authored by Councilmember Midura, requiring that prior to expenditure of the 2009 Budget funds appropriated for the Youth Study Center, Capital Projects and Human Services present the conceptual design submission of the Youth Study Center to the Criminal Justice Committee for approval prior to entering into the construction document phase of the project.

Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "We should exercise our responsibility as legislators over the redevelopment of this very important facility. We must collaborate with national experts to implement national best practices in the redevelopment of this facility to ensure that we have all the necessary tools to improve the lives of youth while advancing the interests of public safety."

Director of Capital Projects Bill Chrisman came before the Council to reaffirm his support of the Ordinance and the incorporation of best practices into the Youth Study Center, and to emphasize the need for additional funding to properly rebuild the facility.

## *Urged Extension of Recovery Housing Program*



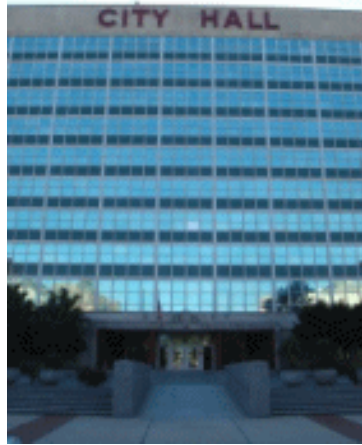
The Council passed Resolution R-09-50, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Midura, urging the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and FEMA take immediate action to extend for one year the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP).

The program, administered by HUD and FEMA, assists Louisiana residents still in need after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The rental assistance provided under DHAP has been instrumental in allowing Louisiana families to remain in their local communities while the state and federal governments work to stabilize the affordable housing market.

Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow said, "DHAP is currently scheduled to end on February 28th, potentially placing thousands of high-risk families including elderly, disabled and families with children, at risk of homelessness. The short-term extension of this program will allow the state to work with the federal government to assess the needs of the remaining

households, assist the transition of families out of the program, and develop a plan to support those with outstanding needs."

### ***Explored Implementation of Wireless Internet in Council Chamber***



The Council passed Resolution R-09-51, coauthored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Midura, to assess the feasibility of implementation of wireless internet services in the Council Chamber.

The Resolution requests that the Director of the Council Utilities Regulatory Office investigate the cost and any related issues regarding implementation of wireless internet in the Chamber and report back to the Council's Cable & Telecommunications Committee within 45 days with a report on these items.

### ***Expedited the Construction of Five Libraries***



*Councilmember-at-Large  
Clarkson*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,324, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, to add five additional projects to the list of approved projects to permit design-build procedures to be implemented, all of them public libraries.

The City of New Orleans previously passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,059 authorizing 21 projects to be developed through design-build procedures.

The five libraries are Algiers Regional Library, Nora Navra Library, Norman Mayer Library, Robert E. Smith Library and New Orleans East Regional Library.

Director of Capital Projects Bill Chrisman came before the Council to give an explanation of the design-build method which expedites the City's recovery projects by streamlining the contracting process, making it possible for one company to get a combined contract for both the design and build of a project. Chrisman also gave brief updates on the construction of these five new libraries and timelines for completion.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "The construction of these libraries is a true testament to recovery in New Orleans. Through the design-build method teams of architects and contractors work together to expedite the completion of rebuilding projects throughout the City."

## *Supported New Orleans Mardi Gras Krewes*

As the three Special Orders of Business, the Council welcomed three Mardi Gras Krewes to the chamber.



*Members of the Krewe of Zulu*

Krewe of Zulu members, along with the King and Queen of Zulu, thanked the Council for their support and announced a newly opened exhibit in the Lakeside Shopping Mall which displays Zulu kings and Krewe members dating back to the early days of the organization in recognition of the Krewe's centennial year. Zulu members also gave details on the Coronation Ball and recognized the Krewe of Muses for their assistance and support of Zulu after Hurricane Katrina.



*Members of the Krewe of Muses*

Members of the Krewe of Muses appeared before the Council to speak about this year's parade theme and the Krewe's annual Honorary Muse. Councilmembers recognized the Krewe for its creativity and its inclusive membership open to all women over eighteen years old. The Muses representatives thanked the Council for their ongoing support of the Krewe.



*Members of the Krewe of Choctaw*

The Krewe of Choctaw was represented in the Chamber by several Krewe members who spoke about the Krewe's beginnings in Algiers and its upcoming 75th Anniversary. Krewe members highlighted the Krewe's upcoming river parade this Saturday, February 7th, which brings both East Bank and West Bank revelers together to enjoy Carnival festivities.

## New Orleans City Council

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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  
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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

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Mr. Steven J. Lane  
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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 (8<sup>th</sup> 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.

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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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.



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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

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privacy considerations guaranteed by Article I, § 5 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974."<sup>2</sup>

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.*

---

<sup>2</sup> 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."

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La.Const. Art. VI, §5(E) [Emphasis added].

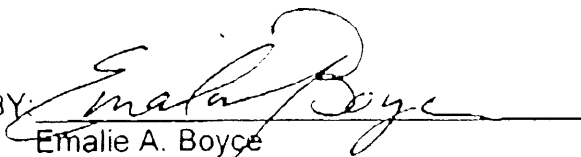
As our office stated in Atty. Gen. Op. No. 02-0258, a Home Rule Charter may impose more stringent requirements than the Louisiana Constitution or general law, but may not conflict with or supersede either.

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

Councilmembers Head and Midura  
To Introduce Legislation Re: City Take-Home Cars  
At Tomorrow's Regular Council Meeting

News Release

February 4, 2009

Contact:  
Jason Abate  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Stacy Head  
Ph: 504-658-1020

[jabate@cityofno.com](mailto:jabate@cityofno.com)

[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - February 4, 2009 - In a January 30, 2009 response to the Inspector General's vehicle report, the administration cited ordinance "contradict[ion]" as a reason for failing to comply with the City ordinances prohibiting more than the administration's 50 take-home cars (excluding police and fire vehicles).


In an effort to clear any road-blocks to the administration's compliance with City ordinances related to legally-allowed take-home cars, Councilmembers Midura and Head plan to introduce an Ordinance at the City Council meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2009 that will reconcile the conflicting ordinances related to the domicile of City employees and take-home vehicles.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head stated, "This Ordinance should remove any argument that take-home vehicles are appropriate for administration employees residing outside of Orleans Parish."

She further stated that "This is not intended to penalize people for living outside the parish, but instead to ensure that administrative executives who choose to live outside of our Parish do not subject the City to liability, maintenance or gas costs based on that lifestyle decision."

Additionally, in order to draw focus on adherence to the 50 car rule, which would allow take-home vehicles for the 15 or so administrative department heads as well as additional vehicles for the Mayor's own use, the Councilmembers will introduce a Motion which calls on the administration to comply with the existing law and to turn over vehicles in excess of the quota by March 13, 2009.

The Fourth Quarter 2008 Take-Home Vehicle Report furnished to the City Council on January 30, 2009 by the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer of the Equipment Maintenance Division supports the findings of the Inspector General in the Interim Report on the Management of the Administrative Vehicle Fleet that the executive branch total of vehicles far exceeds the permitted quota by ordinance.



Councilmember Head continued, "After careful review it may even be possible to restrict the number of take-home vehicles further than 50. The public needs to remember that these actions have no bearing on pool vehicles. Pool vehicles should be available for City employee use including: the Department of Safety and Permits, Historic District Landmarks Commission (HDLC), and the Mayor's communications staff."

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Announcement

February 6, 2009



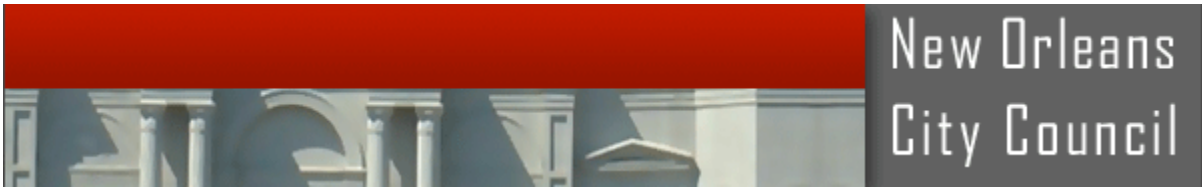
**Councilmember Head  
To Lead Neighborhood Clean-Up  
In Gert Town Tomorrow**

- WHAT:** Councilmember Stacy Head will lead a neighborhood clean-up in Gert Town tomorrow. Community members are invited to attend and assist in the clean-up activities.
- WHEN:** Saturday, February 7, 2009  
7:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Greater King Solomon Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
3221 Audubon St.  
(Click [here](#) to view map)
- CONTACT:** Barbara Lacen Keller  
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
Office: (504) 658-1020  
Email: [blacenkeller@cityofno.com](mailto:blacenkeller@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory

February 9, 2009

**Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee  
To Address Tax Increment Financing Policy  
In Hearing Tomorrow Morning**

**What:** The Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee hearing will be solely devoted to reviewing recommendations for a New Orleans Tax Increment Financing (TIF) policy.

TIF is a tool to use future gains in taxes to finance the current improvements that will create those gains. Tax Increment Financing creates funding for public projects that may otherwise be unaffordable to localities, and dedicates tax increments within a certain defined district to finance debt issued to pay for projects. TIF is designed to channel funding toward improvements in distressed or underdeveloped areas where development would not otherwise occur.

In 1988 the State of Louisiana passed legislation known as the Louisiana Tax Development Act, which allows parishes to develop and implement TIF programs. Since 1988 the City of New Orleans has only implemented two TIF projects. TIF projects are nationally known and frequently used to stimulate economic development within selected areas of a community.

The City of New Orleans engaged PGAV Urban Consulting to review the current draft TIF policies and procedures that were developed in May 2008.

**When:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests  
- Terry Beitner, PGAV Urban Consulting  
- Gary Elkins, Elkins PLC  
- Selim Berkol, HRI

Committee Members  
- Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow  
- District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
- District "E" Councilmember Willard-Lewis

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](mailto:krschneiderman@cityofno.com)

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### **New Orleans City Council**

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## City Council Investigates Council Emails Sent to Local Attorney By Sanitation Director without Legal Review

News Release

March 3, 2009

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff

Ph: (504) 658-1082

[rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

[New Orleans  
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Join Our Mailing List!

New Orleans, LA - March 3, 2009 - New Orleans City Attorney Penya Moses-Fields has informed the City Council that Councilmember emails have been made available to local lawyer, Tracie Washington, at her request. Washington filed a public records request for these documents, but instead of working through the City Attorney's Office, which normally reviews public records requests, Washington obtained these records from Sanitation Department Director Veronica White.

The release of the emails was done without the Council's knowledge or consent and without prior review of the content for information of a privileged and confidential nature. This content might include attorney-client communications, the personal information of constituents, information on pending litigation, and information relating to the federal investigation surrounding New Orleans Affordable Homeownership (NOAH).

Today, the City Council's special counsel, Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar, notified Councilmembers that the release of these Council emails may constitute a serious breach of legal rights and protections afforded the City Council, its constituents, and the City of New Orleans.

The City Council is expected to take the matter up in Executive Session Thursday to decide how to best protect the interests of the public, the City, and the Council.

Because of the subject matter of this issue, media calls are being referred to Steven J. Lane, Attorney and Managing Partner, Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar, (504) 680-0527, [slane@hkc.com](mailto:slane@hkc.com).

### **New Orleans City Council**

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Media Advisory

March 3, 2009

**Recovery Committee  
To Receive Updates on New Orleans' Regional Parks  
In Afternoon Session Tomorrow**

**What:** At the request of Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, Ann McDonald, Director of Parks and Parkways, and a representative from MWH will appear before the Recovery Committee tomorrow to give a report on New Orleans' three regional parks - Brechtel Park, Joe Brown Park, and Bartholomew Park.

**When:** Wednesday, March 4, 2009  
2:00 p.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests  
- Ann McDonald, Director of Parks and Parkways  
- Keely Thibodeaux, MWH representative

Committee Members  
- Co-Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson  
- Co-Chair: District "E" Councilmember Willard-Lewis  
- District "A" Councilmember Midura  
- District "B" Councilmember Head  
- District "C" Councilmember Carter  
- 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) 577-3600  
Email: [jlcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jlcole@cityofno.com)

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Council President Clarkson  
To Give Testimony on Coastal Erosion Today  
Before the Mississippi River Fresh Water Diversion Summit  
In New Orleans

News Release

March 4, 2009

Contact:

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Office of  
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Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
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Cell: 504-577-3600  
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New Orleans  
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New Orleans, LA - March 4, 2009 - Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will appear before the Mississippi River Fresh Water Diversion Summit today to urge the Corps of Engineers to consider using large scale diversions to restore Louisiana's coastline.

"Hurricane protection is not just about levees, it is about rebuilding our coastline, and large scale diversions are the key to that," said Council President Clarkson.

Large scale diversions would redirect the Mississippi River to flow through parts of South Louisiana, carrying sediment and fresh water with it - both of which sustain and rebuild wetlands. These diversions are widely seen by experts across the country as key to restoring Louisiana's coastline and to building real hurricane protection.

Councilmember Clarkson continued, "The crucial requirement for large-scale diversions designed to both maintain navigation and provide critical elements of restoration and protection is essential. The support of opinions from engineers and scientists throughout the country mandates this conclusion with little margin for dispute."

Such diversions were not necessary in the 1800s and early 1900s because the Mississippi River naturally spread freshwater and sediment throughout southeast Louisiana, building and sustaining the swamps and marshes. However, as the Mississippi River was contained with channels, this spreading ceased. Now, the river's freshwater, nutrients and

the sediment are funneled straight into the Gulf of Mexico.

Coastal Louisiana has lost more than 1,875 square miles of land between 1932 and 2000 this way. Eighty years ago, New Orleans was 54 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. If no effort is made to restore the coastline, experts predict New Orleans will be less than 20 miles from the Gulf by 2050.

Louisiana's Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority has advocated for the construction of large scale diversions to sustain and build wetlands since the release of its Masterplan, which was commissioned by the Louisiana Legislature in 2005.

Council President Clarkson will be the only official from Orleans Parish present today to petition the Corps for this vital protection.

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## Civil District Court Judge Prohibits Release of Council Emails

*Temporary Restraining Order Granted  
And March 12th Hearing Set for Preliminary Injunction*

News Release

March 4, 2009

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff

Ph: (504) 658-1082

[rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans, LA - March 4, 2009 - At the Council's request, this morning a temporary restraining order was granted by Orleans Civil District Court Judge Lloyd Medley to prohibit the public release of City Council emails. A hearing on the preliminary injunction is set for 10 a.m., March 12, 2009. Present in court today on the Council's behalf were representatives of the City Council's special counsel Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar. Representatives of the City Attorney's Office were also present in support of the Council's request.

The City Council filed the request for a temporary restraining order to prevent local lawyer Tracie Washington from disseminating Councilmember emails made available to her, at her request, by Sanitation Department Director Veronica White.

The release of the emails to Washington was done without the Council's knowledge or consent and without prior review of the content for information of a privileged and confidential nature.

Yesterday, the Council's special counsel notified Councilmembers that the release of these Council emails may constitute a serious breach of legal rights and protections afforded the City Council, its constituents, and the City of New Orleans.

The City Council is expected to take the matter up in Executive Session at its Regular Council Meeting tomorrow.

Because of the subject matter of this issue, media calls are being referred to Steven J. Lane, Attorney and Managing Partner, Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar, (504) 680-0527, [slane@hhkc.com](mailto:slane@hhkc.com).



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Media Advisory

March 4, 2009

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session  
Thursday, March 5th at 10 a.m.  
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

**What:** Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Report from FEMA informing the Council of their options regarding the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) which set flood levels throughout the City and therefore affect insurance rates
- Presentation from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Louisiana Chapter, on the challenges Multiple Sclerosis constituents face
- Ordinance relative to the prohibition on out of parish use of city owned or leased vehicles and to provide clarification that the administration has the ability to set policy as needed relative to take-home vehicles

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, March 5, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
Email: [rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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## City Council March 5, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

March 5, 2009

Contact:

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

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New Orleans, LA - March 5, 2009 - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed an Ordinance relative to the prohibition on out of parish use of city owned or leased vehicles, and held an Executive Session to address pending litigation and security plans relative to the possible creation of an independent Management Information Services system for the Council.

The Council also received a report from FEMA, informing the Council of their options regarding the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) which set flood levels throughout the City and therefore affect insurance rates.

Additionally, the Council received a presentation from the Louisiana Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society on the challenges those afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis face.

### *Addressed Take-Home Vehicles Policy*



Councilmember Head

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,381, authored by Councilmember Head, to repeal Section 2-901 of the City Code. Section 2-901 prohibited any out of parish use of city owned or leased vehicles.

The Ordinance provides clarification regarding the administration's role in setting policy pertaining to take-home vehicles.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "As a Council we continuously work to ensure transparency and accountability in government. This Ordinance provides clarification on the City's take-home vehicles policy and affirms that the administration has the ability to set policy as needed relative to take-home cars."

### *Evaluated New Options on Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps*



**FEMA**

Michael Honeycutt of FEMA came before the Council to present four new options regarding the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM), which set the flood levels throughout the City and affect insurance rates of New Orleans citizens.

The four options given to the Councilmembers were:

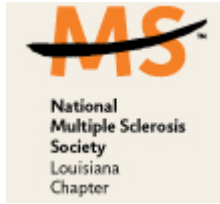
1. Use existing maps
2. Continue with the Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs) recently adopted after hurricanes Katrina and Rita
3. Adopt the Preliminary DFIRMs data for compliance only
4. Adopt new DFIRMS through the normal adoption process

After reviewing the information presented by FEMA, the Council chose option two, which Councilmembers believe best protects the interests of all citizens.

By choosing to continue with the Advisory Base Flood Elevations, New Orleans citizens will still be protected from substantial damage caused by hurricanes of sizes comparable to Rita and Katrina.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "We appreciate FEMA taking the time to present this detailed and comprehensive report to us. It is important that we ensure an equitable and fair assessment of flood levels around the City so that our citizens are not faced with unnecessarily high insurance costs on their properties."

### *Received Presentation on Multiple Sclerosis*



Crystal Smith, Director of the Louisiana Chapter of Multiple Sclerosis, appeared before the Council to give a presentation and to promote M.S. Week, taking place from March 2nd to March 8th.

During M.S. Week, the Louisiana chapter is asking the New Orleans community to join the movement to "Move-It to End MS" with simple actions throughout the week to spread the word and raise awareness.

The Chapter Members also gave a "Try on M.S." presentation explaining the challenges and obstacles of those living with M.S. including numbness, blindness, and a loss of balance and coordination.

Also in attendance was Kathrine Hoover from Citizens with Disabilities and Peggy Wilson, the Chairman of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of New Orleans and a former New Orleans City Councilmember.

The representatives announced details on upcoming events and a chapter-wide trip to Washington, D.C. to promote greater awareness of the disease.

Councilmembers expressed their gratitude to the representatives for the comprehensive and informative presentation and for taking the time to appear at the Council meeting.

### *Holds Executive Session*

The Council held an Executive Session to address pending litigation and the possible creation of an independent Management Information Services system for the Council. Due to the confidentiality of both issues, they were taken up in Executive Session closed to the public.

### Pending Litigation

Attention was paid today in Executive Session to pending litigation Case #09-2279, Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, City Council versus Tracie Washington, Tionne Simon and the Louisiana Justice Institute.

### Independent Management Information Services System

Councilmembers discussed the development of security plans relative to the possible creation of an independent Management Information Services system for the City Council.



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## City Council March 5, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

March 5, 2009

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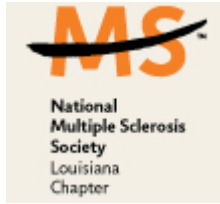
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**Councilmembers Hedge-Morrell and Willard-Lewis  
Attend News Conference in the Ninth Ward**

**Where Federal Officials Announce Millions of Dollars in Grants  
To Aid in Louisiana's Recovery**

News Release

March 6, 2009

Contact:

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New Orleans, LA - March 6, 2009 - On Thursday March 5th Councilmembers Cynthia Hedge-Morrell and Cynthia Willard-Lewis attended a news conference in the Ninth ward where Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced millions of dollars of grants to aid in Louisiana's recovery.

Before the news conference, Donovan, Napolitano and visitors were given a first-hand look at the City's ongoing recovery through a bus tour of some of the City's hard-hit areas including Southern University at New Orleans, Chalmette and the Ninth Ward.

The news conference was held in Abundance Square, a section of the redevelopment of the former Desire public housing complex, located in District "E".



*Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano  
and Councilmember Willard-Lewis*

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis said, "We are so grateful that Secretaries Donovan and Napolitano took the time to visit New Orleans to see for themselves the recovery progress of the City. New Orleans is comprised of a wealth of culturally rich and diverse communities and we must work together to ensure that the recovery needs of each community and

its citizens are met."

The recovery funds and aid announced by Donovan and Napolitano include:

- \$23 million for housing for elderly and disabled people in hurricane-affected areas
- \$12 million to rebuild St. Bernard Parish's Waste Water Treatment Plant
- \$2.9 million for repairs to Benjamin Franklin High School

- FEMA's commitment to rebuild the 5th and 7th District Police stations and a firehouse in New Orleans East

- Acceptance of Louisiana's \$438 million plan for long-term disaster recovery



*Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
& Recovery Director Dr. Blakely*

District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "The recovery funds promised today represent a commitment from the federal government to move the recovery of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana forward. Collaboration between local, regional and national officials is vital in speeding up the pace of recovery in New Orleans and across the Gulf."

Also in attendance at the news conference were Craig Fugate, recently nominated by President Obama to lead FEMA; U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu; Governor Bobby Jindal; Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu; Mayor Ray Nagin; U.S.

Representatives "Joseph" Cao and Charlie Melancon; state Representative Karen Carter Peterson; Major General Hunt Downer of the Army National Guard; Recovery Director Dr. Edward Blakely; other local officials and representatives of community groups.

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Announcement

March 9, 2009



**Councilmember Midura to Attend  
Tulane University Campus-Community Forum  
On Wednesday March 11th**

**What:** Councilmember Shelley Midura, along with several community and student leaders, will attend the Tulane University Campus-Community Forum. Forum panelists will discuss ways to reduce alcohol-related incidents and problems in the university community. The forum is free and open to the public.

**Who:** Forum Panelists:

- District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
- Murphy Painter, Commissioner, Alcohol Control Board
- Major Bruce Little, Commander, NOPD - 2nd District
- Kristy Miller, Director, Louisiana Higher Education Coalition to Reduce Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (LaHEC)
- David Melius, Owner, Bruno's Tavern
- Tulane University student leaders

Moderator:

- Rob Nelson - Anchor, WWL-TV

**When:** Wednesday, March 11, 2009  
4:30 p.m.



**Where:** Tulane University Rogers Chapel  
1229 Broadway  
Click [here](#) for map

**Contact:** Seung Hong  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura  
Email: [shong@cityofno.com](mailto:shong@cityofno.com)  
Office: (504) 658-1013

### **New Orleans City Council**

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Announcement

March 9, 2009



**Councilmember Midura to Attend  
Tulane University Campus-Community Forum  
On Wednesday March 11th**

**What:** Councilmember Shelley Midura, along with several community and student leaders, will attend the Tulane University Campus-Community Forum. Forum panelists will discuss ways to reduce alcohol-related incidents and problems in the university community. The forum is free and open to the public.

**Who:** Forum Panelists:

- District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
- Murphy Painter, Commissioner, Alcohol Control Board
- Major Bruce Little, Commander, NOPD - 2nd District
- Kristy Miller, Director, Louisiana Higher Education Coalition to Reduce Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (LaHEC)
- David Melius, Owner, Bruno's Tavern
- Tulane University student leaders

Moderator:

- Rob Nelson - Anchor, WWL-TV

**When:** Wednesday, March 11, 2009  
4:30 p.m.

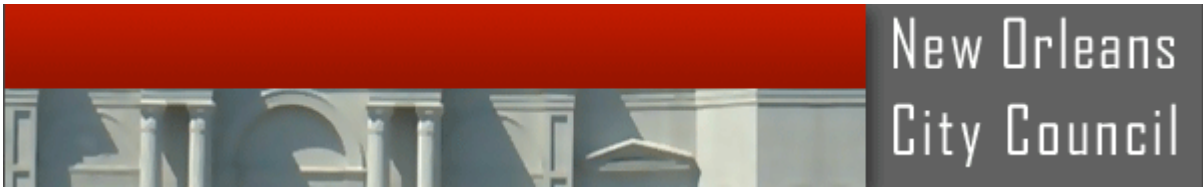
**Where:** Tulane University Rogers Chapel  
1229 Broadway  
Click [here](#) for map

**Contact:** Seung Hong  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura  
Email: [shong@cityofno.com](mailto:shong@cityofno.com)  
Office: (504) 658-1013

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**Civil District Court Judge  
Orders Council Emails Be Turned Over to Court**

*Review to Begin Within 24 Hours*

News Release

March 12, 2009

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff

Ph: (504) 658-1082

[rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans, LA - March 12, 2009 - This morning, Orleans Civil District Court Judge Lloyd Medley, ordered local lawyer Tracie Washington to hand over, within 24 hours, compact discs containing City Councilmember emails requested via public records requests and made available to her by Sanitation Department Director Veronica White.

The release of the emails was done without the Council's knowledge or consent and without prior review of the content for information of a privileged and confidential nature.

The Judge's order to turn over the email correspondence mirrors repeated requests made over the last few weeks to Tracie Washington by legal counsel for the New Orleans City Council. The order also requires that Ms. Washington fully disclose to Judge Medley the identities of those individuals with whom she shared the email correspondence.

In this morning's preliminary injunction hearing, the Council's special counsel Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar presented oral argument and affidavits from Councilmembers, a former City Attorney and lawyers currently representing the City Council to support the Council's argument. A representative of the current City Attorney's Office made oral argument in support of the City Council position.

The City Council's legal counsel argued that the release of these Council emails may constitute a serious breach of legal rights and protections afforded the City Council, its constituents and the City of New Orleans.

Judge Medley's ruling orders that Ms. Washington turn over to the court all email and other correspondence that she has received. The Judge's order also continues the prohibition of Ms. Washington's public release of the emails. Judge Medley will begin review of all correspondence to determine what content is privileged and what content can be released to the public. Following the Judge's review, he will meet with lawyers and share his findings.

Because of the subject matter of this issue, media calls are being referred to Steven J. Lane, Attorney and Managing Partner, Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar, (504) 680-0527, [slane@hhkc.com](mailto:slane@hhkc.com).

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Announcement

March 10, 2009

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**Save-A-Lot's Grand Opening "Dollar Cutting" Ceremony  
Benefiting First Book and Second Harvest Food Bank  
To Be Held on Thursday, March 12th**

**What:** Save-A-Lot's Grand Opening "Dollar Cutting Ceremony" will be held in celebration of the openings of three new Save-A-Lot stores in the New Orleans area. The new stores are strategically located throughout the city in neighborhoods in need of grocery stores. The grand opening ceremony will include special guest speakers, give-aways and food sampling.

In an effort to support local community organizations, Save-A-Lot representatives will present donations in the amount of \$5,000 to First Book-Greater New Orleans, an organization that provides new books to children in need, and Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana.

**When:** Thursday, March 12, 2009  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Where:** Save-A-Lot Food Store  
1841 Almonaster  
New Orleans, LA 70117  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Who:** Barbara Lacen-Keller, Director of Constituent Services, Office of District "B"  
Councilmember Stacy Head  
Jonas Nash, Director of Community Relations, Office of District "C"  
Councilmember James Carter

Lena Craig-Stewart, Chief of Staff, Office of District "D" Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Community Members in Districts "B", "C" and "D"

Special Guests:

- Rick Meyer, Myron Ball and Vanessa Foster, Representatives from Save-A-Lot
- Andrea Chen, Chair of First Book-Greater New Orleans
- Natalie Jayroe, President and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana
- Children from Kid's of Excellence Daycare

**Contact:**

Sara Miller

Ph: 314-727-5700 ext. 105

Email: [saram@blickandstaff.com](mailto:saram@blickandstaff.com)

Pia Reinhold

Ph: 314-727-5700 ext. 109

Email: [piar@blickandstaff.com](mailto:piar@blickandstaff.com)

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Councilmember Head  
To Hold Gert Town Community Meeting this Friday  
To Address Zoning Issues

News Release

March 12, 2009

Contact:

Theresa Becher  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Stacy Head

Ph: 504-658-1020  
Cell: 504-253-1383

[trbecher@cityofno.com](mailto:trbecher@cityofno.com)

Linda Eastern

Greater King Solomon Baptist  
Church

Ph: 504-246-5916

[lindaeastern@bellsouth.net](mailto:lindaeastern@bellsouth.net)

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New Orleans, LA - March 12, 2009 - Councilmember Head will hold a meeting as part of a series of ongoing meetings in Gert Town:

Friday, March 13th at 5:30 p.m.  
Greater King Solomon Baptist  
Church  
3321 Audubon Street  
(Click [here](#) for map)

The meeting will focus on discussion relative to the community's desire to downzone the industrial areas of Gert Town to end further industrial growth in the residential neighborhood.

Gert Town is no stranger to industrial uses which inhibit neighborhood development and growth. The community was exposed to environmental trauma from the Thompson Hayward Chemical plant. Therefore, there have been discussions within the Gert Town community to prevent further industrial uses expanding in their community.

Councilmember Head is working for a united effort to improve the current residents' quality of life and attract residential investment. This aligns with Councilmember Head's ongoing mission throughout District "B" to reinvigorate communities through improved housing opportunities, development, and partnering with neighborhoods for a sustainable future.

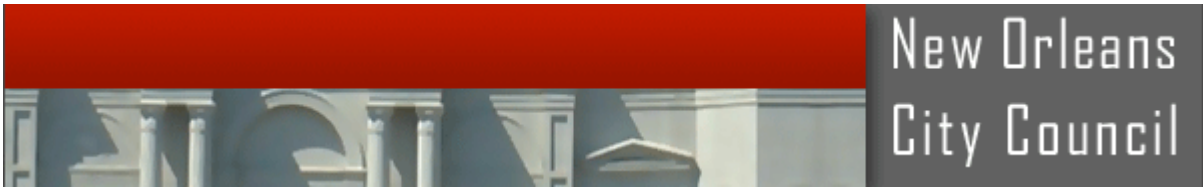
Councilmember Head stated, "This is a great example of a community working together to identify a problem and working with government to achieve a solution. I am honored to be able to support and do my part to contribute to the revitalization of Gert Town."



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Announcement

March 13, 2009



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell to Cut Ribbon  
At Dollar General Grand Opening  
Tomorrow Morning

- What:** Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell will cut the ribbon and make a presentation at the Dollar General Grand Opening tomorrow morning.
- Who:** District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Community Members
- When:** Saturday, March 14, 2009  
9:30 a.m.
- Where:** 4774 Paris Avenue  
Oak Park Shopping Center  
Click [here](#) for map
- Contact:** Lena Stewart  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Email: [lestewart@cityofno.com](mailto:lestewart@cityofno.com)  
Office: (504) 658-1040  
Cell: (504) 570-3581

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Announcement

March 16, 2009



**Council President Clarkson  
To Join Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu Tomorrow  
To Announce New Cultural Products Districts in New Orleans**

**WHAT:** Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will join Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu tomorrow to announce the creation of two new Cultural Products Districts in New Orleans.

Cultural Products Districts are tax-free districts for vendors of unique local art. Council President Clarkson authored the City ordinance instituting these districts and worked with District Councilmembers to identify qualifying areas. She continues to work with the Lieutenant Governor as well as the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism in this endeavor.

"Cultural Products Districts represent another way to reward our unique local artists and those who support them," Clarkson said. "I am excited that these incentives will be extended to two deserving New Orleans neighborhoods."

**WHEN:** Tuesday, March 17, 2009  
10:30 a.m.

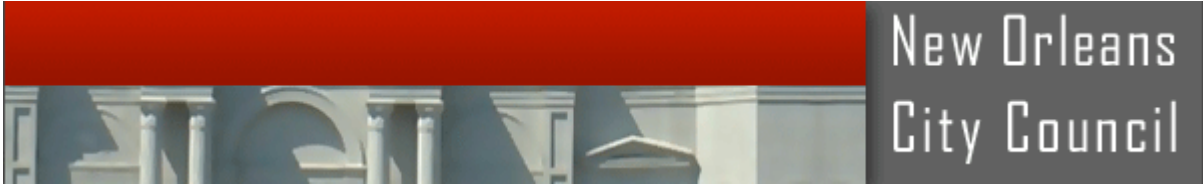
**WHERE:** The Algiers Point Ferry Terminal  
140 Bouny Street at the Morgan Street intersection  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**CONTACT:** Jacquelyn Cole  
Director of Communications  
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
Office: (504) 658-1070  
Cell: (504) 577-3600  
Email: [jlcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jlcole@cityofno.com)

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## City Council Hosts Breast Cancer Screening Event Tomorrow For Women Working in City Hall

News Release

March 16, 2009

Contact:

Jacquelyn Cole

Office of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

Ph: (504) 658-1070

[jlcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jlcole@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans, LA - March 16, 2009 - Under the leadership of Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, and through a project conceived during a monthly Women's Committee meeting, the City Council will host a breast cancer screening event tomorrow for women working in City Hall.

"In conducting our Women's Committee meeting in October, which was devoted to breast cancer, it quickly became clear that an event like this would be welcomed by the many women who work at City Hall," said Council President Clarkson, who chairs the Women's Committee. "There is a real need to raise awareness among women that breast cancer is treatable when detected early through a mammogram."

The City Council partnered with Women's Hospital in Baton Rouge, which will set up its mobile unit in front of City Hall, 1300 Perdido Street, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. tomorrow to perform mammograms throughout the day. All 39 available slots for mammograms were filled during the first week of registration. United Healthcare will cover the cost of the examinations for City employees.

"I want to particularly thank Lydia Glapion-Days and the entire Council Research staff for all the hard work they did in arranging this event," Council President Clarkson said.

Breast cancer is the second most common cancer among women. One in seven women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer during their lives.

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Council President Clarkson and Councilmember Carter  
Look into Repairs at Algiers' Hubbell Library  
At Recovery Committee Meeting Tomorrow

News Release

March 17, 2009

Contact:

Jacquelyn Cole

Office of

Councilmember-at-Large  
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

Ph: 504-658-1072

Cell: 504-577-3600

[jcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jcole@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans, LA - March 17, 2009 - Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson and District "C" Councilmember James Carter have asked City representatives to come before the Recovery Committee meeting tomorrow at 2 p.m. in the City Council Chamber to address repairs and scheduled improvements for Hubbell Library in Old Algiers.


"The Hubbell Library is a jewel of Algiers Point," said Council President Clarkson. "We need to do all we can to ensure that recovery of this library proceeds at a quick pace and includes improvements the neighborhood wants and needs."

The City's Director of Capital Projects, Bill Chrisman, and Chief Operating Officer for New Orleans Libraries Rica Trigs will appear before the committee, which is co-chaired by the Council President and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.

"The revitalization of Hubbell Library is a top priority for the Algiers Point neighborhood," said Councilmember Carter. "I'd like to see this project completed as quickly as possible."

Hubbell Library, located at 725 Pelican Ave., was open for a short time after Hurricane Katrina, only to be closed due to discovered disrepair. The City has the library slated to receive more than \$1 million in funds for those repairs.

The historic Hubbell Library first opened its doors in December of 1907 as one of five community libraries built in New Orleans through the generosity of American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The library enjoyed several thriving decades before closing in 1965 due to damage from Hurricane Betsy. In the 1970s, Cita Isabel Dennis Hubbell, a native of Algiers, led the effort to see the library reopened.



She was successful, and, after her death in 2001, City leaders - including Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, while serving as District "C" Councilmember - led the campaign to have the library named in her honor.

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Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
Celebrates Grand Re-Opening of Dollar General Store  
In District "D"

News Release

March 17, 2009

Contact:

Lena Stewart  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Ph: 504-658-1040  
[lestewart@cityofno.com](mailto:lestewart@cityofno.com)

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*Property Owner Joe Veninata and  
Councilmember Hedge-Morrell*

New Orleans, LA - March 17, 2009 - On Saturday March 14th Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the Grand Re-Opening of a Dollar General Store in District "D" that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

The celebration took place at the store located in the Oak Park Shopping Center at 4774 Paris Avenue - the company's highest volume store prior to Hurricane Katrina.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson and Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow also attended the event, along with Dollar General executives and employees, property owner Joe Veninata and community members.

District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "This is an encouraging sign of economic development and recovery in District D. This store is conveniently located and will meet a great need within the community for affordable products."

Dollar General is a leading discount retailer with more than 8,300 neighborhood stores delivering life's basic necessities - soap, detergent, cleaning supplies, clothing, milk, bread and eggs. The largest small-box discount retailer in the country with \$9.5 billion in 2007 sales, Dollar General operates more company-owned locations than any retailer in the United States.

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**City Council Releases Annual Report  
Outlining 2009 Policy Priorities and Detailing 2008 Legislative Action**

*Preview to Appear as Insert in Times Picayune Tomorrow  
And Document Available Online*

News Release

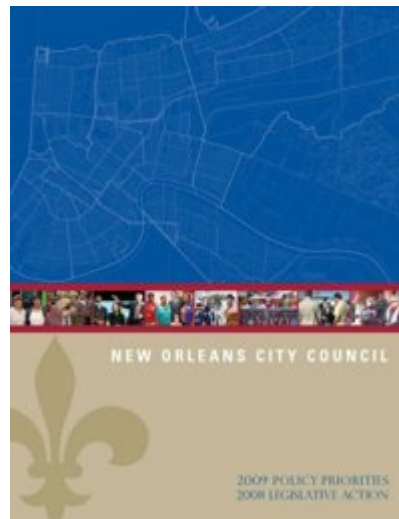
March 17, 2009

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

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New Orleans, LA - March 17, 2009 - Today, the Council released the *New Orleans City Council Annual Report: 2009 Policy Priorities and 2008 Legislative Action*.



The report outlines the Council's priorities for the coming year, and highlights its legislative work in 2008 - moving out of the Council Chamber into the community.

A preview of the report will be available via an insert in the Wednesday, March 18th Orleans Parish edition of the Times Picayune.

The report is available online on the City Council's website [here](#).

Copies of the report will be available beginning tomorrow, Wednesday, March 18th, at the following locations:

- Clerk of Council's Office, Room 1E09, City Hall  
(Click [here](#) for map)
- Front desk of the New Orleans Public Library Main Branch, 219 Loyola Ave. (click [here](#) for map), and thereafter at all New Orleans Public Library branches throughout the City

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Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
Celebrates Grand Re-Opening of Dollar General Store  
In District "D"

News Release

March 17, 2009

Contact:

Lena Stewart  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Ph: 504-658-1040  
[lestewart@cityofno.com](mailto:lestewart@cityofno.com)

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*Property Owner Joe Veninata and  
Councilmember Hedge-Morrell*

New Orleans, LA - March 17, 2009 - On Saturday March 14th Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the Grand Re-Opening of a Dollar General Store in District "D" that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

The celebration took place at the store located in the Oak Park Shopping Center at 4774 Paris Avenue - the company's highest volume store prior to Hurricane Katrina.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson and Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow also attended the event, along with Dollar General executives and employees, property owner Joe Veninata and community members.

District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "This is an encouraging sign of economic development and recovery in District D. This store is conveniently located and will meet a great need within the community for affordable products."

Dollar General is a leading discount retailer with more than 8,300 neighborhood stores delivering life's basic necessities - soap, detergent, cleaning supplies, clothing, milk, bread and eggs. The largest small-box discount retailer in the country with \$9.5 billion in 2007 sales, Dollar General operates more company-owned locations than any retailer in the United States.



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Council President Clarkson  
To Introduce Coastal Restoration and Protection Resolution  
At Council Meeting Tomorrow

News Release

March 18, 2009

Contact:

Jacquelyn Cole

Office of

Councilmember-at-Large  
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

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New Orleans, LA - March 18, 2009 - Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will introduce a resolution at tomorrow's Council Meeting that calls upon the City of New Orleans to support the construction of large-scale land diversions in an effort to sustain and rebuild Louisiana's coastal wetlands.

The Resolution also calls upon the City to take a lead in advocating for land diversions in ways it has historically left to other coastal Louisiana parishes.

"Rebuilding coastal wetlands is the most important means we have of saving our City from catastrophic hurricanes - especially the parts of the City most vulnerable to a Gulf storm surge, including the Historic Lower Ninth Ward, Venetian Isles, New Orleans East, and the West Bank," Clarkson said.

She continued, "Some say the City doesn't have a role to play here, that this is solely a state or federal issue. But they are wrong. As elected officials, we need to step up to the plate as other parishes have and demand more than just levees. We need to demand that rebuilding our coast is a priority."

Large-scale diversions would redirect the Mississippi River to flow through parts of South Louisiana, carrying sediment and fresh water with it - both of which sustain and rebuild wetlands. Such diversions are widely seen by experts across the country as key to restoring Louisiana's coastline. Louisiana's Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority has advocated for the construction of land diversions since the release of its Masterplan, which was commissioned by the Louisiana Legislature in 2005.

Two weeks ago, the Council President represented the City of New Orleans at the Mississippi River Fresh Water Diversion Summit in New Orleans, where she publicly urged the Corps of Engineers to consider using large scale diversions to restore Louisiana's coastline. She also urged the Corps not to proceed without including the interests of Louisiana's navigation industry.

Councilmember Clarkson said, "The Corps needs to listen to South Louisianians. Levees are important, of course. But if we expect real, sustainable protection from massive storms, we have got to expand our focus to rebuilding wetlands. And we need every vested interest at the table."

Land diversions were not necessary in the 1800s and early 1900s because the Mississippi River naturally spread freshwater and sediment throughout southeast Louisiana, building and sustaining swamps and marshes. But as the Mississippi River was contained with channels, this spreading ceased. Now, the river's freshwater, nutrients and the sediment are funneled straight into the Gulf of Mexico.

In the coming weeks, Council President Clarkson will ask the City Council to approve an ordinance forming a special committee to address coastal restoration and land diversions. This committee's work will result in an action plan for involving Orleans Parish leaders in advocating for coastal restoration.

Coastal Louisiana has lost more than 1,875 square miles of land between 1932 and 2000. Eighty years ago, New Orleans was 54 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. If no effort is made to restore the coastline, experts predict New Orleans will be less than 20 miles from the Gulf by 2050.

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Media Advisory

March 18, 2009

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session  
Thursday, March 19th at 10 a.m.  
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

**What:** Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Resolution supporting efforts to investigate the benefits of large-scale land diversions as a means of restoring Louisiana's coastline
- Resolution calling on the Mayor's Office to expedite the allocation of the \$11 million in Housing and Urban Development grant money
- Motion requesting that the City Planning Commission conduct public hearings to consider down zoning the industrial areas in the residential parts of Gert Town to improve the current residents' quality of life by preventing further industrial uses from expanding into their community
- Presentations on the Total Sentencing Alternative Program (TSAP) and other crime issues from District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro, NOPD Police Chief Warren Riley, and TSAP Representative Dwight Richards
- Presentation from Founding Director Gary Slutkin, M.D. on CeaseFire, a program proven to reduce gun violence through coordinated efforts of community-based organizations, police and community leaders to identify and defuse potential violent situations

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, March 19, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
Email: [rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory

March 18, 2009

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**Recovery Committee to Address  
Hubbell Library, Housing and Urban Development Home Financing  
And City-wide Master Planning Process  
In Afternoon Session Today**

**What:** The Recovery Committee meeting today will address repairs and improvements to the now-closed Hubbell Library in Algiers, the delay in the dispersing of Housing and Urban Development Home Financing, and the current City-wide Master Planning process.

**When:** Wednesday, March 18, 2009  
2:00 p.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests

Reports on the Repairs of Hubbell Library  
- Bill Chrisman, Director of Capital Projects  
- Rica Trigs, New Orleans Public Libraries Chief Operating Officer

Housing and Urban Development Home Financing  
- Anthony Faciane, Director of Neighborhood Stabilization  
- Dr. Brenda Hatfield, Chief Administrative Officer

Master Planning Process  
- Yolanda Rodriguez, City Planning Commission Executive Director  
- Representative from Goody Clancy

Committee Members

- Co-Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson
- Co-Chair: District "E" Councilmember Willard-Lewis
- District "A" Councilmember Midura
- District "B" Councilmember Head
- District "C" Councilmember Carter

- 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) 577-3600  
Email: [jlcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jlcole@cityofno.com)

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City Council March 19, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

March 19, 2009

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Ronald J. Pursell  
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New Orleans, LA - March 19, 2009 - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed Resolutions supporting the restoration of Louisiana's coastline and the expedited allocation of Housing and Urban Development grant money, and a Motion supporting the prevention of further expansion of industrial uses in the Gert Town community.

The Council also addressed presentations on the Total Sentencing Alternative Program, the CeaseFire program to reduce violence in communities and a crime update from NOPD Police Chief Warren Riley.



### *Supported Louisiana Coastal Restoration*



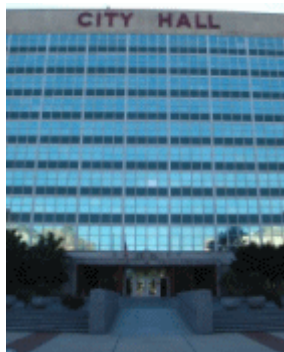
*Councilmember-at-Large  
Clarkson*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-101, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, supporting efforts to investigate the benefits of large-scale land diversions as a means of restoring Louisiana's coastline.

Large-scale diversions would redirect the Mississippi River to flow through parts of South Louisiana, carrying sediment and fresh water with it - both of which sustain and rebuild wetlands. Such diversions are widely seen by experts across the country as key to restoring Louisiana's coastline.

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Rebuilding coastal wetlands is the most important means we have of saving our City from catastrophic hurricanes. As elected officials, we need to take the lead and make rebuilding our coast a priority."

Two weeks ago, Council President Clarkson represented the City of New Orleans at the Mississippi River Fresh Water Diversion Summit in New Orleans, where she publicly urged the Corps of Engineers to consider using large scale diversions to restore Louisiana's coastline. She also urged the Corps not to proceed without including the interests of Louisiana's navigation industry.



### *Supported Allocation of Housing and Urban Development Grant Funds*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-126, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, calling on the Mayor's Office to expedite the allocation of the \$11 million in Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant money.

HUD has issued three extensions of the deadline to commit the money to New Orleans. The City of New Orleans is in danger of losing the funds if it does not allocate this funding to specific affordable housing initiatives.

Councilmember Clarkson said, "There is a severe shortage of affordable housing in New Orleans and these grants represent an excellent opportunity to assist the many initiatives dedicated to providing affordable housing in the City. The allocation of these funds to affordable housing programs will assist in the revitalization of neighborhoods and the overall recovery of the City."

Senator Mary Landrieu has offered her support in finding areas of affordable housing to which this funding can be dedicated.

### *Supported Down Zoning in Gert Town*



*Councilmember Head*

The Council passed Motion M-09-124, authored by Councilmember Head, directing the City Planning Commission to conduct a public hearing to consider an amendment to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance aimed at down zoning the industrial areas in the residential parts of Gert Town.

This Motion will prohibit any new industrial uses from establishing in the neighborhood, bounded by S. Carrollton Avenue, Walmsley Ave., S. Jefferson Davis, and the Pontchartrain Expressway.

Councilmember Head said, "Currently, Gert Town is experiencing industrial uses in their community which inhibit neighborhood development and growth. It is important that we respond to the needs of the City's individual communities and neighborhoods - public hearings will give the residents of Gert Town the opportunity to participate in discussions relative to industrial uses in their neighborhood and potential improvements in their quality of life."

### *Addressed Total Sentencing Alternative Program*



*Dwight Richards*

Dwight Richards came before the Council to give a presentation on the Total Sentencing Alternative Program (TSAP) Ankle Bracelets.

Richards, Vice President of Operations for TSAP, discussed the benefits of TSAP Ankle Bracelets and the purpose of the program, along with ideas for potential program improvements.

The TSAP ankle bracelets are recommended for offenders of non-violent crimes and have been proved to be effective when appropriate parameters are set for each individual offender.



*District Attorney Cannizzaro*

New Orleans District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro was also present and expressed his opinions about the TSAP program.

Cannizzaro emphasized the importance of TSAP and law enforcement working closely together to ensure that if an offender commits a violation, that offender is apprehended in a timely fashion.



*Lt. Col. Jerry Sneed*

Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Sneed, Director of Homeland Security for the City of New Orleans, also commented on the TSAP ankle bracelet program, stating that cooperation among all parties is a necessity and that police officers, judges and TSAP monitors must work together to make the program safe and effective.

Richards, Cannizzaro, Sneed and Councilmembers discussed at length the potential benefits of using the TSAP ankle bracelets

in combination with drug testing, job counseling, and mentoring programs.

Councilmembers thanked all the representatives and officials for appearing at the Council meeting and for their discussions of the TSAP program.

### *Received City-Wide Crime Update*



*Superintendent Riley*

New Orleans Police Chief Superintendent Warren Riley came before the Council to provide a city-wide update on crime and comment on the TSAP program.

Riley expressed his gratitude to TSAP for their cooperation in coordinating efforts to create a more productive program with enhanced monitoring and quicker response times.

Riley informed the Council that the overall crime rate is down, and that specifically crime rates are down in double digits in every crime category so far this year, with the exception of automobile burglaries.

Councilmembers thanked Superintendent Riley for his testimony on the TSAP program and his update on crime rates city-wide.

*Addressed CeaseFire Program Presentation*



*Gary Slutkin, M.D.*

Gary Slutkin, M.D., Founding Director of the CeaseFire program came before the Council to give background information on the program and detailed its efforts to reduce crime.

CeaseFire is an evidence-based public health approach to reducing violence. The program's methods use highly trained street violence interrupters and outreach staff, public education campaigns, and community mobilization.

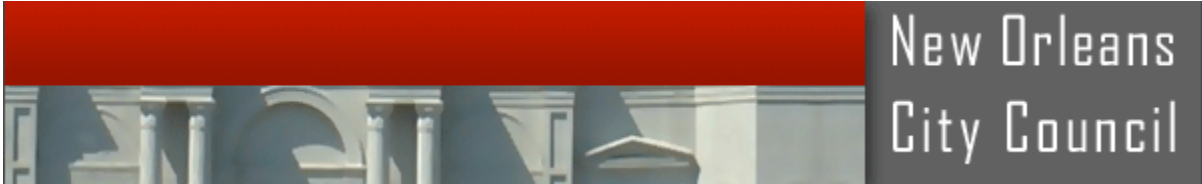
Dr. Slutkin presented the Councilmembers with results from studies that show a 41-73% reduction in shootings and killings in communities using the CeaseFire program - these results have been replicated 18 times. CeaseFire looks at violent behavior, from a group, neighborhood and city level, and examines how violent behavior is formed and why it continues.

Councilmember Carter said, "As Criminal Justice Committee Chair, I am dedicated to exploring methods, tactics and strategies of reducing violence in communities. The CeaseFire program focuses on implementing a structured approach and encouraging coordination between the community and law enforcement officials to reduce violence. CeaseFire is an innovative program with proven results and we look forward to continuing our discussions on the potential benefits of implementing the CeaseFire program here in New Orleans."

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Media Advisory

March 19, 2009

**Women's Committee  
To Address Combating Heart Disease in Women  
In Morning Session Tomorrow**

**What:** Tomorrow's Women's Committee meeting, chaired by Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, will address heart disease in women and methods of combating the disease.

**When:** Friday, March 20, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests

- Dr. Pramilla Subramaniam, Professor of Clinical Medicine, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
- Senator Diana Bajoie, Director of Health Sciences, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
- Dr. Lydia Bazzano, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine, Tulane University Health and Science Center

Committee Members

- Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson
- District "A" Councilmember Midura
- District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**Contact:** Jacquelyn Cole  
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City Council March 19, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

March 19, 2009

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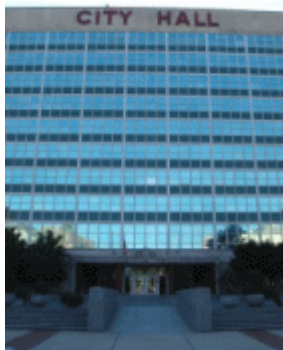
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## City Council Holds Executive Session, Authorizes Action to Expedite Responses To Pending Public Records Requests

News Release

March 20, 2009

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
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New Orleans, LA - March 20, 2009 - Yesterday as part of its regular meeting, the City Council held an Executive Session to address pending litigation and the possible creation of an independent Management Information Services system for the Council. Due to the confidentiality of both issues, they were taken up in Executive Session closed to the

public.

### *Pending Litigation*

Special Counsel informed the City Council as to the current status of the pending litigation Case #09-2279, Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, City Council versus Tracie Washington and the Louisiana Justice Institute, including Judge Medley's order that defendants provide the court with the names of the individuals to whom defendants sent emails that might contain privileged information.

### *Independent Management Information Services System*

Councilmembers consulted with Barb Frederiksen, Senior Managing Consultant of Johnson Laird, Inc. about the development of a program that would better enable the City Council to access its emails and to respond more quickly to public records requests.

Related to the Executive Session and immediately following, Attorney Steve Lane of Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar, Special Counsel for the City Council, stated that the Council has authorized action to expedite responses to current pending public records requests, further enhancing accountability to the public.

Rather than wait for the Mayor's Office of Technology to locate documents, Councilmembers have taken it upon themselves to review their emails. The Council will determine what can be made available as soon as possible for public review. Councilmembers will consult with nationally renowned technology expert Barb Frederiksen for advice and assistance.

Further notice will be posted as the Council continues its efforts to meet the public's requests.

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## Councilmembers to Attend Seminar On the Role of Elected Officials in Disaster Response

News Release

March 20, 2009

Contact:

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New Orleans, LA - March 20, 2009 - All seven Councilmembers will be attending a seminar next week that will examine the role of elected officials in disaster response.

Elected officials and representatives from surrounding parishes will also be present at the seminar, which will give attendees the opportunity to share perspectives on the appropriate role of elected officials in supporting emergency management professionals in disaster preparedness, response and mitigation.

Texas A&M Extension Service is presenting the seminar, which will be facilitated by Glen Gilmore, former Mayor of Hamilton, New Jersey.

Seminar topics will include a discussion of:

- Roles and responsibilities and preparedness challenges
- Domestic preparedness resources and how to leverage them
- Homeland Security Strategic Planning risk and needs assessment
- Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
- Executive-level incident response and recovery considerations
- Incident management (ICS), mutual aid agreements, media relations, recovery and restoration processes, Federal assistance, and business/economic recovery

The seminar will be held at the University of New Orleans' Lindy Boggs Conference Center on the Lakefront Campus from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday March 23, Wednesday March 25, and Friday March 27.

The schedule is as follows:

Monday, March 23

- District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

Wednesday, March 25

- District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
- District "C" Councilmember James Carter
- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

Friday, March 27

- Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
- Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow

Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Sneed, Director of Homeland Security for New Orleans, assisted in the coordination of the Councilmembers' attendance at the seminar.

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## Council Vice President Fielkow to Hold Hearing on Taking Advantage of 2014 Panama Canal Expansion

*Focus Will Be on How New Orleans Can Prepare to Benefit from Increased Global Trade*

News Release

March 23, 2009

Contact:

Kate Schneiderman

Office of

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Arnie Fielkow

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**New Orleans, LA - March 23, 2009**  
- New Orleans City Council Vice President and Special Projects & Economic Development Committee Chair Arnie Fielkow will hold a committee hearing on Tuesday, April 7th to discuss how the New Orleans region should best prepare itself to reap the benefits of the 2014 expansion of the Panama Canal.

The Special Projects & Economic Development Committee meeting will be held at 10 a.m. The widening of the Panama Canal, scheduled to be completed in 2014, presents unprecedented international trade opportunities for the New Orleans region.

"After visiting Panama last year and learning first-hand the size of the ships that will come through the widened Canal in 2014, I knew that the New Orleans region needed to quickly address needed improvements to our shipping facilities," says Council Vice President Fielkow. "New Orleans cannot afford to fall behind in international trade again, especially when we have the infrastructure, natural resources and local talent to ensure that our region is a top player in international trade for decades to come. The Panama Canal expansion is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our entire region, but it is essential that a unified regional plan is developed and that funding for this plan be pursued in the upcoming legislative session."

Invited guests to the hearing include Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser; Port of New Orleans Director



Gary LaGrange; GNO, Inc. President & CEO Michael Hecht; House Speaker Jim Tucker (R-86); State Senator A.G. Crowe (R-1); and World Trade Center Managing Director Eugene Schreiber. All members of the New Orleans state legislative delegation have also been invited.

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## New Orleans Chosen as Site For 2012 Louisiana Municipal Clerks Association Annual Conference

*Clerk of Council Peggy Lewis Elected 2009-2010 Public Relations Officer*

News Release

March 23, 2009

Contact:

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*Clerk of Council Peggy Lewis*

New Orleans, LA - March 23, 2009 - At the 49th annual Louisiana Municipal Clerks Association (LMCA) spring conference earlier this month, the association chose the City of New Orleans to host its annual spring conference in 2012.

Clerk of Council Peggy Lewis attended the annual professional development program on March 5-7 in Alexandria, Louisiana, along with some 75 municipal clerks from around the state.

As part of the conference, LMCA members elected their 2009-2010 officers, including New Orleans City Council Clerk Peggy Lewis, who was elected as LMCA public relations officer.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "We are honored to be the chosen host city for the LMCA 2012 conference. We recognize the economic impact that this conference will bring and we look forward to hosting these clerks who serve such an important purpose in government. Additionally, we are so proud of Ms. Peggy Lewis for taking on the responsibility of public relations officer with the LMCA."

The program featured workshop sessions dealing with state laws and legislation affecting municipal governments, services offered to towns and cities by the Louisiana Municipal Association, services for communities provided through the Louisiana Office of Public Health and state laws governing open meetings and executive sessions.

The LMCA, an affiliate organization of Louisiana Municipal Association, seeks to provide a broad range of educational activities such as this annual conference to expand its members' professional skills and knowledge of trends in local government. Municipal clerks are an integral part of their municipal government's administrative team and provide a wide array of services for their municipality's elected officials and citizens.

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News Release

March 23, 2009

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Media Advisory

March 23, 2009

**Youth & Recreation Committee  
To Address FEMA Reimbursements for NORD and Park Facilities  
In Session on Wednesday Morning**

**What:** Council Vice President Fielkow has been meeting with FEMA officials for some time to work through funding issues concerning the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) and park facilities. The Councilmember requested that FEMA officials appear at Wednesday's Youth & Recreation Committee meeting to detail their reimbursements and track the funds.

Discussion topics include:

- Status of FEMA reimbursements for the City's NORD and park facilities
- Presentation on the "Field of Dreams" project for George Washington Carver High School in the Upper Ninth Ward
- Information on the best use of the City's \$100,000 allocation for afterschool programming and the best use of the \$100,000 allocated for swimming instruction
- Presentation on project requiring that all children receive a New Orleans Public Library card when participating in NORD programming
- Update on the progress of the Peace Players International - New Orleans program

**When:** Wednesday, March 25, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests

- Paul Vallas, Recovery School District Superintendent
- Darryl Kilbert, Orleans Parish School Board Superintendent
- Larry Barabino, NORD Director
- Bill Chrisman, Office of Recovery and Development Administration
- FEMA representatives
- Jerome Smith, Tambourine and Fan
- Rica Trigs, New Orleans Public Library
- Brian Bordainick, Field of Dreams founder and Carver High School Athletic Director
- Gina Warner, Afterschool Partnership
- Taylor Smiley, Peace Players International - New Orleans Managing Director



### Committee Members

- Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow
- Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson
- District "C" Councilmember Carter

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

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Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow  
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Council President Clarkson  
Lobbies Louisiana's Federal Delegation  
For Regional Planning Projects and Recovery Needs

News Release

March 24, 2009

Contact:

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Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

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New Orleans, LA - March 24, 2009 - Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson is in Washington, D.C. today with parish leaders from across Southeast Louisiana to lobby Louisiana's federal delegation for vital infrastructure and recovery needs.


She and a delegation including Mayor Nagin and parish presidents from Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, St. Charles, and St. John parishes will meet with Senators Mary Landrieu and David Vitter, as well as Congressmen Charlie Melancon, Rodney Alexander, and Joseph Cao before returning to New Orleans tomorrow evening.

"Taking a regional approach to public works and recovery projects allows us to focus on infrastructure that runs across parish lines and affects all of Southeast Louisiana," Council President Clarkson said. "This has major bearing on many projects, including, significantly, our evacuation routes."

She added, "Taking this approach shows that we excel at working for the good of the entire Southeast Louisiana region."

The Council President will advocate for several public works projects that are of particular importance to New Orleans, including:

- \$1 million to aid in the rehabilitation of Tulane Ave. from Carrollton Ave. to South Rampart St.
- \$6.5 million to aid in the rehabilitation of St. Charles Avenue from US 90B to Nashville Avenue
- \$10 million for the reconstruction of Fleur de Lis Boulevard 26th Street to Old Hammond Hwy.
- \$2.5 million for the rehabilitation of Carrollton Avenue from St. Charles Avenue to Claiborne Avenue

- 
- \$3.5 million for the rehabilitation of Congress Drive from Hayne Boulevard to US90
  - \$4 million for the rehabilitation of Michoud Boulevard from I-10 to Lake Forest Boulevard
  - \$3.4 million for the rehabilitation of Rampart Street from Common Street to Elysian Fields Avenue
  - \$7 million for the rehabilitation of Broadway Avenue from St. Charles Avenue to Claiborne Avenue

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Announcement

March 25, 2009



**Community Members Invited to Attend  
Patterson Drive Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
Friday Afternoon in District "C"**

**WHAT:** Councilmember James Carter and the Department of Public Works invite District "C" community members to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the completion of the Patterson Drive Rehabilitation Project. The project repaired eight miles of roadwork including repaving, resurfacing of roadway shoulders, and reshaping of surface drainage.

**WHEN:** Friday, March 27, 2009  
2:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Corner of Whitney Ave. and Patterson Dr.  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**CONTACT:** Jonas Nash  
Director of Community Relations  
Office of District "C" Councilmember James Carter  
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## Youth & Recreation Committee to Convene Again In Effort to Expedite Opening of NORD Playgrounds

News Release

March 27, 2009

Contact:

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New Orleans, LA - March 27, 2009 - City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow, Chair of the Council's Youth & Recreation Committee, today announced that he will hold a follow-up hearing to continue addressing FEMA reimbursements for NORD playgrounds and facilities. The special Youth & Recreation Committee hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 7th at 1:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

Council Vice President Fielkow called for a follow-up meeting on this topic due to the absence of key participants in the original hearing on Wednesday, March 25th. The attendance of FEMA officials, in addition to representatives from the relevant city and state departments, has been requested.

"The ultimate goal is to open all NORD playgrounds and facilities as quickly as possible," says Fielkow. "With summer and the end of the school year upon us, it is extremely important that as many NORD playgrounds and pools as possible be open and ready for our youth and all New Orleanians. Our citizens are weary of disagreements between governmental entities three and a half years after Hurricane Katrina"

Fielkow continues, "All meeting participants, from FEMA to the state to the city, should be prepared to answer specific questions about why the rebuild/repair of recreational facilities are not being fully funded, whether any funds are being held up, what supplemental funding sources might be used on top of FEMA funds to expedite the openings, and what we can do now to quicken the rebuild/repair of our recreational facilities."

Officials from FEMA, ORDA, the State of Louisiana and the City of New Orleans have been requested to attend and speak on behalf of their respective agencies.

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Announcement

March 27, 2009



**District "C" Councilmember James Carter  
Hosts Town Hall Meeting To Discuss  
Proposed Development at 1137 Esplanade Ave**

- WHAT:** Councilmember James Carter will convene a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday evening to discuss the proposed development at 1137 Esplanade Ave. Pres Kabacoff and representatives from HRI Properties will be present to answer questions. All residents are invited to attend and voice their opinions regarding the development.
- WHO:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter  
Pres Kabacoff, CEO of HRI Properties
- WHEN:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009  
6:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** St. Augustine Church  
1210 Gov. Nicholls Street  
New Orleans, LA 70116  
(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](mailto:jknash@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory

March 27, 2009

## Mental Health Committee To Meet in Special Session This Afternoon

**What:** Committee Chair District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura called a Special Mental Health Committee meeting. Discussion topics will include:

- Recent changes in New Orleans mental health capacity, including crisis response
- Grace Outreach pro bono contribution to mental health services in New Orleans
- Discussion of State plans to realign mental health services currently provided by New Orleans Adolescent Hospital (NOAH)

**When:** Friday, March 27, 2009  
1:00 p.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests - State and Local Mental Health Professionals

- Sarah E. Hoffpauir, LCSW-BACS
- Pastor Pynthian Noah
- Cecile Tebo, NOPD Crisis Response Unit
- Dr. Jeffrey Rouse, New Orleans Coroner's office
- Judge Arthur Hunter
- Representative from Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)

Committee Members

- Chair: District "A" Councilmember Midura
- Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow
- District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**Contact:** David Gavlinski  
Policy Analyst  
Office of District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura  
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### New Orleans City Council

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## Youth & Recreation Committee to Convene Again In Effort to Expedite Opening of NORD Playgrounds

News Release

March 27, 2009

Contact:

Kate Schneiderman

Office of

Councilmember-at-Large  
Arnie Fielkow

Ph: 504-658-1063

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New Orleans, LA - March 27, 2009 - City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow, Chair of the Council's Youth & Recreation Committee, today announced that he will hold a follow-up hearing to continue addressing FEMA reimbursements for NORD playgrounds and facilities. The special Youth & Recreation Committee hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 7th at 1:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

Council Vice President Fielkow called for a follow-up meeting on this topic due to the absence of key participants in the original hearing on Wednesday, March 25th. The attendance of FEMA officials, in addition to representatives from the relevant city and state departments, has been requested.

"The ultimate goal is to open all NORD playgrounds and facilities as quickly as possible," says Fielkow. "With summer and the end of the school year upon us, it is extremely important that as many NORD playgrounds and pools as possible be open and ready for our youth and all New Orleanians. Our citizens are weary of disagreements between governmental entities three and a half years after Hurricane Katrina"

Fielkow continues, "All meeting participants, from FEMA to the state to the city, should be prepared to answer specific questions about why the rebuild/repair of recreational facilities are not being fully funded, whether any funds are being held up, what supplemental funding sources might be used on top of FEMA funds to expedite the openings, and what we can do now to quicken the rebuild/repair of our recreational facilities."

Officials from FEMA, ORDA, the State of Louisiana and the City of New Orleans have been requested to attend and speak on behalf of their respective agencies.

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Announcement

March 31, 2009



**Council President Clarkson  
To Host Community Meeting Tonight  
To Address Brechtel Regional Park in Algiers**

**WHAT:** Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will host a community meeting tonight to discuss repairs to Brechtel Regional Park on the Westbank of New Orleans. This meeting is open to the public, and all are invited to attend.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009  
6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Woldenberg Villa Auditorium  
3701 Behrman Place, Algiers  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**WHO:** Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
Ann Macdonald, Director of Parks and Parkways  
Algiers Economic Development Foundation  
Friends of Brechtel Park  
Westbank Redevelopment Corporation

**CONTACT:** Jacquelyn Cole  
Director of Communications  
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
Office: (504) 658-1070  
Cell: (504) 577-3600  
Email: [jlcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jlcole@cityofno.com)

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## NOLA Council News

March 31, 2009 Vol. 2, No. 5

Click [here](#) to view full Newsletter or click on links below to view individual articles.

- [Youth & Recreation Committee Convenes Again in Effort to Expedite Opening of NORD Playgrounds](#)
- [Council President Clarkson Lobbies Louisiana's Federal Delegation for Regional Planning Projects and Recovery Needs](#)
- [New Orleans Chosen as Site for 2012 Louisiana Municipal Clerks Association Annual Conference](#)
- [Councilmembers Attend Seminar on the Role of Elected Officials in Disaster Response](#)
- [Supports Down Zoning in Gert Town](#)
- [Addresses CeaseFire Program Presentation](#)
- [City Council March 19, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary](#)
- [Councilmember Hedge-Morrell Celebrates Grand Re-Opening of Dollar General Store in District "D"](#)
- [City Council Releases Annual Report Outlining 2009 Policy Priorities and Detailing 2008 Legislative Action](#)
- [Civil District Court Judge Orders Council Emails Be Turned Over to Court](#)
- [Councilmember Midura Serves as Panelist at Tulane University Campus-Community Forum](#)
- [Councilmembers Hedge-Morrell and Willard-Lewis Participate in Ninth Ward News Conference Announcing Millions of Dollars in Grants to Aid in Louisiana's Recovery](#)
- [City Council March 5, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary](#)



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Council Vice President Fielkow  
To Introduce Resolution Urging State  
To Reconsider Rejection of Federal Health Care Stimulus Dollars

News Release

April 1, 2009

Contact:  
Kate Schneiderman  
Office of  
Councilmember-at-Large  
Arnie Fielkow  
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[krschneiderman@cityofno.com](mailto:krschneiderman@cityofno.com)

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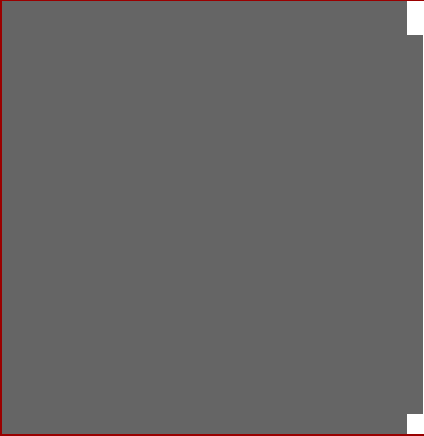


New Orleans, LA - April 1, 2009 - City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow will introduce a Resolution at tomorrow's Council Meeting urging Governor Jindal and Louisiana Secretary of Health and Hospitals Alan Levine to reconsider their plan to reject millions of dollars in federal stimulus package funds designed to provide health benefits to Louisiana's poor, underinsured and uninsured.

The Resolution also calls for the State to hold public meetings on this issue in New Orleans and throughout Louisiana, enabling State policy makers to hear first-hand the impact that such actions will have on health care in Orleans Parish and the rest of the State.

"With Louisiana historically ranking at, or near, the bottom in national health and health care delivery statistics, it is disheartening that the State wants to reject extra funding for health care delivery," said Fielkow. "In New Orleans alone, we still have no hospital in the East, the potential new LSU/VA complex is years from completion and we are struggling with a hurting population that has limited access to affordable health care. While I understand the budget challenges faced by the State, the rejection of helpful federal dollars to support this struggling health care system is not a path we should follow."

The federal stimulus health care funds would extend the period of coverage for Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) health care benefits to those leaving welfare and entering the workforce, and would also provide more money for Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH). DSH is a critical funding component in the Charity Hospital system.



"Rejecting this extra funding for transitional health benefits may be a disincentive to citizens leaving welfare to join the workforce because it makes it more difficult to maintain adequate health care coverage while searching for, and keeping, a job in today's troubled economic times," Fielkow added.

The Resolution will be introduced under suspension at tomorrow's regular City Council meeting.

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Media Advisory

April 1, 2009

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**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session  
Thursday, April 2nd at 10 a.m.  
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

**What:** Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Resolution approving a legal settlement between the City Council and Entergy New Orleans, Inc., which decreases Entergy utility rates by \$30 million for Entergy New Orleans ratepayers and states an agreement by Entergy New Orleans, Inc. to fund Energy Smart, a citywide energy efficiency financing program
- Resolution ratifying a gas hedging plan to manage power costs during peak usage periods, as part of the Entergy New Orleans, Inc. rate case settlement
- Resolution calling upon the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to submit its plans and cost estimates for the redesign of New Orleans' outfall canals to independent, third-party review
- Resolution calling upon the Mayor's Office to expend the funds as allocated by the City Council to the Orleans Parish Defenders Office expeditiously
- Presentation honoring the Navy and the last Commander of the Naval Support Station, Captain Brian Harrison
- Presentation by District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell on District "D" recovery

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, April 2, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
Email: [rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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## Council President Clarkson To Introduce Resolution Urging Corps of Engineers to Reconsider Decision on New Orleans' Outfall Canals at Tomorrow's Council Meeting

News Release

April 1, 2009

Contact:

Jacquelyn Cole

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Councilmember-at-Large  
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New Orleans, LA - April 1, 2009 - City Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will introduce a resolution at tomorrow's Council Meeting that calls upon the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to submit its plans and cost estimates for the redesign of New Orleans' outfall canals to independent, third-party review.

The resolution also supports a congressional field hearing in New Orleans by the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works to further investigate the Corps' proposed redesign.

"My intent is for the Council to become another voice urging the Corps to take a step back from their current plan and reevaluate what is best for the long-term, sustainable storm protection New Orleans needs," Clarkson said. "I believe the Corps is mistakenly choosing a 'cheaper' plan that will actually put our area at greater risk for dramatic costs in life and property."

In redesigning the London Ave., Orleans Ave., and 17th St. canals, the Corps favors what is known as "Option 1." This plan would retain existing deficient canal walls, build new pumping stations at the mouth of each canal to handle storm surge from rising water, and rely on Sewerage and Water Board pumping stations at the opposite end of each canal to handle routine drainage. The Corps estimates this plan will cost \$800 million.

A proposed "Option 2," which the Corps has rejected as too



costly, would involve the deepening and repaving of canal walls and the construction of new all-purpose pumping stations at each of these canals to handle both rising and falling water. The Corps estimates this plan will cost \$3.4 billion.

"I am concerned that Option 1 will provide insufficient protection if we have major rainfall accompanied by a significant rise in water levels within the canals, which we all know is common during major storms," Clarkson said.

The New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, the Jefferson Parish Council, and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority have each authored resolutions calling upon the Corps to submit their plans and cost estimates to independent, third-party review.

Present during Thursday's meeting to further explain the issue will be: Joe Becker, General Superintendent for the Sewerage and Water Board; Tom Capella, Jefferson Parish Councilman-at-Large; and David Wagner, architect with Wagner and Ball, a firm involved with post-Katrina city planning.

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## Council President Clarkson To Introduce Resolution Urging Corps of Engineers to Reconsider Decision on New Orleans' Outfall Canals at Tomorrow's Council Meeting

News Release

April 1, 2009

Contact:

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Councilmember-at-Large  
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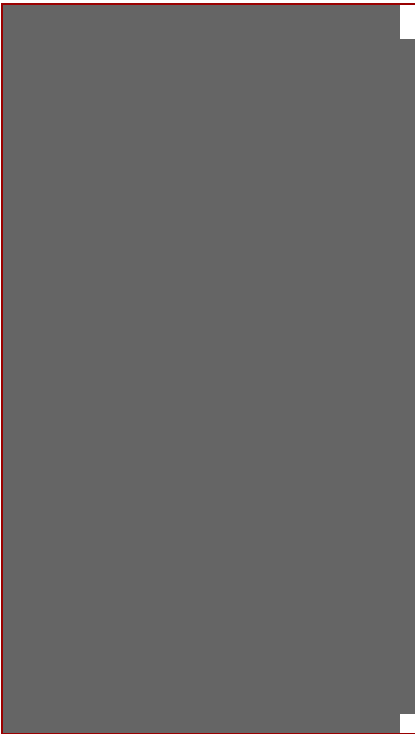
New Orleans, LA - April 1, 2009 - City Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will introduce a resolution at tomorrow's Council Meeting that calls upon the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to submit its plans and cost estimates for the redesign of New Orleans' outfall canals to independent, third-party review.

The resolution also supports a congressional field hearing in New Orleans by the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works to further investigate the Corps' proposed redesign.

"My intent is for the Council to become another voice urging the Corps to take a step back from their current plan and reevaluate what is best for the long-term, sustainable storm protection New Orleans needs," Clarkson said. "I believe the Corps is mistakenly choosing a 'cheaper' plan that will actually put our area at greater risk for dramatic costs in life and property."

In redesigning the London Ave., Orleans Ave., and 17th St. canals, the Corps favors what is known as "Option 1." This plan would retain existing deficient canal walls, build new pumping stations at the mouth of each canal to handle storm surge from rising water, and rely on Sewerage and Water Board pumping stations at the opposite end of each canal to handle routine drainage. The Corps estimates this plan will cost \$800 million.

A proposed "Option 2," which the Corps has rejected as too costly, would involve the deepening and repaving of canal walls and the construction of new all-purpose pumping stations at each of these canals to handle both rising and falling water. The Corps estimates this plan will cost \$3.4 billion.



"I am concerned that Option 1 will provide insufficient protection if we have major rainfall accompanied by a significant rise in water levels within the canals, which we all know is common during major storms," Clarkson said.

The New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, the Jefferson Parish Council, and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority have each authored resolutions calling upon the Corps to submit their plans and cost estimates to independent, third-party review.

Present during Thursday's meeting to further explain the issue will be: Joe Becker, General Superintendent for the Sewerage and Water Board; Tom Capella, Jefferson Parish Councilman-at-Large; and David Wagner, architect with Wagner and Ball, a firm involved with post-Katrina city planning.

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City Council April 2, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

April 2, 2009

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

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**New Orleans, LA - April 2, 2009** - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed Resolutions approving the Entergy New Orleans rate case settlement and called for expedited funding of the Orleans Public Defenders Office.

Additionally the Council passed Resolutions calling for review of the Army Corps of Engineers' plans for the redesign of New Orleans outfall canals, urging the State to reconsider its decision to reject federal health care stimulus money, and urging Governor Jindal to reconsider the plan to close in-patient services at the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital.

The Council also celebrated Navy Day and addressed a presentation on the Gun Buy Back Program.

*Celebrated Navy Day*



*Captain Harrison and General Mize*

Captain Brian Harrison came before the Council today to be honored as a part of the Navy Day celebration. Captain Harrison is the last Commander of the Naval Support Station here in New Orleans.

Also present in the Chamber to be honored were numerous Navy personnel, along with the Navy band, and General David Mize USMC Ret was present to show his support for Captain

Harrison and his work.

The Council presented a proclamation to Captain Harrison in recognition of his years of service and his accomplishments throughout his career.

Councilmembers expressed their gratitude to Captain Harrison and all Naval personnel present for their dedication and commitment to the City.



*Commander Huynh and Members of Vietnamese Military Academy in Louisiana*

Commander Quan H. Huynh of the Vietnamese Military Academy in Louisiana and academy members also came before the Council to receive a proclamation honoring them for their service and dedication to New Orleans.

### *Supported Gun Buy Back Program*



*Greater New Orleans Gun Buy Back Committee Members and NOPD Chief Riley*

Members of the Greater New Orleans Gun Buy Back Committee, along with New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Chief Warren Riley, came before the Council today to discuss the details of this year's Gun Buy Back program.

This year's program will feature presentations on gun safety, training and awareness, and a benefit

concert held at First Pilgrim Baptist Church located at 1234 Arts Street at 7 p.m. on Friday April 3rd.

The Gun Buy Back program will occur on Saturday, April 4th beginning at 9 a. m. at Little Zion Baptist Church Multi-Purpose Center located at 4821 Earhart Blvd.

The program is dedicated to decreasing the number of guns on the street and will provide \$50 for each gun and \$200 for each assault weapon turned in, no questions asked.

Councilmember James Carter said, "The Gun Buy Back program works to decrease violent crime in New Orleans by reducing the number of guns on our streets and providing training and information on gun safety. This program is an excellent collaborative effort among community members,

businesses, crime fighting initiatives and the New Orleans Police Department, and we are grateful for all of their hard work and dedication to making our City a safer place."

The Gun Buy Back program has helped to remove more than 1,000 guns from the streets over the last six years.

### ***Addressed Entergy Rate Case Settlement***



*Councilmember Midura*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-136, approving a legal settlement between the City Council and Entergy New Orleans, Inc.

The legal settlement will decrease Entergy utility rates by \$30 million for Entergy New Orleans ratepayers and includes an agreement by Entergy New Orleans, Inc. to fund Energy Smart, a citywide energy efficiency financing program.

The Council also passed Resolution R-09-137, ratifying a gas hedging plan to manage power costs during peak usage periods, as part of the Entergy New Orleans, Inc. rate case settlement.

Utility Committee Chair Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "This settlement will benefit our citizens and our City - decreasing utility costs and promoting a responsible energy plan. Energy Smart is a proactive approach to energy efficiency in our City and funding is critical to ensure that our City sees the benefits of this program in the near future."

### ***Addressed Army Corps of Engineers Decision on Outfall Canals***



*Lisa Ludwig, Tom Capella, David Waggoner and Robert Jackson*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-147, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, calling upon the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to submit its plans and cost estimates for the redesign of New Orleans' outfall canals to

independent, third-party review.

The resolution also supports a congressional field hearing in New Orleans by the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works to further investigate the Corps' proposed redesign.

Present at the meeting to further explain the issue were: Robert Jackson,

Spokesman for the Sewerage and Water Board; Tom Capella, Jefferson Parish Councilman-at-Large; David Waggoner, architect with Waggoner and Ball, a firm involved with post-Katrina city planning; and Lisa Ludwig, Executive Director of Pump to the River.

In redesigning the London Ave., Orleans Ave., and 17th St. canals, the Corps favors "Option 1" - which would retain existing deficient canal walls, build new pumping stations at the mouth of each canal, and rely on Sewerage and Water Board pumping stations to handle routine drainage. The Corps estimates this plan will cost \$800 million.

A proposed "Option 2," which the Corps has rejected as too costly, would involve the deepening and repaving of canal walls and the construction of new all-purpose pumping stations at each of these canals to handle both rising and falling water. The Corps estimates this plan will cost \$3.4 billion.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "I am concerned that Option 1 will provide insufficient protection if we have major rainfall accompanied by a significant rise in water levels within the canals, which we all know is common during major storms."

Click [here](#) to view a News Release on this legislation.

### ***Called for Expedited Funding of Orleans Public Defenders***



***Christopher Flood,  
Orleans Public Defenders  
Office***

The Council passed Resolution R-09-149, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, calling upon the Mayor's Office to expend the funds as allocated by the City Council to the Orleans Parish Defenders Office expeditiously.

The Council budgeted \$600,000 of the City's Operating Budget to the Orleans Parish Public Defenders - the Public Defenders Office has yet to receive these funds.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Fully funding the Public Defender's Office is about ensuring the entire criminal justice system is able to function effectively. We cannot prosecute crimes without a functioning defense office. It's that simple."

She continued, "The Council allocated funds to the office in our original budget ordinance. That Ordinance is law, and the Mayor is bound to respect it and disperse the funds as we intended."

## ***Urged State to Reconsider Rejection of Federal Health Care Stimulus Dollars***



Councilmember-at-Large  
Fielkow

The Council passed Resolution R-09-155, introduced by Councilmember Fielkow, urging Governor Jindal and Louisiana Secretary of Health and Hospitals Alan Levine to reconsider their plan to reject millions of dollars in federal stimulus package funds designed to provide health benefits to Louisiana's poor, underinsured and uninsured.

The Resolution also calls for the State to hold public meetings on this issue in New Orleans and throughout Louisiana, enabling State policy makers to hear first-hand the impact that such actions will have on health care in Orleans Parish and the rest of the State.

Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow said, "In New Orleans alone, we still have no hospital in the East, the potential new LSU/VA complex is years from completion and we are struggling with a hurting population that has limited access to affordable health care. While I understand the budget challenges faced by the State, the rejection of helpful federal dollars to support this struggling health care system is not a path we should follow."

Click [here](#) to view a News Release on this legislation.

## ***Addressed Governor's Plan to Close New Orleans Adolescent Hospital***



The Council passed Resolution R-09-153, introduced by Councilmember Fielkow, urging the Governor of Louisiana, Bobby Jindal, to reconsider the plan to close in-patient services at the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital (NOAH) and relocate them outside of Orleans Parish.

The Resolution also requests that any plan going forward with respect to the closure of the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital be made in consultation with the affected populations of the plan, and that public meetings be held in New Orleans regarding the State plan, thus enabling State policy makers to hear first-hand the impact that such actions will have on mental health services in Orleans Parish.

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New Orleans City Council | City Hall | 1300 Perdido Street | New Orleans | LA | 70112

City Council April 2, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

April 2, 2009

Contact:  
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Council Chief of Staff  
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[rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

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**New Orleans, LA - April 2, 2009** - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed Resolutions approving the Entergy New Orleans rate case settlement and called for expedited funding of the Orleans Public Defenders Office.

Additionally the Council passed Resolutions calling for review of the Army Corps of Engineers' plans for the redesign of New Orleans outfall canals, urging the State to reconsider its decision to reject federal health care stimulus money, and urging Governor Jindal to reconsider the plan to close in-patient services at the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital.

The Council also celebrated Navy Day and addressed a presentation on the Gun Buy Back Program.

*Celebrated Navy Day*



*Captain Harrison and General Mize*

Harrison and his work.

Captain Brian Harrison came before the Council today to be honored as a part of the Navy Day celebration. Captain Harrison is the last Commander of the Naval Support Station here in New Orleans.

Also present in the Chamber to be honored were numerous Navy personnel, along with the Navy band, and General David Mize USMC Ret was present to show his support for Captain

The Council presented a proclamation to Captain Harrison in recognition of his years of service and his accomplishments throughout his career.

Councilmembers expressed their gratitude to Captain Harrison and all Naval personnel present for their dedication and commitment to the City.



*Commander Huynh and Members of Vietnamese Military Academy in Louisiana*

Commander Quan H. Huynh of the Vietnamese Military Academy in Louisiana and academy members also came before the Council to receive a proclamation honoring them for their service and dedication to New Orleans.

### *Supported Gun Buy Back Program*



*Greater New Orleans Gun Buy Back Committee Members and NOPD Chief Riley*

Members of the Greater New Orleans Gun Buy Back Committee, along with New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Chief Warren Riley, came before the Council today to discuss the details of this year's Gun Buy Back program.

This year's program will feature presentations on gun safety, training and awareness, and a benefit

concert held at First Pilgrim Baptist Church located at 1234 Arts Street at 7 p.m. on Friday April 3rd.

The Gun Buy Back program will occur on Saturday, April 4th beginning at 9 a. m. at Little Zion Baptist Church Multi-Purpose Center located at 4821 Earhart Blvd.

The program is dedicated to decreasing the number of guns on the street and will provide \$50 for each gun and \$200 for each assault weapon turned in, no questions asked.

Councilmember James Carter said, "The Gun Buy Back program works to decrease violent crime in New Orleans by reducing the number of guns on our streets and providing training and information on gun safety. This program is an excellent collaborative effort among community members,



businesses, crime fighting initiatives and the New Orleans Police Department, and we are grateful for all of their hard work and dedication to making our City a safer place."

The Gun Buy Back program has helped to remove more than 1,000 guns from the streets over the last six years.

### ***Addressed Entergy Rate Case Settlement***



*Councilmember Midura*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-136, approving a legal settlement between the City Council and Entergy New Orleans, Inc.

The legal settlement will decrease Entergy utility rates by \$30 million for Entergy New Orleans ratepayers and includes an agreement by Entergy New Orleans, Inc. to fund Energy Smart, a citywide energy efficiency financing program.

The Council also passed Resolution R-09-137, ratifying a gas hedging plan to manage power costs during peak usage periods, as part of the Entergy New Orleans, Inc. rate case settlement.

Utility Committee Chair Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "This settlement will benefit our citizens and our City - decreasing utility costs and promoting a responsible energy plan. Energy Smart is a proactive approach to energy efficiency in our City and funding is critical to ensure that our City sees the benefits of this program in the near future."

### ***Addressed Army Corps of Engineers Decision on Outfall Canals***



*Lisa Ludwig, Tom Capella, David Waggoner and Robert Jackson*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-147, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, calling upon the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to submit its plans and cost estimates for the redesign of New Orleans' outfall canals to

independent, third-party review.

The resolution also supports a congressional field hearing in New Orleans by the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works to further investigate the Corps' proposed redesign.

Present at the meeting to further explain the issue were: Robert Jackson,

Spokesman for the Sewerage and Water Board; Tom Capella, Jefferson Parish Councilman-at-Large; David Waggoner, architect with Waggoner and Ball, a firm involved with post-Katrina city planning; and Lisa Ludwig, Executive Director of Pump to the River.

In redesigning the London Ave., Orleans Ave., and 17th St. canals, the Corps favors "Option 1" - which would retain existing deficient canal walls, build new pumping stations at the mouth of each canal, and rely on Sewerage and Water Board pumping stations to handle routine drainage. The Corps estimates this plan will cost \$800 million.

A proposed "Option 2," which the Corps has rejected as too costly, would involve the deepening and repaving of canal walls and the construction of new all-purpose pumping stations at each of these canals to handle both rising and falling water. The Corps estimates this plan will cost \$3.4 billion.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "I am concerned that Option 1 will provide insufficient protection if we have major rainfall accompanied by a significant rise in water levels within the canals, which we all know is common during major storms."

Click [here](#) to view a News Release on this legislation.

### ***Called for Expedited Funding of Orleans Public Defenders***



***Christopher Flood,  
Orleans Public Defenders  
Office***

The Council passed Resolution R-09-149, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, calling upon the Mayor's Office to expend the funds as allocated by the City Council to the Orleans Parish Defenders Office expeditiously.

The Council budgeted \$600,000 of the City's Operating Budget to the Orleans Parish Public Defenders - the Public Defenders Office has yet to receive these funds.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Fully funding the Public Defender's Office is about ensuring the entire criminal justice system is able to function effectively. We cannot prosecute crimes without a functioning defense office. It's that simple."

She continued, "The Council allocated funds to the office in our original budget ordinance. That Ordinance is law, and the Mayor is bound to respect it and disperse the funds as we intended."

## ***Urged State to Reconsider Rejection of Federal Health Care Stimulus Dollars***



Councilmember-at-Large  
Fielkow

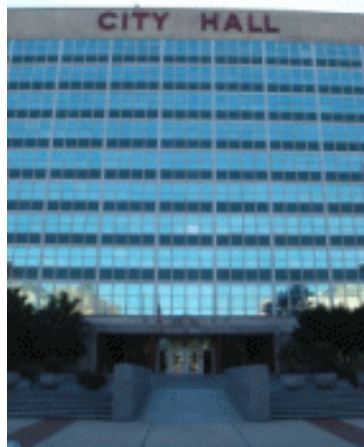
The Council passed Resolution R-09-155, introduced by Councilmember Fielkow, urging Governor Jindal and Louisiana Secretary of Health and Hospitals Alan Levine to reconsider their plan to reject millions of dollars in federal stimulus package funds designed to provide health benefits to Louisiana's poor, underinsured and uninsured.

The Resolution also calls for the State to hold public meetings on this issue in New Orleans and throughout Louisiana, enabling State policy makers to hear first-hand the impact that such actions will have on health care in Orleans Parish and the rest of the State.

Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow said, "In New Orleans alone, we still have no hospital in the East, the potential new LSU/VA complex is years from completion and we are struggling with a hurting population that has limited access to affordable health care. While I understand the budget challenges faced by the State, the rejection of helpful federal dollars to support this struggling health care system is not a path we should follow."

Click [here](#) to view a News Release on this legislation.

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Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, much of the economic development infrastructure in the Upper Gulf Coast Region collapsed and languished; business-support services that were desperately needed by international and domestic businesses that desired to participate in the recovery were not available, much less available in one place. As an integral member of the business community, the World Trade Center of New Orleans (WTC-NO) immediately responded by creating the “1<sup>st</sup> Stop for International Business Services Program”, with the help of local universities; this initiative has been adopted by other World Trade Centers. The importance of “1<sup>st</sup> Stop” to the City of New Orleans has been recognized by the New Orleans City Council.

Concurrent with that initiative, WTC-NO members consistently heard from many international and domestic visitors that it was difficult to accumulate, much less understand, the many complex incentives that were offered by the City, the State and the Federal Government. They wanted a single portal that provided easy access to basic information about taxes, incentives and business formation so that they could consider post-Katrina business opportunities that grew from the Upper Gulf Coast recovery efforts. Some Members of the New Orleans City Council also had expressed frustration with the same problem.

In response, the World Trade Center of New Orleans offered to develop a basic information manual, coupled with a related training session, for those in the New Orleans economic development community, including City Council Members and Administration officials and their staff, who need to know the type of incentives available and where more information can be found. The goals of the manual included (1) enabling any company that wanted easy and immediate access to basic information without the necessity of meetings or telephone calls, as well as, (2) ensuring that all City officials and staff, who received requests for information with a common understanding of these benefits and facts.

In response to that need and consistent with its own economic development role, the WTC-NO offers the City of New Orleans a basic orientation and training for anyone with a need to respond to inquiries from constituents and others regarding business and recovery incentives; it also suggests that public officials (e.g. Council Members, department heads, to administration officials, etc.) participate so that a common level of understanding regarding the availability of federal, state, and local incentives is achieved.

The Basic Legal Guide to Doing Business in Louisiana is intended to generally address legal topics pertaining to operating a business in Louisiana. It is not intended as legal advice; readers should consult a local attorney before initiating business operations in Louisiana.

The 1½ hour program will address:

1. Introduction to the U.S. legal system, the U.S. tax system, and Louisiana business organizations and legal structures
2. Louisiana Laws to Consider When Starting a Business
3. Available Federal Tax Incentives
4. State of Louisiana Business and Tax Incentives
5. Regional Incentives Offered
6. Financial Assistance Programs Offered

At the conclusion of the program, each participant will be given a hard copy of the ***WTC-NO Basic Legal Guide For Doing Business In Louisiana***; the New Orleans City Council and the City of New Orleans Administration will be provided with an electronic file that can be downloaded<sup>1</sup> at no charge.

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<sup>1</sup> The WTC-NO Basic Legal Guide For Doing Business In Louisiana is the property of the World Trade Center of New Orleans’ 1<sup>st</sup> Stop Program.

Media Advisory

April 3, 2009



**Council Vice President Fielkow  
To Hold Hearing on Taking Advantage of  
2014 Panama Canal Expansion**

*World Trade Center of New Orleans  
To Hold Training Seminar on Doing Business in New Orleans*

**WHAT:** City Council Special Projects & Economic Development Committee Meeting on how New Orleans must prepare for, and take advantage of, the 2014 widening of the Panama Canal.

Click [here](#) to view complete News Release on Special Projects & Economic Development Committee Meeting.

Later that day, the World Trade Center of New Orleans will hold an information and training session open to City Administration officials and staff, as well as local economic development professionals, on navigating and understanding the many complex business incentives offered by the City, the State and the Federal Government. The session will provide comprehensive information about taxes, incentives and business formation guidelines in New Orleans. The session is free and open to the public. The session is co-hosted by Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow and the World Trade Center of New Orleans.

Click [here](#) for information on World Trade Center Seminar.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, April 7, 2009

10:00 a.m. - Special Projects & Economic Development Committee Meeting

3:00 p.m. - World Trade Center of New Orleans Seminar

**WHERE:** City Council Chamber (both meetings)

**WHO:** Special Projects & Economic Development Committee Meeting:

- Walter Brooks, Regional Planning Commission

- Gary LaGrange, President & CEO, Port of New Orleans

- Honorable State Senator A.G. Crowe, State Senate District 1

- Members of the New Orleans Delegation to the State Legislature

- Local business leaders

- Committee Chair: Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow

- Committee Member District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

- Committee Member District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

WTC Seminar:

- Kevin Pollard, World Trade Center of New Orleans

**CONTACT:** Kate Schneiderman  
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow  
Office: (504) 658-1063  
Cell: (504) 905-9893  
Email: [krschneiderman@cityofno.com](mailto:krschneiderman@cityofno.com)

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## Planning Begins for the New Orleans Dialogue on Race Recommended by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

News Release

April 6, 2009

Contact:

Lena Stewart  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Ph: 504-658-1040  
[lestewart@cityofno.com](mailto:lestewart@cityofno.com)

[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - April 6, 2009 - Representatives from *AmericaSpeaks*, the Washington D.C. based non-partisan citizen advocacy organization, will be in New Orleans next week to conduct the first phase of interviews for The New Orleans Dialogue on Race, which Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell recommended in February 2009, as an important educational effort to help create new solutions to address New Orleans' racial tension. Hedge-Morrell chairs the City Council's Education Committee.

"The issues surrounding race relations in New Orleans have been highly charged for centuries," said Hedge-Morrell. Hurricane Katrina only made matters worse, she said, because it highlighted the disparities between race and class in New Orleans.

"*AmericaSpeaks*, in conjunction with our local consultant Barbara Major, will conduct a series of interviews with key leaders and stakeholders to gain a deeper understanding regarding current dynamics, possibilities and impediments," said Steve Brigham, *AmericaSpeaks*' Chief Operating Officer. The interviews will be followed by the building of a steering committee which will be a key force in reaching out to constituencies and networks to promote dialogue and understanding.

In late spring or early summer, a much larger group of leaders will come together for one or more dialogues,



followed by broad-based community meetings and ideally a large town meeting that allows for honest, open, respectful and collaborate dialogue and understanding, explained Brigham.

"The end result is not dialogue for dialogue sake - but a robust, sustainable action agenda, embraced by leaders and citizens alike, and in which all involved feel empowered to bridge our divides and move toward creating a great and inclusive city that New Orleans has the potential to become," said Hedge-Morrell.

"We will open up this initiative to all our city's citizens, churches, neighborhood, business and community organizations," Hedge-Morrell explained. "We want to involve everyone who would like to be a part of the solutions to this problem."

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Media Advisory

April 6, 2009

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## Youth & Recreation Committee to Convene Again To Expedite Opening of NORD Playgrounds

**What:** City Council "Special" Youth & Recreation Committee Meeting

Due to the absence of FEMA officials at the March 25th hearing on this topic, Councilman Fielkow will hold a follow-up hearing with city, state and FEMA officials to quicken the pace of rebuilding NORD (New Orleans Recreation Department) playgrounds and facilities. Disputes between the city and FEMA regarding federal reimbursements for rebuilding NORD facilities will be addressed.

Please see original press release [here](#) for more details.

**When:** Tuesday, April 7, 2009  
1:00 p.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests

- FEMA Officials
- ORDA Officials
- NORD Officials
- State of Louisiana Officials

Committee Members

- Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
- Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

- District "C" Councilmember James Carter

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](mailto:krschneiderman@cityofno.com)

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News Release

April 6, 2009

Contact:

Lena Stewart  
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Councilmember  
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**Economic Development  
Training Seminar**

The City of New Orleans and the  
World Trade Center  
*Present*

**An Economic Development  
Training Seminar**



Come to the City Council  
Chambers Tuesday, April  
7th from 3:00 to 5:00 to  
learn the latest research on  
economic development in  
New Orleans and Southeast  
Louisiana. Presented by the  
World Trade Center of New  
Orleans.

**Date: 04/07/2009**

**Time: 3 to 5 PM**

**City Council Chambers**

**Contact:**  
[negavrell@cityofno.com](mailto:negavrell@cityofno.com)



The City of New Orleans and the World  
Trade Center

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Office of Recovery and  
Development Administration  
1340 Poydras St., Ste. 1000  
New Orleans, LA 70130

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Statement

April 7, 2009



**Councilmember Head Statement**  
**Re: the Untimely Death of Lakita Johnson**

New Orleans, LA - April 7, 2009 - All of New Orleans is saddened by the senseless death of Lakita Johnson in Central City.

I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to Lakita's family for their loss. Her spirit and youthfulness are a tragic loss. She will be remembered as an example why we as a City must continue to care.

As we lament for Lakita, I wish to inform the public that her family has set up the Lakita Johnson Memorial fund with Liberty Bank to defray the costs of the funeral.

Those interested in making a donation can deposit a donation in person or mail to:

Liberty Bank  
3002 Gentilly Blvd.  
New Orleans, La.  
(504) 948-7656

Our prayers are with Lakita and her family during this most difficult time.

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## City Council Sets Deadline for FEMA, State and NORD To Show Clear Path to City Playground Summer Openings

*Youth & Recreation Meeting Set for May 22nd to Assess Progress*

News Release

April 7, 2009

Contact:

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Office of

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Arnie Fielkow

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**New Orleans, LA - April 7, 2009 -**


Today, the New Orleans City Council Youth & Recreation Committee, led by Chair Arnie Fielkow and Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, directed FEMA, the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD), and the State of Louisiana to work together over the next month towards the re-opening of more NORD facilities by this summer. A Youth and Recreation Committee meeting will be held on

May 22nd where the parties must account for their progress.

"Like all New Orleans citizens, I am frustrated hearing bureaucratic excuses and explanations about why many of our recreational facilities are still not rebuilt nearly 4 years after Katrina," says Council Vice President Fielkow. "I have asked FEMA, NORD and the State to come back to the Council in May, hopefully ready to announce that additional parks and playgrounds will be ready by this summer."

At today's committee meeting, the following 3 points of progress towards expediting the re-opening of city recreational facilities were noted:

- FEMA officials will now be embedded within the city administration to expedite the reimbursement process;
- No later than June 17, 2009, FEMA has pledged to open the remaining 11 FEMA trailer park sites that were temporarily occupying NORD property. FEMA has already reopened 4 former trailer sites;
- FEMA pledged in writing to work with the City and the State to ensure that the maximum federal funding is provided for each city recreation project



Panelists at the hearing included Larry Barabino, Jr. of NORD; Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, Dr. Ralph Thayer, Julie Schwam-Harris and Bill Chrisman of the City of New Orleans; Ronnie Fairly and Bob Josephson of FEMA; and James Clark and Skip Barber (GOHSEP - Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness).

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Councilmember Stacy Head  
Holds "Hen and Ham Easter Giveaway Celebration"  
For Senior Citizens in District "B"

News Release

April 9, 2009

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New Orleans, LA - April 9, 2009 - Councilmember Stacy Head held a successful "Hen and Ham Celebration Giveaway" on April 8th at the Central City Senior Center and on April 9th at the Mercy Endeavor Senior Center and Milan-Broadmoor Senior Center.

Approximately 300 seniors from Broadmoor, The Irish Channel and Central City received a hen or a ham to add to their Easter weekend festivities.

District "B" Councilmember Head said, "Celebrating this Easter season with seniors in District B is one of the most satisfying aspects of my role as a City Councilmember. These Senior Centers continue to do an excellent job providing an environment where seniors can experience enrichment, civic and health activities."

Councilmember Head and staff were present to hand out the hens or hams to seniors at the three centers. The Easter gifts are a reflection of the need to support "Seasoned Citizens" who continue to make a positive contribution to the city of New Orleans.

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## City Councilman Fielkow's Son Selected to Team U.S.A. Baseball

News Release

April 9, 2009

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**New Orleans, LA - April 9, 2009 -** Steven Fielkow, youngest son of New Orleans City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow, has been selected to the United States Baseball Team to compete at the 18th Maccabiah Games in Israel, July 12 - 23, 2009.

The Maccabiah is an international sports competition similar to the Olympics, and is the third largest sporting event in the world. This summer, over 9000 Jewish athletes from around the world, representing six continents and over sixty countries, will convene and compete in Israel.

Steven was selected through a series of national tryouts from a group of over 500 high school Jewish athletes from around the country and will be one of 16 American baseball teammates to compete in Israel in July 2009.

"I am deeply honored to be a part of the historic Maccabiah Games, representing the United States," says Steven. "Baseball is my passion, and I am lucky that I have been coached by some wonderful people involved in youth baseball in New Orleans."

The Maccabiah Games first took place in Israel in 1932 and included 390 athletes. It is a quadrennial event and is sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee. Among the many famous previous participants are Mark Spitz, Kerry Strug, Joel Kramer and Lenny Krayzelburg. Steven will be following in the footsteps of his father, who was selected to the silver-medal winning United States Men's Basketball team at the 15th Maccabiah Games in 1997.

Adds Councilman Fielkow, "My wife Susan and I are so proud of Steven's inclusion in the 2009 Maccabiah Games. It takes skill, dedication and a deep commitment to achieve this honor, and Steven has that in abundance."

Steven is currently a sophomore at Benjamin Franklin High School in New Orleans, where he is on the Varsity Baseball, Tennis and Basketball teams. Last week, Fielkow threw a no-hitter in Franklin's win over Rabouin. He is involved in numerous community service projects throughout the city, and is a member of the Young Democrats and the Benjamin Franklin High School Band.

**About the organization:**

Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel (MUSA) has an extensive history of enriching Jewish lives through athletic, cultural and educational programs. The organization is the official sponsor of the United States Team to the World Maccabiah Games, the Pan American Maccabi Games and the Maccabi competitions in Europe and Australia, as well as a co-founder of the JCC Maccabi Games for teens in North America. As the official Maccabi representative in the U.S., Maccabi USA supports Jewish athletic endeavors, enhanced by cultural and educational activities in the United States, Israel and throughout the Diaspora.

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Media Advisory

April 14, 2009

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**Recovery Committee  
To Receive Report on Recovery Project Funding Sources  
In Afternoon Session Tomorrow**

**What:** City officials will report to the Council's Recovery Committee tomorrow, providing details on the various funding sources for recovery projects, on how much has been spent from each source, and on how much remains to be spent from each source during the 2009 fiscal year.

This report comes at the request of Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, who co-chairs the Recovery Committee with District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.

**When:** Wednesday, April 15, 2009  
2:00 p.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests  
- Cynthia Sylvain Lear, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
- Bill Chrisman, Director of Capital Projects  
- Carey Grant, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

Committee Members  
- Co-Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson  
- Co-Chair: District "E" Councilmember Willard-Lewis  
- District "A" Councilmember Midura  
- District "B" Councilmember Head  
- District "C" Councilmember Carter  
- District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

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Media Advisory

April 14, 2009

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**Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee  
To Hear Final Proposals for New Orleans  
Tax Increment Financing Policy on Thursday Morning**

**What:** The Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee hearing will review recommendations for codifying regulations that will establish a new, citywide New Orleans Tax Increment Financing (TIF) policy. The TIF policy is expected to institute conditions under which the City of New Orleans will consider approving TIF proposals.

In 1988, the State of Louisiana passed legislation known as the Louisiana Tax Development Act, which allows parishes to develop and implement TIF programs. Since then, the City of New Orleans has only implemented two TIF projects. TIF projects are nationally known and frequently used to stimulate economic development within selected areas of a community.

TIF is a tool to use future gains in taxes to finance the current improvements that will create those gains. Tax Increment Financing creates funding for public projects that may otherwise be unaffordable to localities, and dedicates tax increments within a certain defined district to finance debt issued to pay for projects. TIF is designed to channel funding toward improvements in distressed or underdeveloped areas where development would not otherwise occur.

**When:** Thursday, April 16, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests  
- Dr. Ed Blakely, Office of Recovery and Development Administration (ORDA)  
- Jeff Thomas, Office of Recovery and Development Administration (ORDA)

Committee Members  
- Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow

- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

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## Councilmember Hedge-Morrell Appointed to the Holy Cross School Board of Directors

News Release

April 15, 2009

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*Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
with Holy Cross School students*

New Orleans, LA -  
April 15, 2009 -  
District "D"  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-  
Morrell was  
recently  
appointed to the  
Holy Cross School  
Board of Directors  
by the South-West  
Province.

Located in District "D", Holy Cross School has served the New Orleans community for over 150 years as a premier young men's college preparatory middle and high school for boys in grades 5-12.

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "I look forward to working with key stakeholders and community members through my new position on the Board of Directors to ensure that Holy Cross School has all of the tools it needs to continue its work as a prestigious educational establishment. Holy Cross has made a profound difference in the lives of many young men in New Orleans and I am honored to have Holy Cross call District D home."

Due to flooding during Hurricane Katrina, Holy Cross decided to relocate from its original Ninth Ward campus to its new Gentilly location.

In February 2008 District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell gathered with students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff and neighbors for the Holy Cross School groundbreaking ceremony, commemorating the beginning of construction on the new school. For more information on Holy Cross School click [here](#).

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Councilmember Fielkow  
Chairs the 2009 'March for Babies' Fundraising Walk

*Event Supports March of Dimes Programs throughout Greater New Orleans*

News Release

April 17, 2009

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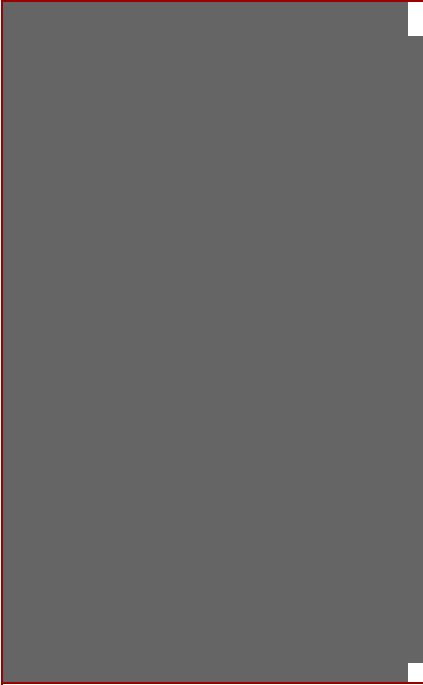


New Orleans, LA - April 17, 2009 - New Orleans City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow, along with his wife Dr. Susan Fielkow, are the 2009 Chairs of 'March for Babies' to be held in LaSalle Park in Metairie on Saturday, April 25th.

Funds raised by 'March for Babies' in Greater New Orleans supports the March of Dimes NICU (newborn intensive care unit) Family Support Program at Ochsner Hospital and various prenatal education programs for women. LaSalle Park is located at 6600 Airline Drive in Metairie, Louisiana. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and the march begins at 9:00 a.m.

"The most urgent infant health problem in the U.S. today is premature birth. It affects more than half a million babies each year, with the number growing every day," said Councilman Fielkow. "One day, all babies will be born healthy, but to achieve this, please join me and my wife at the 'March for Babies' walk to raise funds and awareness."

The March of Dimes issued a Report Card on Premature Birth, giving the nation a D and Louisiana an F. Babies born too soon are more likely to die or have disabilities. The March of Dimes is committed to reducing this toll by funding research to find the answers to premature birth and providing comfort and information to families who are affected. Roop Raj, News Anchor from WDSU TV will emcee the walk, which also includes a Second Line, music, great food and a children's activity tent for the whole family.



"This walk is an opportunity to teach our children the value of volunteering - how their gifts of time, energy and money, no matter the size, can have a big impact when they're supporting a worthy cause," added Dr. Susan Fielkow, 'March for Babies' Co-Chair. "And for families of all sizes and ages, supporting the cause of healthy babies is a perfect match!"

2009 'March for Babies' national sponsors include Kmart, CIGNA, Continental Airlines, Famous Footwear, Farmers Insurance Group of Companies, FedEx, First Response, Liberty Tax Services, Mead Johnson Nutrition and Ther-Rx.

To join in, visit [www.marchforbabies.org](http://www.marchforbabies.org), or call toll-free (800) 460-0865 to sign up as an individual, or to start a corporate, family or friends team, or to make a donation. Participants can also pick up sponsor forms at their local Kmart.

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Statement

April 22, 2009



**Councilmember Head Statement**  
**Re: the Untimely Deaths of**  
**Calyisse Perkins and Fitzgerald Phillips**

**New Orleans, LA - April 22, 2009** - New Orleans residents are saddened to learn of the deaths of Calyisse Perkins and Fitzgerald Phillips who were found in Gert Town.

I wish to extend my deepest condolences to the family members of Calyisse and Fitzgerald. The loss of these young adults in such trying circumstances is troubling and difficult to comprehend. Our criminal justice leaders must accept the challenge of decreasing crime in our city in a dramatic way.

The rebuilding efforts of our city are being lead by young people like Calyisse Perkins who donated her time as an AmeriCorps volunteer to help tutor children in a literacy program at William J. Fischer Elementary Charter School. This loss of two young lives will be mourned by many in the New Orleans area.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Perkins and Phillips family members during this very difficult time.

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**Council Vice President Fielkow and Councilmember Willard-Lewis  
Hold Meetings in Washington, D.C. and New York  
On Six Flags and Recovery Projects**

**News Release**

**April 22, 2009**

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**New York, NY - April 22, 2009** - Over the past two days, City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow held meetings with Obama Administration officials, members of Congress and top Six Flags executives in Washington, DC and New York. Fielkow was joined in New York for meetings with Six Flags officials by District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, Mayor C. Ray Nagin, and City Attorney Penny-Moses Fields.

The redevelopment of the Six Flags theme park property in New Orleans East, formerly known as Jazzland, was the primary point of discussion with both Six Flags officials and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as the City attempts to gain site control of the property so that a catalytic redevelopment can occur in this important part of New Orleans. Other critical recovery issues, such as expediting the FEMA reimbursement process for public facilities and the redevelopment of the Big Four public housing developments, were also addressed.





*Councilmember-at-Large  
Fielkow*

"I was pleased with the conversations I had with Obama Administration officials on key recovery topics. I sense an urgency in DC to work with us to move our recovery forward," said Vice President Fielkow. "Like many other city officials, I emphasized the need for FEMA and HUD to expedite the rebuilding efforts in our city notwithstanding the national economic challenges currently being faced."

In Washington, DC Fielkow met with newly-appointed Gulf Coast Recovery Coordinator Janet Woodka, officials in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Senator Mary Landrieu and Congressman Joseph Cao.

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, along with other city officials, including Councilmember Fielkow, Mayor C. Ray Nagin and Penya Moses-Fields, met with Six Flags officials in New York on Wednesday.



*Councilmember Willard-Lewis*

Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "The purpose of this one-day trip is part of an attempt to protect the City's financial investment in the Jazzland project in the event that the Six Flag Corporation files for re-organization. My primary purpose for the meeting was to exercise my fiduciary responsibilities with respect to the citizens of New Orleans related to this development."

The meeting in New York involved Six Flags President Mark Shapiro, and centered around Six Flags' legal and financial obligations to the City of New Orleans and the need for New Orleans to swiftly redevelop the New Orleans East site. Following a nearly 90 minute meeting with Six Flags, it is the City's position that it will immediately review and pursue all appropriate legal actions available to it against Six Flags so as to protect the City's legal position. It is anticipated that a lawsuit against Six Flags will be filed in the coming days.

While these legal proceedings are pending, the City intends to aggressively go forward with all potential redevelopment options so that a sustainable, successful and catalytic development can be brought to the community.

Vice President Fielkow added, "It became quite apparent to us during the negotiations today that, after nearly two years of discussions, we will be unable to reach an agreement with Six Flags which would be beneficial to the City of New Orleans. Six Flags representatives made it abundantly clear to us that they are experiencing significant financial distress but, at

the same time, we emphasized that it is our obligation as City representatives to pursue all options, including legal, which would best protect the citizens of New Orleans."

"It is our intention to immediately pursue litigation against Six Flags, while at the same time aggressively pursuing all redevelopment options which would be beneficial to our citizens. Our discussions with Six Flags were direct and candid, and we are hopeful that a beneficial outcome can be achieved."

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## Council Vice President Fielkow Continues Fight To Increase City Contract Transparency

News Release

April 22, 2009

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New Orleans, LA - April 22, 2009 -


At tomorrow's regular City Council meeting, Council Vice President Fielkow will introduce a Resolution that urges the Administration, pursuant to the Home Rule Charter, to require full disclosure of all subcontractors and individuals having a financial interest in any professional services contracts with the City. The Resolution further calls on the Louisiana State Legislature to enact legislation requiring full disclosure of all subcontractors and individuals having a financial interest in any contracts issued pursuant to state public bid laws.

"It is in the best interests of our citizens to know who is performing work on behalf of their government. With resources so tight right now, it is important to account for every dollar spent in our city," says Fielkow.

"Subcontractors should be able to withstand the same level of public scrutiny as primary contractors, and the public would be well-served by knowing the identity of all subcontractors involved in city contracts. This Resolution broadens the public transparency already required by all contractors doing business with the City Council to cover the entire city government."

This Resolution, R-09-181, broadens the scope of Resolution R-05-H which was unanimously passed by the City Council after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. That Resolution, R-05-H, required that all individuals and entities receiving a contract from the City of New Orleans related to the rebuilding of New Orleans must certify the identity of all individuals and entities with a financial interest in the contract, including all subcontractors, consultants and finder's fees incurred, paid or promised. The certification had to be made to the City before the contract could be executed.

The New Orleans City Council, led by Councilman Fielkow, has already adopted Rule 45 of its Rules and Regulations



providing for the full disclosure of any individuals or entities involved in work on City Council-issued contracts. This new Resolution, R-09-181, requests that the City of New Orleans adhere to this same standard of transparency, and broaden the scope of the original Resolution to include ALL contracts with the City, not just those pertaining to rebuilding.

Additionally, R-09-181 seeks to equalize the disclosure requirements for all contractors and subcontractors holding city contracts. Under current city law, excluding City Council contracts, only Disadvantage Business Enterprises (DBE's) subcontractors are required to be disclosed, while non-DBE's are not subject to general disclosure requirements. This results in inequitable disclosure practices for DBE's.

"Every enterprise seeking to do business with the City of New Orleans should be held to the same standards. It is inequitable that we are holding minority- and women-owned businesses to a higher degree of scrutiny," adds Fielkow. "The playing field needs to be equalized so that every contractor and subcontractor is held to the same standards."

Councilman Fielkow plans to introduce R-09-181 during tomorrow's City Council meeting.

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Media Advisory

April 22, 2009

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session  
Thursday, April 23rd at 10 a.m.  
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

**What:** Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Presentation honoring the graduating classes of 2009, the first class to matriculate post-Katrina, from seven local universities: Tulane, Dillard, Xavier, UNO, SUNO, Our Lady of Holy Cross, and Loyola. University presidents, other university administration officials, and student government representatives will be present.
- Resolution supporting state legislative efforts to remove the scheduled film incentive tax credit (Motion Picture Investor Tax Credit) reduction slated for early 2010, which would result in a tremendous loss of direct economic impact and film industry related jobs, and stabilizing the existing tax credit at 30 percent
- Resolution requesting an opinion from the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana, regarding the constitutionality of Senate Bill 75, which appears to conflict with the Master Plan force of law Charter Amendment approved by voters last fall
- Ordinance to designate an "Extended Renewal Period and Fee" to extend the renewal period until December 31, 2009 for Certificates of Public Necessity and Convenience that expired between December 31, 2005 and December 31, 2008
- Ordinance adding a "Delinquency Penalty" for expired Certificates of Public Necessity and Convenience (CPNC); a "Revocation of Certificates of Public Necessity and Convenience" providing for the suspension of a CPNC that is not renewed by March 31 of the year of renewal; and an "Extension for Acquiring a Vehicle and Fee" allowing for compliance with the requirement that a CPNC holder must have a vehicle in service to be extended for a period of time for good cause.

- Ordinance repealing the \$2.00 gasoline surcharge per each completed trip for taxicabs and DFT
- Presentation of a check to New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) by Senator JP Morrell

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, April 23, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
Email: [rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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City Council April 23, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

April 23, 2009

Contact:  
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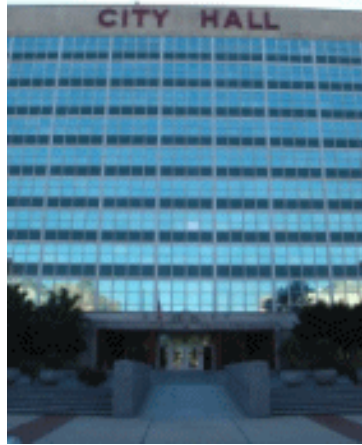
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Special Counsel for the City Council, Steven J. Lane of Herman, Herman, Katz and Cotlar addressed the Council about the current status of the pending litigation and to discuss that the Council has been recently put in possession of its email correspondence. Lane informed Councilmembers that legal counsel, with assistance from a technology expert, is preparing the emails into a readable format and determining which documents are subject to the Public Records Law. As soon as the review is complete, the documents will be made available for public release.

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Clarkson*

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The recently voter-approved Master Plan force of law Charter Amendment clearly outlines a multi-step process by which the Master Plan shall acquire the force of law, including that the Council must receive the Master Plan and either adopt it, reject it, or propose modifications.

The Resolution requests that the Attorney General address whether or not the provisions set forth in Senate Bill 75 improperly usurp the City of New



Orleans Home Rule authority and/or whether Senate Bill 75 is violative of the of the City's Home Rule Charter, the Louisiana Constitution, and/or other applicable law.

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Councilmember Fielkow worked with Jennifer Day, Director of the New Orleans Office of Film & Video, to craft this Resolution.

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The surcharge was originally imposed by Ordinance No. 23,148 M.C.S., adopted in response to the economic hardships that many drivers experienced as a result of high gasoline prices in 2008.

District "E" Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "Now that gasoline prices have decreased to a more reasonable price, we feel it is appropriate to repeal the \$2.00 surcharge. We understand the importance of assisting our citizens in hard times and we will continue to do so."

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*Deputy Director Sidney Bournes and Michael Lentz of the Taxicab Bureau*

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City Council April 23, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

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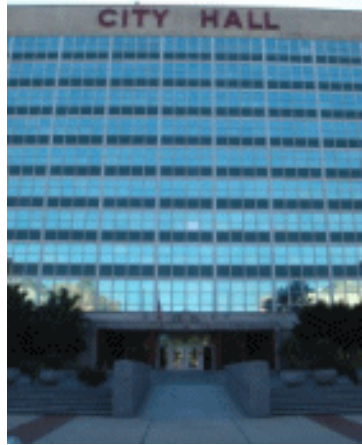
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## NOLA Council News

April 30, 2009 Vol. 2, No. 6

Click [here](#) to view full Newsletter or click on links below to view individual articles.

- [City Council April 23, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary](#)
- [Repeals Gas Surcharge for Taxicabs and Disabled Friendly Taxis](#)
- [Council Vice President Fielkow and Councilmember Willard-Lewis Hold Meetings in Washington, D.C. and New York on Six Flags and Recovery Projects](#)
- [Councilmember Head Holds "Hen and Ham Easter Giveaway Celebration" for Senior Citizens in District "B"](#)
- [Planning Begins for the New Orleans Dialogue on Race Recommended by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell](#)
- [Approves Entergy Rate Case Settlement](#)
- [Supports Gun Buy Back Program](#)
- [Addresses Army Corps of Engineers Decision on Outfall Canals](#)
- [Urges State to Reconsider Rejection of Federal Health Care Stimulus Dollars](#)
- [City Council April 2, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary](#)



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Council President Clarkson Meets with Key State Officials  
To Discuss Critical Orleans Parish Needs  
In Baton Rouge Today

Announcement

May 5, 2009

Contact:

Jacquelyn Cole

Office of

Councilmember-at-Large  
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

Ph: 504-658-1072

Cell: 504-577-3600

[jlcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jlcole@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans, LA - May 5, 2009 - City Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will meet with key state officials and legislators in Baton Rouge today to discuss issues central to New Orleans' continued recovery.

Joining the Mayor and several other City Councilmembers, Council President Clarkson will attend meetings with state representatives and senators, the Insurance Commissioner, the State Treasurer, and the Governor.

For media availability, please contact:

Jacquelyn Cole

Office of Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson

Cell: (504) 577-3600

Email: [jlcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jlcole@cityofno.com)

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**CORRECTION:**  
**Community Meeting on NOAH to be Held May 12th**  
**In City Council Chamber**

**News Release**

**May 5, 2009**

**Contact:**

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

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**New Orleans, LA - May 5, 2009** - A community meeting on the planned closure of the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital (NOAH) will be held in City Council Chamber on **May 12th** from 6pm - 8pm.

The evening meeting time was specifically chosen to accommodate those citizens who work, or are otherwise unavailable during the day, to speak about NOAH in Uptown New Orleans. City Councilmembers, City Administration officials, local mental health experts and organizations will be present to hear citizens concerns.

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "Our still-struggling mental health care community will be severely and negatively impacted by the closing of NOAH. The Council has already held meetings, both public and private, with state and local officials on this issue. However, I know that many New Orleans citizens cannot attend day-time hearings and it is critical that their voices be heard." Fielkow added, "This evening meeting is an 'after-hours' opportunity for all citizens to come and state your feelings on NOAH."

Members of the City Council were approached with the idea of holding an 'after-hours' public meeting in the City Council Chamber last week at a community meeting in the Lower Ninth Ward. Citizens at that meeting expressed frustration that they were often not able to leave work and attend public hearings during the day. Councilmember Fielkow, along with many of his Council colleagues including Councilmembers Cynthia Willard Lewis and Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, agreed to help organize an evening public meeting.

Invited guests include Judge Calvin Johnson (Ret.) of the Metropolitan Human Services District, Dr. Kevin Stephens of the City of New Orleans Health Department, Cecile Tebo of the NOPD's Crisis Unit and other mental health care providers and experts.

**New Orleans City Council**

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## Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow Supports the Future of UNO Athletics and Programs

News Release

May 5, 2009

Contact:  
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Arnie Fielkow  
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New Orleans, LA - May 5, 2009 - At the Thursday, May 7th regular New Orleans City Council meeting, Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow will introduce Resolution R-09-219 which calls on the local business community to join with government and citizens to work with the University of New Orleans to preserve the educational and athletic programs currently being cut under the proposed State budget.

Council Vice President Fielkow says, "The University of New Orleans is one of the primary institutions providing college educational opportunities to students in the metropolitan New Orleans area, and it has served as a major economic development catalyst in the region since Hurricane Katrina. The current budget proposed by the Governor calls for deep cuts in higher education that will be extremely harmful to local institutions of higher learning."

Intercollegiate athletics play an integral role in post-secondary education and often provide the financial and motivational means by which many students, particularly low income students, are able to gain a college education.

The Resolution will be brought up for a full vote before the City Council this Thursday.

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Legislation to Strengthen Minority and Women-Owned  
Small Businesses in New Orleans  
To be Introduced at May 7th Council Meeting

News Release

May 5, 2009

Contact:  
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New Orleans, LA - May 5, 2009 - At the May 7th regular New Orleans City Council meeting, Vice President Arnie Fielkow will introduce R-09-201 to strengthen opportunities for small businesses and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) to participate in city contracts. Best practices, such as those found through Atlanta's Office of Contract Compliance, are to be encouraged.

The Resolution requests that Administration representatives appear before the Council's June 9th Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee to testify how the City can improve its utilization of small businesses and DBEs to fulfill City contracts and subcontracts. Other cities, such as Atlanta, have already successfully implemented various programs to encourage small business development.

Council Vice President Fielkow says, "One of the keys to economic growth is the development of small businesses, especially the historically disadvantaged minority- and women-owned small businesses. New Orleans already does a good job in requiring a percentage of all city contracts to go towards disadvantaged businesses, but hopefully we can continue to make strides to reach more minority businesses in this city."

He continues, "Additionally, with the expected increase in recovery dollars flowing to local governments, there are unparalleled opportunities for local small businesses to participate in the recovery projects. However, this will only happen to the fullest extent possible if small and disadvantaged businesses are better-positioned to take part in those projects. In a best case world, all of the recovery

contracts for the City of New Orleans should remain with local businesses."

Additionally, R-09-201 also asks the Administration to recommend potential changes to State and local law that would create programs to encourage small business development.

Currently, under State and City law, 10% of the total value of all City professional services contracts must be set aside for small business. Of that 10%, at least another 10% must be awarded to socially and economically disadvantaged businesses and at least another 10% be awarded to women-owned businesses. Additionally, the City of New Orleans has set its own goals for both construction and professional services contracts. Specifically, the City mandates that 20% of the total contract amount available each year be awarded to minority-owned firms and that 5% be awarded to women-owned enterprises.

R-09-201 will be introduced at the May 7th Council meeting and then forwarded to the Governmental Affairs Committee for full vetting.

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**Councilmember Midura to Introduce Motion  
To Provide for Independent Evaluation  
Of Council's Utility Regulatory Function**

*Evaluation Focused on Potential Cost Savings and Resource Management  
In Line with National Best Practices and Standards*

News Release

May 5, 2009

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Seung Hong

Office of

District "A" Councilmember  
Shelley Midura

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*Councilmember Midura*

New Orleans, LA - May 5, 2009 - At Thursday's regular City Council meeting, District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura will introduce a Motion to retain the RAND Corporation, in partnership with the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRRI), to conduct an assessment of the Council's Utility Regulatory function.

Councilmember Midura said, "In an effort to increase transparency and accountability, in 2006, the Council adopted a Resolution voluntarily banning Councilmembers from accepting campaign contributions from our utility consultants and anyone affiliated with Entergy New Orleans. I would like to take this a step further - and have outside experts evaluate the cost and effectiveness of the current way we staff our regulatory shop and make recommendations for improvements and possible savings for our ratepayers."

She continued, "In the 25 years since the Council became the regulator of the City's utilities, this type of evaluation has never been performed. The timing of the results is ideal, given that new contracts for the consultants, at a cost of approximately \$30 million over 5 years, must be in place by January 1, 2010, and if we want to continue to reform the way we procure services in the name of responsible stewardship of public dollars and accountability in government services then we need to do it before signing those contracts."

The City Council, in accordance with the New Orleans Home Rule Charter and the Louisiana Constitution, acts as retail regulator for electric and gas utility service in the City. With only two City Hall employees in the Utility Regulatory

Office, the Council has traditionally relied on the services of expert consultants, including attorneys, engineers, and accountants to represent the Council in its numerous legal cases in local court and at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and to guide and advise the Council in its oversight function. They recently worked on the 2009 rate case, which resulted in a \$30 million overall bill reduction for ENO ratepayers.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued in February and was advertised both locally, and nationally, including in the Wall Street Journal and industry trade journals. The RAND Corporation teamed with NRRRI to make a very strong proposal to carry out the evaluation process for \$130,000. The results of the evaluation will be used when the Council issues RFPs for the expert consultants this fall. New five-year contracts will become effective January 1, 2010, at a cost of approximately \$6 million/year.

As defined by the RFP, RAND and NRRRI will undertake a thorough analysis of the City Council's regulatory framework and the allocation of its regulatory resources to meet the scope of its responsibility, and consider the incorporation of best practices and national standards into the Council's regulatory framework.

The RAND Corporation is a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decision making through research and analysis. For 60 years, decision makers in the public and private sectors have turned to the RAND Corporation for objective analysis and effective solutions that address the challenges facing the nation and the world. These challenges include such critical social and economic issues as education, poverty, crime, and the environment, as well as a range of national security issues.

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## Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow Supports the Future of UNO Athletics and Programs

News Release

May 5, 2009

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Arnie Fielkow  
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Council Vice President Fielkow says, "The University of New Orleans is one of the primary institutions providing college educational opportunities to students in the metropolitan New Orleans area, and it has served as a major economic development catalyst in the region since Hurricane Katrina. The current budget proposed by the Governor calls for deep cuts in higher education that will be extremely harmful to local institutions of higher learning."

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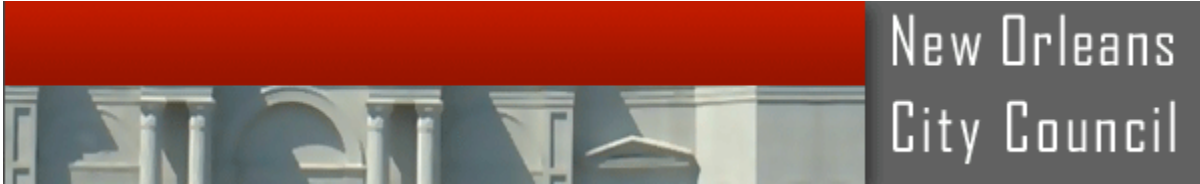
The Resolution will be brought up for a full vote before the City Council this Thursday.

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Media Advisory

May 6, 2009

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**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session  
Thursday, May 7th at 10 a.m.  
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

**What:** Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Motion to retain the RAND Corporation, in partnership with the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI), to conduct an assessment of the Council's Utility Regulatory function
- Resolution which calls on the local business community to join with government and citizens to work with the University of New Orleans to preserve the educational and athletic programs currently being cut under the proposed State budget
- Resolution encouraging the State Legislature to search for new funding streams in order to continue the operations of Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO)
- Presentation celebrating the 100 Year Anniversary of Boh Brothers Construction
- Presentation congratulating Quint Davis and the Jazz Fest Foundation on their 40th Anniversary and the largest Jazz Fest since 2001
- Presentation by representatives of the Vietnamese community of New Orleans remembering the Fall of Saigon
- Presentation on emergency shelters by Kristy Nichols of the Department of

## Social Services

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, May 7, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
Email: [rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans  
City Council

## Court Prohibits City Attorney's Public Release of Council Emails until Its Legal Counsel Conducts Privileged and Confidential Information Review

News Release

May 6, 2009

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

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New Orleans, LA - May 6, 2009 - Today, Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge Madeleine Landrieu ruled that the New Orleans City Council is the custodian of its emails and that it can review the emails for privileged and confidential information prior to responses made to the public records request.

Judge Landrieu heard oral argument from City Council Attorney Steve Lane and Associate City Attorney Franz Zibilich on the Petition for Writ of Injunction filed on behalf of the Council.

The Court granted the injunction, prohibiting the City Attorney from releasing the emails until the Council has a reasonable opportunity to review them for privileged and confidential information.

The City Attorney was ordered to produce the City Council's emails to the President of the City Council so that they can be reviewed to determine if privilege or confidentiality applies to any of the emails. Responses to public records requests made of the City Council will be made as quickly as possible and in accordance with the State's Public Records Law.

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Council Vice President Fielkow  
Opposes Louisiana House Bill No. 60:  
Proposed Bill Not in the Best Interest of Adopted Children

News Release

May 6, 2009

Contact:  
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Arnie Fielkow  
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Cell: 504-905-9893  
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New Orleans, LA - May 6, 2009 - At tomorrow's regular City Council meeting, Vice President Arnie Fielkow will bring up a Resolution opposing Louisiana House Bill No. 60.

House Bill No. 60 calls for changing the criteria under which the State of Louisiana issues a new birth certificate for an adopted child. Specifically, the proposed bill calls for a birth certificate to be issued

for an adopted child only to a married couple or single parent.

"So many children in both Louisiana and throughout the world need good homes and caring parents, and enacting legislation which penalizes potential gay adopting parents is both mean-spirited and not in the best interest of our children. House Bill No. 60 adds another layer to an already exhaustive process and potentially harms children in the future from receiving much-needed healthcare and social services," says Fielkow. "I feel that we should be making adoption easier, not harder, and ensuring that adopted children and parents are afforded the same rights, access to information and privileges as naturally-born children."

House Bill No. 60 may put the State of Louisiana at odds with a federal court ruling on this issue. Council Vice President Fielkow and his wife are the recent adoptive parents of two young girls from the Ukraine, and can personally attest to the difficulties in obtaining proper documentation for their children.

Critics of House Bill No. 60 point out that by denying some adoptive parents the right to be on their child's birth certificate, that family may face difficulties in registering their child for school, medical benefits or insurance.

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Council Vice President Fielkow  
Opposes Any Potential Plans to Close or Merge SUNO  
And Will Introduce Resolution at Tomorrow's Council Meeting  
Asking State Legislature to Continue Financing SUNO

News Release

May 6, 2009

Contact:  
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New Orleans, LA - May 6, 2009 - At tomorrow's regular City Council Meeting, Council Vice President Fielkow will introduce Resolution R-09-225 encouraging the State Legislature to search for new funding streams in order to continue the operations of Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO).

The Resolution acknowledges the financial shortfall faced by Louisiana's institutions of higher education, and further states the City Council's opposition to any proposed plan to close SUNO and/or merge it with the University of New Orleans.

"Since its founding, SUNO has consistently educated and trained productive members of our community. The foundation of a strong local economy rests on its educational institutions, and we would be taking a giant step backwards as a state and a city if SUNO and UNO are consolidated and funding is cut," says Vice President Fielkow. "SUNO has done a remarkable rebuilding job since Hurricane Katrina and it would be a terrible affront to the hard work of this community, the university and its students to shut down such a big contributor to the health and vitality of New Orleans."

SUNO's critical role in New Orleans stems from its prestigious School of Social Work and recently re-certified College of Education - both turn out trained professionals and critical research in two areas that are of utmost importance in New Orleans. Further, SUNO is a proven investment for Louisiana - an economic impact study published by Southern University of New Orleans on April



30, 2009 found that for every dollar spent on SUNO by the State of Louisiana, the State receives approximately seven dollars in return.

SUNO officials will be present at tomorrow's meeting to testify about the affects of any proposed closure or merger on the school.

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City Council May 7, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

May 7, 2009

Contact:  
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**New Orleans, LA - May 7, 2009** - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed Resolutions supporting University of New Orleans (UNO) athletic programs, continuing operations at Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) and addressing House Bill No. 60 on the state adoption process.

Additionally, the Council supported the involvement of the Office of Inspector General relative to an independent assessment of the Council's utility regulatory function, and passed Motions electing the new Council President and Vice President.

The Council also addressed presentations on emergency shelters and the anniversary of the Fall of Saigon, and honored Boh Brothers Construction for its 100 year anniversary and Quint Davis and the Jazz Fest Foundation for the event's 40 year anniversary.

*Supported Preservation of UNO Athletic Programs*



*Jim Miller (left) and Ron Maestri*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-219, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, which calls on the local business community to join with government and citizens to work with the University of New Orleans (UNO) to preserve the educational and athletic programs currently set to be cut under the proposed State budget.

Jim Miller, UNO Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, and Ron

Maestri, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the New Orleans Zephyrs and former UNO Athletic Director, appeared before the Council to thank Councilmembers for their continuous support of UNO and their dedication to preserving the university's athletics programs.

Council Vice President Fielkow said, "The University of New Orleans is one of the primary institutions providing college educational opportunities to students in the metropolitan New Orleans area, and it has served as a major economic development catalyst in the region since Hurricane Katrina. The current budget proposed by the Governor calls for deep cuts in higher education that will be extremely harmful to local institutions of higher learning."

Intercollegiate athletics play an integral role in post-secondary education and often provide the financial and motivational means by which many students, particularly low income students, are able to gain a college education.

Click [here](#) to view a News Release on this legislation.

### *Encouraged Continuing Operations at SUNO*



*Gloria Moultrie of SUNO*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-225, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, encouraging the State Legislature to search for new funding streams in order to continue the operations of Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO).

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### ***Addressed Presentation on Emergency Services***



*Left to Right: Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Sneed, Kristy Nichols, Colonel Cliff Oliver & Mark Cooper*

Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Sneed, Director of Homeland Security for the City of New Orleans; Kristy Nichols, Secretary of the Department of Social Services (DSS); Colonel Cliff Oliver of the Louisiana National Guard; and Mark Cooper of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness appeared before the Council to give a report on emergency shelters and hurricane preparedness.

The representatives discussed the state preparations for hurricane season, including the establishment of an urban search and rescue program, as well as public education programs on hurricane preparedness for children and their parents.

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*Robert S. Boh (left) & Stephen Boh with Councilmembers Clarkson, Hedge-Morrell & Willard-Lewis*

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Quint Davis discussed the history of the Jazz Fest and how it has grown throughout the years. He also highlighted the festival's great economic impact on the City and thanked everyone who helped to make this year's festival a success.

Councilmembers offered their congratulations and honored Mr. Davis for his contribution to the City of New Orleans. They highlighted the importance of Jazz Fest as an annual reminder of the diversity of cultures that brings the City together.

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Representatives of the Vietnamese community in New Orleans appeared before the Council today to give a presentation on the anniversary of the Fall of Saigon. The Vietnamese representatives also coordinated the Presentation of the Colors as the Vietnamese National Anthem was played.

Verbal and video presentations offered background information on the 1975 Fall of Saigon and its effects on the Vietnamese community, and highlighted New Orleans' large Vietnamese American population.

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City Council May 7, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

May 7, 2009

Contact:  
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Council Chief of Staff  
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[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

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**New Orleans, LA - May 7, 2009** - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed Resolutions supporting University of New Orleans (UNO) athletic programs, continuing operations at Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) and addressing House Bill No. 60 on the state adoption process.

Additionally, the Council supported the involvement of the Office of Inspector General relative to an independent assessment of the Council's utility regulatory function, and passed Motions electing the new Council President and Vice President.

The Council also addressed presentations on emergency shelters and the anniversary of the Fall of Saigon, and honored Boh Brothers Construction for its 100 year anniversary and Quint Davis and the Jazz Fest Foundation for the event's 40 year anniversary.

*Supported Preservation of UNO Athletic Programs*



*Jim Miller (left) and Ron Maestri*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-219, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, which calls on the local business community to join with government and citizens to work with the University of New Orleans (UNO) to preserve the educational and athletic programs currently set to be cut under the proposed State budget.

Jim Miller, UNO Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, and Ron

Maestri, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the New Orleans Zephyrs and former UNO Athletic Director, appeared before the Council to thank Councilmembers for their continuous support of UNO and their dedication to preserving the university's athletics programs.

Council Vice President Fielkow said, "The University of New Orleans is one of the primary institutions providing college educational opportunities to students in the metropolitan New Orleans area, and it has served as a major economic development catalyst in the region since Hurricane Katrina. The current budget proposed by the Governor calls for deep cuts in higher education that will be extremely harmful to local institutions of higher learning."

Intercollegiate athletics play an integral role in post-secondary education and often provide the financial and motivational means by which many students, particularly low income students, are able to gain a college education.

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*Gloria Moultrie of SUNO*

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## Community Evening Meeting on NOAH to be Held Tomorrow May 12th in City Council Chamber

News Release

May 11, 2009

**Contact:**

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**New Orleans, LA - May 11, 2009** - A community meeting on the planned closure of the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital (NOAH) will be held tomorrow May 12th from 6 pm - 8 pm in the City Council Chamber.

The evening meeting time was specifically chosen to accommodate those citizens who work, or are otherwise unavailable during the day, to speak about NOAH in Uptown New Orleans. City Councilmembers, City Administration officials, local mental health experts and organizations will be present to hear citizens concerns.

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "Our still-struggling mental health care community will be severely and negatively impacted by the closing of NOAH. The Council has already held meetings, both public and private, with state and local officials on this issue. However, I know that many New Orleans citizens cannot attend day-time hearings and it is critical that their voices be heard." Fielkow added, "This evening meeting is an 'after-hours' opportunity for all citizens to come and state your feelings on NOAH."

Members of the City Council were approached with the idea of holding an 'after-hours' public meeting in the City Council Chamber at an ACORN meeting on April 16th in the Lower Ninth Ward. Citizens at that meeting expressed frustration that they were often not able to leave work and attend public hearings during the day. Councilmember Fielkow, along with many of his Council colleagues including Councilmembers Cynthia Willard Lewis and Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, agreed to help organize an evening public meeting.

The community meeting is organized by Louisiana ACORN and other community organizations. Invited guests include Judge Calvin Johnson (Ret.) of the Metropolitan Human Services



District, Dr. Kevin Stephens of the City of New Orleans Health Department, Cecile Tebo of the NOPD's Crisis Unit and other mental health care providers and experts.

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Council Vice President Fielkow  
To Hold Panel Discussion on Potential Future  
Cuba - New Orleans Economic Relations

News Release

May 11, 2009

Contact:  
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New Orleans, LA - May 11, 2009  
- Tomorrow, the New Orleans City Council's Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee will convene a panel discussion exploring how New Orleans can be prepared to renew and expand its economic relationship with Cuba in the event the United States trade embargo is lifted in future years. This topic is made even more relevant by virtue of the recently revised policy relating to travel to Cuba enacted by the Obama Administration.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12th at 11 a.m. in the City Council Chamber. City Council Vice President and Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee Chair Arnie Fielkow has gathered a panel of international trade and policy experts to discuss the economic opportunities that increased trade and relations with Cuba can have on New Orleans.

"The historic cultural affinity between New Orleans and Cuba is obvious in our music, our food and shared ancestry for many in our community" said Fielkow. "It is important that New Orleans be ahead of the curve as it relates to future economic opportunities with Cuba and the rest of Central and South America. There already exists a significant economic history between our city and Cuba, and the future trade and economic opportunities are tremendous."

In 1958, approximately one third of all goods passing through the Port of New Orleans were destined for Cuba, which was Louisiana's number one trading partner in imports and number seven in exports.

Invited panel participants include Eugene Schreiber, Managing Director of the World Trade Center of New Orleans; Bobby Landry from the Port of New Orleans; Dr. Ana Lopez, Director of the Cuban & Caribbean Studies Institute of Tulane University; Randy Poindexter of the ForNorm Foundation; Buffy Donlon, businesswoman and founder of AlaCaribe Initiative, Inc. headquartered in Mobile; and Lisa Ponce De Leon, Director of International Affairs for the City of New Orleans.

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### WHITE HOUSE 'FACT SHEET' OUTLINING U.S. CUBAN POLICY CHANGES:

President Obama has directed the Secretaries of State, Treasury, and Commerce to take the needed steps to:

- Lift all restrictions on transactions related to the travel of family members to Cuba.
- Remove restrictions on remittances to family members in Cuba.
- Authorize U.S. telecommunications network providers to enter into agreements to establish fiber-optic cable and satellite telecommunications facilities linking the United States and Cuba.
- License U.S. telecommunications service providers to enter into roaming service agreements with Cuba's telecommunications service providers.
- License U.S. satellite radio and satellite television service providers to engage in transactions necessary to provide services to customers in Cuba.
- License persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction to activate and pay U.S. and third-country service providers for telecommunications, satellite radio and satellite television services provided to individuals in Cuba.
- Authorize the donation of certain consumer telecommunication devices without a license.
- Add certain humanitarian items to the list of items eligible for export through licensing exceptions.

Supporting the Cuban people's desire to freely determine their future and that of their country is in the national interest of the United States. The Obama administration is taking steps to promote greater contact between separated family members in the United States and Cuba and increase the flow of remittances and information to the Cuban people.

### Lift All Restrictions on Family Visits to Cuba

We will lift all restrictions on family visits to Cuba by authorizing such transactions by a general license, which will strengthen contacts and promote American good will. We will ensure the positive reach of this effort by:

- Defining family members who may be visited to be persons within three degrees of family relationship (e.g., second cousins) and to allow individuals who share a common dwelling as a family with an authorized traveler to accompany them;
- Removing limitations on the frequency of visits;
- Removing limitations on the duration of a visit;
- Authorizing expenditure amounts that are the same as non-family travel; and
- Removing the 44-pound limitation on accompanied baggage.

### **Remove Restrictions on Remittances**

We will remove restrictions on remittances to a person's family member in Cuba to increase Cubans' access to resources to help create opportunities for them by:

- Authorizing remittances to individuals within three degrees of family relationship (e.g., second cousins) provided that no remittances shall be authorized to currently prohibited members of the Government of Cuba or currently prohibited members of the Cuban Communist Party;
- Removing limits on frequency of remittances;
- Removing limits on the amount of remittances;
- Authorizing travelers to carry up to \$3,000 in remittances; and
- Establishing general license for banks and other depository institutions to forward remittances.

### **Authorize Greater Telecommunications Links with Cuba**

We will authorize greater telecommunications links with Cuba to advance people-to-people interaction at no cost to the U.S. government. This will increase the means through which Cubans on the island can communicate with each other and with persons outside of Cuba.

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- License persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction to activate and pay U.S. and third-country service providers for telecommunications, satellite radio and satellite television services provided to individuals in Cuba, except certain senior Communist Party and Cuban government officials.
- Authorize, consistent with national security concerns, the export or re-export to Cuba of donated personal communications devices such as mobile phone systems, computers and software, and satellite receivers through a license exception.

### Revise Gift Parcel Regulations

We will expand the scope of humanitarian donations eligible for export through license exceptions by:

- Restoring clothing, personal hygiene items, seeds, veterinary medicines and supplies, fishing equipment and supplies, and soap-making equipment to the list of items eligible to be included in gift parcel donations;
- Restoring items normally exchanged as gifts by individuals in "usual and reasonable" quantities to the list of items eligible to be included in gift parcel donations;
- Expanding the scope of eligible gift parcel donors to include any individual;
- Expanding the scope of eligible gift parcel donees to include individuals other than Cuban Communist Party officials or Cuban government officials already prohibited from receiving gift parcels, or charitable, educational or religious organizations not administered or controlled by the Cuban government; and increasing the value limit on non-food items to \$800.

Click [here](#) to view News Release from the White House on U.S. Cuban Policy Changes.

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Head; District "C" Councilmember James Carter; District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.



## Community Evening Meeting on NOAH to be Held Tomorrow May 12th in City Council Chamber

News Release

May 11, 2009

**Contact:**

Kate Schneiderman  
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow  
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**New Orleans, LA - May 11, 2009** - A community meeting on the planned closure of the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital (NOAH) will be held tomorrow May 12th from 6 pm - 8 pm in the City Council Chamber.


The evening meeting time was specifically chosen to accommodate those citizens who work, or are otherwise unavailable during the day, to speak about NOAH in Uptown New Orleans. City Councilmembers, City Administration officials, local mental health experts and organizations will be present to hear citizens concerns.

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "Our still-struggling mental health care community will be severely and negatively impacted by the closing of NOAH. The Council has already held meetings, both public and private, with state and local officials on this issue. However, I know that many New Orleans citizens cannot attend day-time hearings and it is critical that their voices be heard." Fielkow added, "This evening meeting is an 'after-hours' opportunity for all citizens to come and state your feelings on NOAH."

Members of the City Council were approached with the idea of holding an 'after-hours' public meeting in the City Council Chamber at an ACORN meeting on April 16th in the Lower Ninth Ward. Citizens at that meeting expressed frustration that they were often not able to leave work and attend public hearings during the day. Councilmember Fielkow, along with many of his Council colleagues including Councilmembers Cynthia Willard Lewis and Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, agreed to help organize an evening public meeting.

The community meeting is organized by Louisiana ACORN and other community organizations. Invited guests include Judge Calvin Johnson (Ret.) of the Metropolitan Human Services





District, Dr. Kevin Stephens of the City of New Orleans Health Department, Cecile Tebo of the NOPD's Crisis Unit and other mental health care providers and experts.

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**4th Circuit Court of Appeal Overrules Orleans Civil District Court  
Allows City Councilmember Emails in Possession  
Of Lawyer Tracie Washington Made Public**

News Release

May 12, 2009

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The decision cited that the documents had already been produced and viewed in the public arena for approximately three months prior to the granting of the injunction by the lower court, and accordingly held that the lower court injunction must be lifted.

Further, the Court indicated that the lawyers code of ethics requires that Ms. Washington not release any Councilmember emails that might contain privileged or confidential information. The Court also noted that there might be an issue as to whether the process by which the emails were released constituted civil malfeasance or criminal behavior on the part of those involved in their release.

Attorney for the City Council Steve Lane is reviewing the Court's decision and expects to discuss with Councilmembers what if any action should be taken.

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## New Orleans City Council Helps Prepare for New Cuban-New Orleans Commercial Strategy

*Cultivating Relationships with Cuban Officials and Businesses is Seen as Key*

News Release

May 12, 2009

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Arnie Fielkow  
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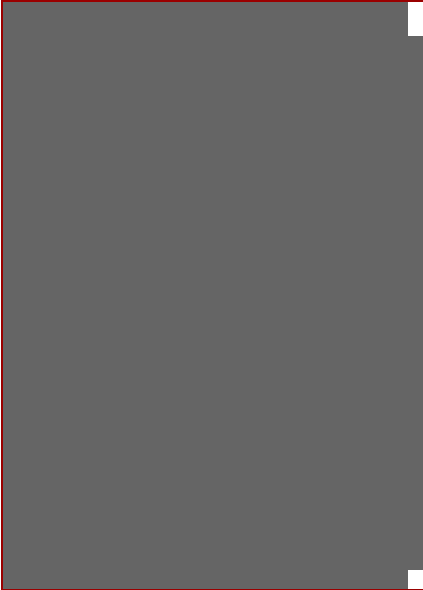
**New Orleans, LA - May 12, 2009 -**

At today's Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee meeting, City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow convened an expert panel to jumpstart New Orleans' preparation to renew and strengthen cultural and economic ties with Cuba. The committee meeting was organized in response to the Obama Administration's recently revised U.S. travel policy to Cuba and the feeling that the decades-old trade embargo on Cuba may be loosened or lifted at some future point.

"New Orleans needs to do everything within our powers and abilities to take advantage of bi-lateral trade opportunities around the world to grow our local economy," said Fielkow. "Other cities have aggressively established and cultivated relationships with Cuba to prepare themselves for future changes in U.S. policy. The panel hearing today is the first in what will be many steps towards getting New Orleans ready to reap the benefits of increased relations with Cuba and the rest of Latin America."

The meeting today reached a general consensus over two main points:

- New Orleans must immediately begin to establish personal relationships with key Cuban officials, businesses and cultural entities. To that end, a tentative trip to Cuba to cultivate these relationships was discussed, with the possibility of joining with Tulane University's fall semester program in Havana, Cuba.
- The City of New Orleans International Economic Development Department will provide the Council with a



white paper regarding the legalities under federal law of finalizing a sister city relationship between New Orleans and Mariel, Cuba. This step will help facilitate vital relationships between the two cities, and is traditionally a first step towards greater formalized relations.

Panelists included Lisa Ponce De Leon, Director of International Affairs for the City of New Orleans; Eugene Schreiber, Managing Director of the World Trade Center of New Orleans; Bobby Landry from the Port of New Orleans; Dr. Ana Lopez, Director of the Cuban & Caribbean Studies Institute of Tulane University; Randy Poindexter of the ForNorm Foundation; and Buffy Donlon, businesswoman and founder of AlaCaribe Initiative, Inc. headquartered in Mobile.

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**New Orleans, LA - May 12, 2009 -**

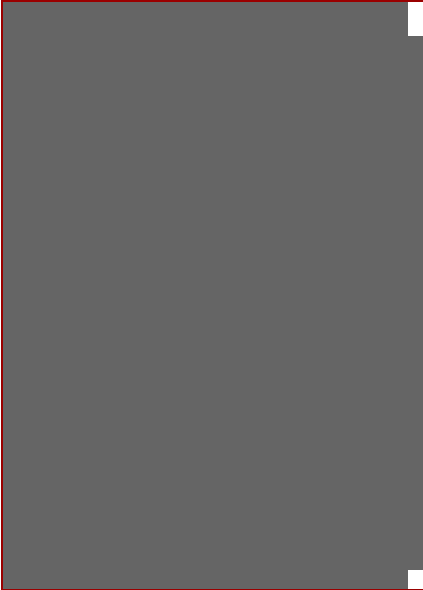
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**State Supreme Court  
Halts Councilmember Email Release  
By Tracie Washington**

News Release

May 13, 2009

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The Louisiana Supreme Court has issued an order granting the stay pending further orders of the Court. This order, in effect, stops Washington from making emails public even though yesterday's ruling by the circuit court allowed her to do so. Washington has until Friday, May 15, to file an opposition with the Supreme Court. Following a review of both parties' pleadings, the Supreme Court will decide whether or not to overrule the Fourth Circuit's decision.

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## City Council to Host Public Hearing on 2009 Hurricane Season Evacuation and Shelter Planning

News Release

May 15, 2009

Contact:

Kate Schneiderman

Office of

Councilmember-at-Large  
Arnie Fielkow

Ph: 504-658-1063

Cell: 504-905-9893

[krschneiderman@cityofno.com](mailto:krschneiderman@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans, LA - May 15, 2009 - City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow announced today that a public hearing on hurricane evacuation and shelter planning for the upcoming hurricane season will be held on Tuesday, May 26th from 5-7 p.m. in the City Council Chamber.

"Emergency planning is key to keeping our city safe through this upcoming hurricane season, and community involvement is crucial," said Fielkow. "Our goal is to ensure that every citizen of New Orleans has access to reliable evacuation services and safe emergency shelters."

This hearing will afford citizens the opportunity to hear and comment on 2009 emergency plans. Citizens will also be asked to share their experiences in state emergency shelters last fall as evacuees during Hurricane Gustav. The public hearing is a follow-up to a request for such an information session made during the May 7th City Council meeting.

Featured speakers include Kristy Nichols, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Social Services, Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Sneed of the City of New Orleans Office of Homeland Security, and representatives of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, Military Division, and the Louisiana State Police.

Hurricane Gustav forced nearly 2 million Gulf Coast residents to evacuate their homes, while nearly 800,000 residents in Louisiana were without power for days.

The public hearing will also be broadcast live on NOA-TV.

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## 100 New Orleans Students to Descend on Birmingham, Alabama To Attend 14th Annual Rickwood Classic Baseball Game

*New Orleans City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow,  
State Representative Cedric Richmond & Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman  
Sponsoring Trip That Also Includes Guided Tour of Birmingham Civil Rights Institute*

News Release

May 15, 2009

Contact:

Kate Schneiderman  
Office of Councilmember-at-  
Large Arnie Fielkow  
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New Orleans, LA - May 15, 2009

- On Wednesday, May 27th, 100 middle school students from across New Orleans will get an opportunity to witness a unique part of American history by attending the 14th Annual Rickwood Baseball Classic in Birmingham, Alabama.

Rickwood Field is America's oldest ballpark, and played host to iconic baseball teams and players over the past 99 years. The field served as the home park for the Birmingham Barons and the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro League. Baseball legends including Babe Ruth, Satchel Paige and Willie Mays all played on Rickwood Field.

Immediately following the minor-league baseball game, the students will be taken on a private, guided tour of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute before returning to New Orleans that evening. The trip is sponsored by New Orleans City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow, State Representative Cedric Richmond (District 101) and Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman. WBOK-AM radio and Sylvain Solutions are the media sponsors.

Council Vice President Fielkow said, "Rickwood Field is a historic ballpark where some of baseball's greats once played." Fielkow continued, "The impact of the Rickwood Classic extends far beyond baseball. It represents our nation's civil rights history and the impact that baseball had in desegregating this country. I am so excited to share this unique opportunity with New Orleans students."

The Recovery School District (RSD), Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) and the Algiers Charter School Association (ACSA) are all participating. Students will be chosen to attend this trip by their respective school districts, based upon high academic and behavioral criteria set by the three school districts.

The Rickwood Classic pays homage to the 1982 season when the Atlanta Braves traveled to Birmingham to play a mid-summer exhibition against the Southern League All-Stars. Prior to moving to New Orleans, Council Vice President Fielkow served as President of the historic Southern League. The 1982 season was the last time prior to this one that Birmingham hosted the league's annual All-Star event. The 2009 game, featuring the Birmingham Barons versus Southern League division rival Mississippi Braves, will feature the players wearing the uniforms worn by both teams in the early 1980's. The Classic is considered one of the best opportunities to experience a regulation ballgame in a historic ballpark that remains true to its original and traditional appearance.

"Our local kids have been through so much trauma in recent years," said Representative Cedric Richmond. "From the hurricane, to long evacuations, to their schools and daily routines being constantly changed, this trip is a reward for the hard work these students have performed over the school year. This trip is not just about baseball - it's about showing these kids a living piece of history and how good, clean sports can help change the world."

Sheriff Marlin Gusman said, "This trip is a tremendous opportunity to share the joy of a national past time with our kids, as well as an opportunity for them to appreciate the sacrifices made by earlier generations in the name of equality for all."

The game begins at 12:30 p.m. Immediately following the game, the New Orleans group will be taken on a private, guided tour of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

Hotard Coaches will pick-up the students and chaperones in front of New Orleans City Hall on Perdido Street at 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 27th. The buses will travel to Rickwood Field for the 12:30 p.m. game. At approximately 3:00 p.m., the group will re-board the buses and travel to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute for a 1 hour guided tour. The buses will return to New Orleans by 10:00 p.m.

---

**NOTE TO EDITORS: We are inviting you to send a reporter and photographer on this trip with us. Please notify Kate Schneiderman by Friday, May 22nd. We will provide free transportation and access to the baseball game and museum tour and will be happy to provide an invoice to you of the travel expenses, if you need this documentation or a stated value of the trip, for your records.**

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Councilmember Stacy Head  
Responds

News Release

May 16, 2009

Contact:  
Jason Abate  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Stacy Head  
Ph: 504-658-1020  
[jabate@cityofno.com](mailto:jabate@cityofno.com)

New Orleans  
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - May 16, 2009 - The following is a statement from District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head:

"Well, here I am again. The center of attention because I am consistently "me." What have my emails - the "smoking gun" that those opponents of reform and progress have gloatingly teased the media and public with - shown? For starters, they have shown that I am the same person privately as I am publicly. I am as true to my conviction behind closed doors as I am in Council chambers. They have also shown, again, the bane of my existence, my outspoken character. No one needs to wonder what I am thinking. Am I embarrassed by the tone of some of my emails? Do I wish that I had been more cautious (and used spell check) before sending out some of them? OF COURSE! In fact, my humiliated mother has washed my mouth out with Tabasco for my crude description of Mr. Riley's "man parts." But, what I hope they have most shown is my non-wavering passion for New Orleans and the city that it is and can be. This is not the time to beat around the bush. This is a time for action. We are wasting the opportunity borne of great tragedy to restore New Orleans to a city that connects to its unique and extraordinary past and provides opportunities for prosperity for all.

My detractors' tired, old political antics have shown that there are a few people determined to tear our city apart in order to retain relevance and power. At the risk of pointing out the obvious, do they

think we are idiots? The seeking of only 4 Councilmembers' emails and then cherry-picking mine was done for a reason. These opportunists attempt to change focus from the fact that we have FAR more in common than we have differences. Despite our race or ethnicity, we all want the same things - a safe city, affordable quality education for our children, decent housing, and a new direction for New Orleans. A recent poll confirmed it. But before that data confirmed it, my heart knew it. Most mothers want the same for their children. We are all connected. Success in one community brings success to all. Our common concerns led me to run for office and keep me working day and night for this city. I want a better city for my children. I want to grow old here with my friends and family.

So, I ask you, New Orleans, please join me in repairing some broken things in our wonderful city. We cannot do it without setting aside our old divisions and congregating around our common desires. Together let's stop tolerating corruption. Let's make sure our tax dollars are spent wisely to assure that we have decent streets and playgrounds from Gert Town to Algiers to the Ninth Ward. Let's make sure that we are business-friendly enough to grow opportunities so that every child in New Orleans has the chance to stay here and succeed. I firmly believe that this is what most of my constituents want.

Finally, these political games need to end. I am posting my emails (redacted for privilege, etc.) on my website, [www.stacyhead.com](http://www.stacyhead.com), with private citizens' names and contact information redacted (they will be available no later than Monday, May 18, 2009). I will say it again, some of my language is not what I would want to hear from my children, but I am proud that I will have a record to show what their mother wanted for them, and all our children. A chance to live in the best city in the world for a lifetime.

If you disagree or have better ideas, as always, you have my email address!!!!!!!!!"

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Head; District "C" Councilmember James Carter; District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.

Announcement

May 18, 2009



**Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
To Co-Host "Crime Town Hall"  
Meeting on Thursday Evening**

- WHAT:** Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell along with Senator J.P. Morrell and newly elected State Representative Jared Brossett will host a "Crime Town Hall" meeting to discuss ways to decrease violence in the City of New Orleans. This event is open to the public and citizens are encouraged to attend.
- WHO:** District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Senator J.P. Morrell  
State Representative Jared Brossett  
Other Elected Officials
- WHEN:** Thursday, May 21, 2009  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Cafeteria of Southern University at New Orleans  
6400 Press Drive  
(Click [here](#) to view map)
- CONTACT:** Lena Stewart  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Office: (504) 658-1040

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## City Council Reviewing Over 2-Million Pages of Emails for Release

News Release

May 18, 2009

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[New Orleans  
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Due to the volume of emails to be reviewed as required under the state's public records law, the process has necessitated three phases of review which includes a technology expert, Council's Special Legal Counsel and Councilmembers and staff, as appropriate.

Since receipt of the emails, the Council's technology expert with assistance from Special Legal Counsel has developed a rolling system to separate and catalog the emails and remove computer viruses. Using word searches and manual review, Special Legal Counsel has reviewed and redacted privileged and confidential information from a portion of the emails.

Over the next few days, Councilmembers and some members of their staffs will meet with its technology expert and Special Legal Counsel to become skilled at accessing and reviewing the emails for privileged and confidential constituent information also covered under the state's public records law. Over a period of time, City Councilmembers will be reviewing emails and making them available to the public.



Independently of the Council's three phase email review, District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head has begun reviewing and posting her emails. To view a statement from Councilmember Head regarding her emails please click [here](#).

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Criminal Justice Committee Chair Councilmember Carter  
To Lead City Council in Addressing  
Expedited Screening and Disposition Initiative  
At Thursday's Regular Council Meeting

News Release

May 19, 2009

Contact:

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Councilmember  
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New Orleans, LA - May 19, 2009- At Thursday's regular City Council meeting, the Council will address as one of its Orders of Business, a presentation from local criminal justice leaders and national experts about the Expedited Screening and Disposition Initiative, which launched on March 31. The presentation will begin at approximately 11:00 a.m. on Thursday May 21 in the Council Chamber.

The Expedited Screening Initiative will expedite all practices from arrest to arraignment (the court appearance at which charges are presented) for simple possession drug cases. These cases account for roughly one third of all arrests on state charges.

District "C" Councilmember Carter said, "The successful launch of this Initiative represents a positive sign that the City's criminal justice leaders are committed to working together to advance meaningful reforms."

Beginning with simple possession drug cases, the Initiative will move New Orleans more in line with national good practices by:

- Expediting the time in which police officers complete and transmit their reports and the time in which the district attorney's office screens these cases
- Conserving public safety resources by rapidly screening out weak cases, swiftly deciding to charge strong cases, and

allowing a shift of effort to investigate and prosecute serious violent cases in a timely and effective manner

- Ensuring that public defenders are assigned at the earliest opportunity, and providing an opportunity for them to effectively counsel their clients
- Automating and streamlining data entry and information transmission, through efforts of the sheriff's and clerk's offices and the other participating agencies

Chief Public Defender Derwyn Bunton, District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro, Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman, Clerk of Court Arthur Morrell, and Superintendent of Police Warren Riley will be present at Thursday's regular Council meeting to discuss their agencies' participation in the Initiative.

Michael Jacobson, the Director of the Vera Institute of Justice, will provide a national perspective on the challenges and opportunities for criminal justice reform in New Orleans.

Jon Wool, who directs Vera's work in New Orleans, will describe the development of the Initiative, present preliminary performance results, and discuss opportunities for expansion.

The Initiative is one of five that the City's criminal justice leaders agreed to implement as part of the Criminal Justice Leadership Alliance - a coalition of the City's criminal justice leaders formed in 2007 to implement reforms to the City's criminal justice system.

For more information on the Criminal Justice Leadership Alliance (CJLA) and the Expedited Screening Initiative click [here](#).

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Statement

May 19, 2009



**Council Vice President Fielkow Statement**

**Re: 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans**

New Orleans, LA - May 19, 2009 - "Today, the City of New Orleans and the entire State of Louisiana received the wonderful news that we will be hosting a record 10th Super Bowl in 2013. The National Football League's decision reflects enormous confidence in the future of our great city and is a testament to the resilience, passion, and dedication of those who came back to, moved to, and invested in post-Katrina New Orleans. The economic impact of the 2013 Super Bowl, representing hundreds of millions of dollars, is a tremendous shot in the arm for our community.

Many individuals and groups need to be thanked for today's announcement, but special thanks go out to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, the NFL owners, Mr. Benson and the entire Benson family, the Saints organization, the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation and its CEO Jay Cicero, presenters Rod West and Stephen Perry, and representing members Bob Brown and Ron Forman. Kudos to each of them on a remarkable job!"

**Contact:** Kate Schneiderman

Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow

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Cell: 504-905-9893

[krschneiderman@cityofno.com](mailto:krschneiderman@cityofno.com)

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Statement

May 19, 2009



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Re: Release of His Emails**

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Says Fielkow, "My office has only recently had full access to the approximately 70,000 emails I have received and sent over the past three years. We will post them online as quickly as possible. I made it a pledge during my campaign and throughout my term to be a 'customer-friendly' office to all citizens who contact me and my staff. My policy is to try and respond to emails and constituent inquiries within forty eight hours of receipt, and I believe that my emails will demonstrate that I have, to the greatest extent possible, honored that pledge.

I am eager to get these posted online as soon as possible so we can move on to attending to the important issues facing New Orleans. We are at a pivotal time in this city's history and I will continue to work day and night for all New Orleanians."

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Media Advisory

May 19, 2009

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## Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee To Hold Special Meeting on New Orleans Tax Increment Financing Policy Tomorrow

**What:** The Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee hearing will review the draft document developed to establish a new, citywide New Orleans Tax Increment Financing (TIF) policy. The TIF policy is expected to institute conditions under which the City of New Orleans will consider approving TIF proposals.

In 1988, the State of Louisiana passed legislation known as the Louisiana Tax Development Act, which allows parishes to develop and implement TIF programs. Since 1988, the City of New Orleans has only implemented two TIF projects. TIF projects are nationally known and frequently used to stimulate economic development within selected areas of a community.

TIF is a tool to use future gains in taxes to finance the current improvements that will create those gains. Tax Increment Financing creates funding for public projects that may otherwise be unaffordable to localities, and dedicates tax increments within a certain defined district to finance debt issued to pay for projects. TIF is designed to channel funding toward improvements in distressed or underdeveloped areas where development would not otherwise occur.

**When:** Wednesday, May 20, 2009  
12:30 p.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests

- Dr. Ed Blakely, Office of Recovery and Development Administration (ORDA)
- Jeffrey Thomas, Office of Recovery and Development Administration (ORDA)
- Austin Penny, Office of Recovery and Development Administration (ORDA)
- John Brancaglione, PGAV Urban Consulting (TIF consultant)

- Terry Beiter, PGAV Urban Consultant (TIF consultant)

Committee Members

- Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

**Contact:**

Kate Schneiderman  
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## Community Evening Meeting on NOAH To Be Held in City Council Chambers On Tuesday May 12th

News Release

May 1, 2009

Contact:

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Large Arnie Fielkow  
Ph: (504) 905-9893  
[krschneiderman@cityofno.com](mailto:krschneiderman@cityofno.com)

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**New Orleans, LA - May 1, 2009** - A community meeting on the planned closure of the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital (NOAH) will be held in City Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 12th from 6pm - 8pm. The evening meeting time was specifically chosen to accommodate those citizens who work, or are otherwise unavailable during the day, to speak about NOAH in Uptown New Orleans. City Councilmembers, City Administration officials, local mental health experts and organizations will be present to hear citizens concerns.

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "Our still-struggling mental health care community will be severely and negatively impacted by the closing of NOAH. The Council has already held meetings, both public and private, with state and local officials on this issue. However, I know that many New Orleans citizens cannot attend day-time hearings and it is critical that their voices be heard." Fielkow added, "This evening meeting is an 'after-hours' opportunity for all citizens to come and state your feelings on NOAH."

Members of the City Council were approached with the idea of holding an 'after-hours' public meeting in City Council Chambers last week at a community meeting in the Lower Ninth Ward. Citizens at that meeting expressed frustration that they were often not able to leave work and attend public hearings during the day. Councilmember Fielkow, along with many of his Council colleagues including Councilmembers Cynthia Willard Lewis and Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, agreed to help organize an evening public meeting.

Invited guests include Judge Calvin Johnson (Ret.) of the Metropolitan Human Services District, Dr. Kevin Stephens of the City of New Orleans Health Department, Cecile Tebo of the NOPD's Crisis Unit and other mental health care providers and experts.

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Council President Clarkson to Introduce Resolution  
Congratulating City Leaders who Facilitated  
Choice of New Orleans as Host for 2013 Super Bowl

News Release

May 20, 2009

Contact:  
Jacquelyn Cole  
Office of  
Councilmember-at-Large  
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
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New Orleans  
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - May 20, 2009 - At tomorrow's Council meeting, Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will introduce a Resolution congratulating the many local and state leaders who secured New Orleans as the site for the 2013 Super Bowl - including Governor Bobby Jindal, Tom Benson, Rita Benson Leblanc, Mayor C. Ray Nagin, Rod West, Stephen Perry, Jay Cicero, Ron Forman, and their staffs.

"Our City is exhilarated to learn that we are hosting the Super Bowl in 2013," said Council President Clarkson. "This event brings us an estimated \$300 million in direct economic impact and is a sign of a positive step in our recovery. Hosting this event is a victory that belongs to all New Orleanians who have chosen to come back and believe that this City can recover."

Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow, District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head, and District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell are co-authoring the Resolution.

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## New Orleans City Council

Councilmember-At-Large  
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

### Council President Clarkson To Deliver Response to Mayor C. Ray Nagin's "State of the City" Address Tonight

Announcement

May 20, 2009

Contact:  
Jacquelyn Cole  
Office of  
Councilmember-at-Large  
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
Ph: 504-658-1072  
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[jlcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jlcole@cityofno.com)

New Orleans  
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - May 20, 2009 - City Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will deliver a brief response to Mayor C. Ray Nagin's "State of the City" Address at the Mahalia Jackson Center for the Performing Arts tonight.

Her remarks will touch on recovery issues and highlight Council accomplishments from throughout the past year. She will speak following the close of the Mayor's address on the first floor lobby of the Mahalia Jackson Center for the

Performing Arts, outside of the auditorium.

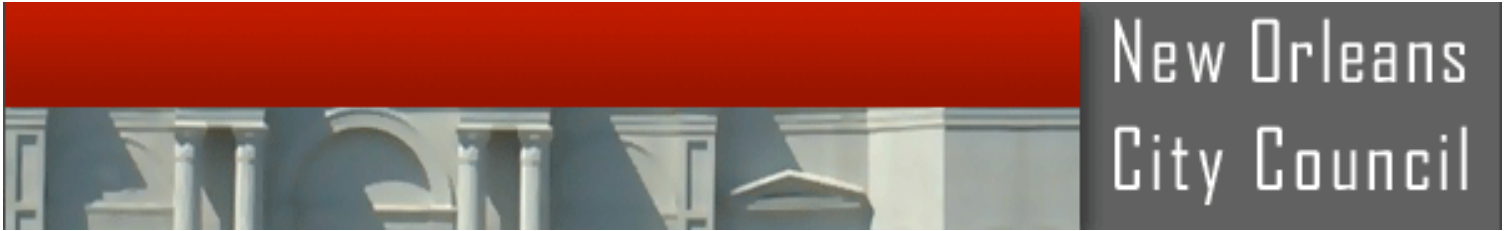
For further details, please contact:

Jacquelyn Cole  
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson  
Cell: (504) 577-3600  
Email: [jlcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jlcole@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory

May 20, 2009

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**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session  
Thursday, May 21st 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 United States Army Corps of Engineers adopt a plan to build the 17th Street Canal pumping station which does not require confiscation of the land that Coconut Beach currently occupies; and stating the Council's support for a more neighborhood-friendly location and design for the Orleans Canal pumping station
- Presentation from local criminal justice leaders and national experts about the Expedited Screening and Disposition Initiative, launched on March 31, which will expedite all practices from arrest to arraignment for simple possession drug cases
- Resolution opposing Louisiana House Bill No. 783 and the privatization of the John J. Hainkel Jr. Home and Rehabilitation Center, which serves the elderly and disabled populations of New Orleans; and requesting that the public be involved in any plan going forward relative to the selling or leasing of the Hainkel Home
- Ordinance to expand the effective date of the Algiers Economic Development District No. 1 to continue the growth and success of Federal City, a vital government installation
-

Resolution commending and congratulating all those involved in securing the 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans

- Update from NOPD Chief Superintendent Warren Riley on crime in the City
- Presentation on Mental Health issues by Judge Johnson of the Metropolitan Human Services District
- State of Culture Address by Irvin Mayfield

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, May 21, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
Email: [rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans City Council

District D  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

Announcement

May 20, 2009



**Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
To Co-Host "Crime Town Hall"  
Meeting Tomorrow Evening**

**WHAT:** Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell along with Senator J.P. Morrell and newly elected State Representative Jared Brossett will host a "Crime Town Hall" meeting tomorrow evening. The meeting will highlight citizen involvement, including general neighborhood awareness, and other techniques to impact violence on the streets. This event is open to the public and citizens are encouraged to attend.

**Who:**

**Co-Hosts:**

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Senator J.P. Morrell  
State Representative Jared Brossett  
Clerk of Criminal Court Arthur Morrell

**Invited Participants:**

Representation from U.S. Attorney Jim Letten's Office  
District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro  
NOPD Superintendent Warren Riley  
Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman

Chief Juvenile Judge David Bell  
Criminal Justice Committee Chair Councilmember James Carter  
State Representative Cedric Richmond  
Representation from Crimestoppers

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 21, 2009  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Gymnasium of Southern University at New Orleans  
6400 Press Drive  
(Click [here](#) to view map)

**CONTACT:** Lena Stewart  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Office: (504) 658-1040

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Media Advisory

May 20, 2009

## Recovery Committee to Receive General Update On Recovery Projects This Afternoon

**What:** At the request of Council President and Recovery Committee Co-Chair Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, the Recovery Committee will receive a general report on recovery projects this afternoon. Randy Richardson - a representative from MWH, the company that manages the City's recovery projects - will appear before the committee.

**When:** Wednesday, May 20, 2009  
2:00 p.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests  
- Randy Richardson, MWH representative

Committee Members  
- Co-Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
- Co-Chair: District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
- District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura  
- District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
- District "C" Councilmember James Carter  
- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

**Contact:** Jacquelyn Cole  
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
Ph: (504) 658-1072  
Email: [jlcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jlcole@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans City Council

District D  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

Announcement

May 20, 2009



**Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
To Co-Host "Crime Town Hall"  
Meeting Tomorrow Evening**

**WHAT:** Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell along with Senator J.P. Morrell and newly elected State Representative Jared Brossett will host a "Crime Town Hall" meeting tomorrow evening. The meeting will highlight citizen involvement, including general neighborhood awareness, and other techniques to impact violence on the streets. This event is open to the public and citizens are encouraged to attend.

**Who:**

**Co-Hosts:**

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Senator J.P. Morrell  
State Representative Jared Brossett  
Clerk of Criminal Court Arthur Morrell

**Invited Participants:**

Representation from U.S. Attorney Jim Letten's Office  
District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro  
NOPD Superintendent Warren Riley  
Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman

Chief Juvenile Judge David Bell  
Criminal Justice Committee Chair Councilmember James Carter  
State Representative Cedric Richmond  
Representation from Crimestoppers

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 21, 2009  
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**WHERE:** Gymnasium of Southern University at New Orleans  
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**CONTACT:** Lena Stewart  
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## Youth & Recreation Committee to Address Reopening of FEMA-Occupied Playgrounds Tomorrow Afternoon

News Release

May 21, 2009

Contact:

Kate Schneiderman

Office of

Councilmember-at-Large  
Arnie Fielkow

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[krschneiderman@cityofno.com](mailto:krschneiderman@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans, LA - May 21, 2009 - Tomorrow, City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow will chair a Youth & Recreation Committee at 1:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber. The Committee, which last met on April 7th, will feature updates on rebuilding New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) playgrounds and facilities, including the Rosenwald Center and Lyons Center. FEMA will report on how

close the City is to having control of the 15 playgrounds that were occupied after Hurricane Katrina.

Fielkow said, "At the April 7th Youth & Recreation Committee meeting, FEMA and the City of New Orleans pledged to work together expeditiously to reopen the remaining 11 FEMA trailer park sites that were temporarily occupying NORD property. We must get these open in time for summer break, and I am hopeful that good news will be given on this topic."

Invited presenters to the committee include: Dr. Ed Blakely of ORDA; Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Cynthia Sylvain-Lear and William Chrisman of the City of New Orleans; Larry Barabino, Jr, Executive Director of the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD); Bob Josephson of FEMA; James Clark and Skip Barber of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; and James Austin Gray II and Jeffrey Stollier of Wink Architects.

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City Council May 21, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

May 21, 2009

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New Orleans, LA - May 21, 2009 - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed Resolutions addressing the Army Corps of Engineers' building plans for the 17th Street Canal and Orleans Canal pumping stations, and opposing the privatization of the John J. Hainkel Jr. Home and Rehabilitation Center, which serves the elderly and disabled communities of New Orleans.

Additionally, the Council passed an Ordinance supporting the continuing growth and success of Federal City, a Motion confirming the award of five four-year Tulane University Mayoral Scholarships, and a Resolution supporting the consolidation of functions relative to hurricane protection, flood control, and coastal restoration.

The Council also addressed presentations on the Expedited Screening and Disposition Initiative and mental health issues in the City, received a City-wide crime update from NOPD Chief Riley, and received a "State of Culture" Address from Irvin Mayfield.

Additionally, Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson acknowledged the meeting as her last Council meeting serving as Council President during her current term. Clarkson thanked her staff and her colleagues for a wonderful year. In accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Council, beginning June 1st Councilmember Arnie Fielkow will begin his term as Council President and Councilmember Clarkson will begin her term as Vice President.

## *Requested Preservation and Neighborhood Consideration from Army Corps of Engineers*



*Councilmember Midura*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-248, authored by Councilmember Midura, requesting that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) adopt a plan to build the 17th Street Canal pumping station which does not require confiscation of the land that Coconut Beach currently occupies. The Resolution serves as the Council's official public comment to the USACE regarding the plans for the two pumping stations.

Specifically, the Resolution calls upon the USACE to adopt a plan that both achieves maximum flood protection from storm surge and rain water, and also leaves the smallest possible environmental footprint in the neighboring human and natural environments; and declares the Council's support for a more neighborhood-friendly location and design for the Orleans Canal pumping station.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "Flood protection is of the utmost importance for our City and is high on the priority list of this Council. However, it's our hope that the Army Corps can develop a building plan for these pumping stations that takes into consideration the surrounding neighborhoods and residents, and in the case of the 17th Street Canal pumping station, preserves a beloved recreational facility - Coconut Beach."

## *Received Presentation on Expedited Screening and Disposition Initiative*



*L to R: Michael Jacobson, Jon Wool, Derwyn Bunton, NOPD Chief Warren Riley, Clerk of Criminal Court Arthur Morrell, Sheriff Marlin Gusman and DA Leon Cannizzaro*

Local criminal justice leaders and national experts appeared before the Council today to give a presentation on the Expedited Screening and Disposition Initiative, which aims to expedite practices for simple possession drug cases, which account for roughly one third of all arrests on state charges.

Present at today's meeting were Chief Public Defender Derwyn Bunton, District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro, Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman, Clerk of Criminal Court Arthur Morrell, Superintendent of Police Warren Riley, Vera Institute of Justice Director Michael Jacobson, and Jon Wool, who directs Vera's work in New Orleans.

The presentation participants discussed the ways in which the Initiative will move New Orleans more in line with national good practices by expediting processes, conserving public safety resources, ensuring public defenders are assigned at the earliest opportunity, and automating and streamlining data entry and information transmission.



Criminal Justice Committee Chair Councilmember James Carter said, "I am very proud to have these criminal justice leaders here before us today to highlight some of the positive improvements in coordination and collaboration throughout our criminal justice system. The successful launch of this Initiative represents a positive sign that the City's criminal justice leaders are committed to working together to advance meaningful reforms."

For more information on the Criminal Justice Leadership Alliance (CJLA) and the Expedited Screening Initiative click [here](#). Click [here](#) to view a News Release on this Initiative.

### ***Opposed Privatization of Local Rehabilitation Center for Elderly and Disabled***



***Carolyn Harris Carter***

The Council passed Resolution R-09-244, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow, Clarkson and Midura, opposing Louisiana House Bill No. 783 and the privatization of the John J. Hainkel Jr. Home and Rehabilitation Center, which has served the elderly and disabled populations of New Orleans since 1895.

Carolyn Harris Carter, Finance Chairman for the Advisory Board of the Hainkel Home, appeared before the Council to offer her support for the Resolution and express her gratitude to Councilmembers for supporting the Hainkel Home.

Specifically, the Resolution urges Governor Jindal to reconsider his decision to lease the Hainkel Home, and requests that public meetings be held in New Orleans regarding any plan going forward relative to the selling or leasing of the Hainkel Home - enabling State policy makers to hear first-hand the impact such actions will have on services for the elderly and disabled.

Vice President Arnie Fielkow said, "House Bill No. 783 aims to divest the State of the Hainkel Home by leasing it out, thereby privatizing the community-oriented center and likely resulting in a reduction of the government-provided health services to those most in need in our community. We must ensure that these citizens in need receive the services they deserve."

### ***Supported State Consolidation of Hurricane Protection, Flood Control and Coastal Restoration Functions***



The Council passed Resolution R-09-243, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, supporting House Bill 833, which will create a new office in the Office of the Governor to consolidate functions relative to hurricane protection, flood control, and coastal restoration.

The Resolution also asks that the Orleans Parish Legislative Delegation support House Bill 833 relative to organizing and codifying the organization of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and its implementation arm, the Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration.

## *Supported Continuing Growth of Federal City*



*Councilmember-at-Large  
Clarkson*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,480, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, to expand the effective date of the Algiers Economic Development District No. 1 to continue the growth and success of Federal City.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Federal City is a vital government installation that will expand New Orleans' ability to host military commands and federal agencies. It is important that we take action to further the growth of this project, which supports our City's strongest industry and is the largest economic development project in the state."

## *Addressed Community Matters and Presentations*

- Motion M-09-247 confirmed the award of five four-year Tulane University Mayoral Scholarships to the following scholars:

- Alia Soomro, Louise S. McGehee
- Charlotte Fournier, Benjamin Franklin
- Caroline Sanches, St. Mary's Dominican
- Jillian Poche, Benjamin Franklin
- Van Kim Nguyen, Benjamin Franklin



*NOPD Chief Warren Riley*

City-wide crime update from NOPD Chief Riley who informed the Council that crime in all areas is down 12%, although there have been significant increases in auto break-ins in the 2nd, 5th, and 8th Districts. The NOPD continues to focus on the 22 designated "hot spots" around the City where the force has been successful in reducing crime.

Presentation by Judge Calvin Johnson and Dr. Craig Coenson of the Metropolitan Human Services District on

mental health issues in New Orleans and the mission of the District - to provide in an effective fashion, the outpatient mental health services that the community needs. The representatives noted several of the District's goals, including development of a patient guide on how to navigate the healthcare system and a method to track patients through the system of care.



*Judge Calvin Johnson & Dr. Craig Coenson*

"State of Culture" Address from Irvin Mayfield which outlined five objectives for the



*Irvin Mayfield*

City's cultural community including: supporting community-based cultural traditions, investment in cultural infrastructure and facilities, and tracking new investment and informational resources. Mayfield proposed that a mission statement on the maintenance of the City's culture be adopted as part of the Master Plan and informed Councilmembers that there will be a series of weekly "Culture at the Center" forums to allow the public to contribute to the discussion.

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Statement

May 21, 2009



**Councilmember Willard-Lewis Statement**  
**Re: Demolition of Two Apartment Complexes in New Orleans East**

New Orleans, LA - May 21, 2009 - "I am pleased to bring to you some very good news. After two years of testimonies and countless complaints, I am proud to finally say that what many of us know as 8181 Lake Forest Blvd. or La Provence Apartments will soon be demolished. The owners have just sent us a letter agreeing to demolish the entire complex. They are currently in negotiations with a demolition contractor, and New Orleans East will soon reap the benefits.

I am also elated to say that 14101 Michoud Blvd, formerly known as Oak Island apartments, will be demolished. The permit was granted on May 20, 2009.

Both of these units were posing health risks to the citizens of New Orleans and were negatively affecting their quality of life. Since Hurricane Katrina, the community has been working diligently to bring New Orleans East back, and I am glad to say that with this great news, we are two steps closer.

These units were constant reminders of the government's failures, as well as symbols of the greatest natural disaster to ever strike our country. By demolishing these units, we can begin to put our dark past behind us and look to a much better and brighter future.

I would like to thank the community for being so engaged and staying involved in the process. I would like this to serve as a reminder that when we come together as one, with one goal, things change."

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New Orleans, LA - May 21, 2009 - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed Resolutions addressing the Army Corps of Engineers' building plans for the 17th Street Canal and Orleans Canal pumping stations, and opposing the privatization of the John J. Hainkel Jr. Home and Rehabilitation Center, which serves the elderly and disabled communities of New Orleans.

Additionally, the Council passed an Ordinance supporting the continuing growth and success of Federal City, a Motion confirming the award of five four-year Tulane University Mayoral Scholarships, and a Resolution supporting the consolidation of functions relative to hurricane protection, flood control, and coastal restoration.

The Council also addressed presentations on the Expedited Screening and Disposition Initiative and mental health issues in the City, received a City-wide crime update from NOPD Chief Riley, and received a "State of Culture" Address from Irvin Mayfield.

Additionally, Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson acknowledged the meeting as her last Council meeting serving as Council President during her current term. Clarkson thanked her staff and her colleagues for a wonderful year. In accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Council, beginning June 1st Councilmember Arnie Fielkow will begin his term as Council President and Councilmember Clarkson will begin her term as Vice President.

## *Requested Preservation and Neighborhood Consideration from Army Corps of Engineers*



*Councilmember Midura*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-248, authored by Councilmember Midura, requesting that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) adopt a plan to build the 17th Street Canal pumping station which does not require confiscation of the land that Coconut Beach currently occupies. The Resolution serves as the Council's official public comment to the USACE regarding the plans for the two pumping stations.

Specifically, the Resolution calls upon the USACE to adopt a plan that both achieves maximum flood protection from storm surge and rain water, and also leaves the smallest possible environmental footprint in the neighboring human and natural environments; and declares the Council's support for a more neighborhood-friendly location and design for the Orleans Canal pumping station.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "Flood protection is of the utmost importance for our City and is high on the priority list of this Council. However, it's our hope that the Army Corps can develop a building plan for these pumping stations that takes into consideration the surrounding neighborhoods and residents, and in the case of the 17th Street Canal pumping station, preserves a beloved recreational facility - Coconut Beach."

## *Received Presentation on Expedited Screening and Disposition Initiative*



*L to R: Michael Jacobson, Jon Wool, Derwyn Bunton, NOPD Chief Warren Riley, Clerk of Criminal Court Arthur Morrell, Sheriff Marlin Gusman and DA Leon Cannizzaro*

Local criminal justice leaders and national experts appeared before the Council today to give a presentation on the Expedited Screening and Disposition Initiative, which aims to expedite practices for simple possession drug cases, which account for roughly one third of all arrests on state charges.

Present at today's meeting were Chief Public Defender Derwyn Bunton, District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro, Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman, Clerk of Criminal Court Arthur Morrell, Superintendent of Police Warren Riley, Vera Institute of Justice Director Michael Jacobson, and Jon Wool, who directs Vera's work in New Orleans.

The presentation participants discussed the ways in which the Initiative will move New Orleans more in line with national good practices by expediting processes, conserving public safety resources, ensuring public defenders are assigned at the earliest opportunity, and automating and streamlining data entry and information transmission.

Criminal Justice Committee Chair Councilmember James Carter said, "I am very proud to have these criminal justice leaders here before us today to highlight some of the positive improvements in coordination and collaboration throughout our criminal justice system. The successful launch of this Initiative represents a positive sign that the City's criminal justice leaders are committed to working together to advance meaningful reforms."

For more information on the Criminal Justice Leadership Alliance (CJLA) and the Expedited Screening Initiative click [here](#). Click [here](#) to view a News Release on this Initiative.

### ***Opposed Privatization of Local Rehabilitation Center for Elderly and Disabled***



***Carolyn Harris Carter***

The Council passed Resolution R-09-244, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow, Clarkson and Midura, opposing Louisiana House Bill No. 783 and the privatization of the John J. Hainkel Jr. Home and Rehabilitation Center, which has served the elderly and disabled populations of New Orleans since 1895.

Carolyn Harris Carter, Finance Chairman for the Advisory Board of the Hainkel Home, appeared before the Council to offer her support for the Resolution and express her gratitude to Councilmembers for supporting the Hainkel Home.

Specifically, the Resolution urges Governor Jindal to reconsider his decision to lease the Hainkel Home, and requests that public meetings be held in New Orleans regarding any plan going forward relative to the selling or leasing of the Hainkel Home - enabling State policy makers to hear first-hand the impact such actions will have on services for the elderly and disabled.

Vice President Arnie Fielkow said, "House Bill No. 783 aims to divest the State of the Hainkel Home by leasing it out, thereby privatizing the community-oriented center and likely resulting in a reduction of the government-provided health services to those most in need in our community. We must ensure that these citizens in need receive the services they deserve."

### ***Supported State Consolidation of Hurricane Protection, Flood Control and Coastal Restoration Functions***



The Council passed Resolution R-09-243, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, supporting House Bill 833, which will create a new office in the Office of the Governor to consolidate functions relative to hurricane protection, flood control, and coastal restoration.

The Resolution also asks that the Orleans Parish Legislative Delegation support House Bill 833 relative to organizing and codifying the organization of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and its implementation arm, the Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration.

## *Supported Continuing Growth of Federal City*



*Councilmember-at-Large  
Clarkson*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,480, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, to expand the effective date of the Algiers Economic Development District No. 1 to continue the growth and success of Federal City.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Federal City is a vital government installation that will expand New Orleans' ability to host military commands and federal agencies. It is important that we take action to further the growth of this project, which supports our City's strongest industry and is the largest economic development project in the state."

## *Addressed Community Matters and Presentations*

- Motion M-09-247 confirmed the award of five four-year Tulane University Mayoral Scholarships to the following scholars:

- Alia Soomro, Louise S. McGehee
- Charlotte Fournier, Benjamin Franklin
- Caroline Sanches, St. Mary's Dominican
- Jillian Poche, Benjamin Franklin
- Van Kim Nguyen, Benjamin Franklin



*NOPD Chief Warren Riley*

City-wide crime update from NOPD Chief Riley who informed the Council that crime in all areas is down 12%, although there have been significant increases in auto break-ins in the 2nd, 5th, and 8th Districts. The NOPD continues to focus on the 22 designated "hot spots" around the City where the force has been successful in reducing crime.

Presentation by Judge Calvin Johnson and Dr. Craig Coenson of the Metropolitan Human Services District on

mental health issues in New Orleans and the mission of the District - to provide in an effective fashion, the outpatient mental health services that the community needs. The representatives noted several of the District's goals, including development of a patient guide on how to navigate the healthcare system and a method to track patients through the system of care.



*Judge Calvin Johnson & Dr. Craig Coenson*

"State of Culture" Address from Irvin Mayfield which outlined five objectives for the





*Irvin Mayfield*

City's cultural community including: supporting community-based cultural traditions, investment in cultural infrastructure and facilities, and tracking new investment and informational resources. Mayfield proposed that a mission statement on the maintenance of the City's culture be adopted as part of the Master Plan and informed Councilmembers that there will be a series of weekly "Culture at the Center" forums to allow the public to contribute to the discussion.

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News Release

May 22, 2009

Contact:

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

[rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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Over the next several weeks, the City Council, its staff and a staff assembled by the Council's Special Counsel will continue the task of reviewing more than two-million pages that total over 400,000 emails.

According to Special Counsel Steve Lane, over this holiday weekend a team of lawyers, paralegals, technology and communications professionals, Councilmembers and staff will work hundreds of hours reviewing the emails to ensure that postings are made as quickly as possible.

Lane said, "It is an overwhelming task that is costing thousands of dollars. Nonetheless, the Council is making its best effort to comply with Public Records Requests to produce over 400,000 emails. Besides the costs to taxpayers, the process is labor intensive and is directly impacting the Council's and its staff's ability to perform day-to-day duties attending to the needs of the City."

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## City Council to Host Public Hearing on 2009 Hurricane Season Evacuation and Shelter Planning

News Release

May 22, 2009

Contact:  
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Councilmember-at-Large  
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[krschneiderman@cityofno.com](mailto:krschneiderman@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans, LA - May 22, 2009 - City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow announced that a public hearing on hurricane evacuation and shelter planning for the upcoming hurricane season will be held on Tuesday, May 26th from 5-7 p. m. in the City Council Chamber.

"Emergency planning is key to keeping our city safe through this upcoming hurricane season, and community involvement is crucial," said Fielkow. "Our goal is to ensure that every citizen of New Orleans has access to reliable evacuation services

and safe emergency shelters."

This hearing will afford citizens the opportunity to hear and comment on 2009 emergency plans. Citizens will also be asked to share their experiences in state emergency shelters last fall as evacuees during Hurricane Gustav. The public hearing is a follow-up to a request for such an information session made during the May 7th City Council meeting.

Featured speakers include Kristy Nichols, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Social Services, Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Sneed of the City of New Orleans Office of Homeland Security, and representatives of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, Military Division, and the Louisiana State Police.

Hurricane Gustav forced nearly 2 million Gulf Coast residents to

evacuate their homes, while nearly 800,000 residents in Louisiana were without power for days.

The public hearing will also be broadcast live on NOA-TV.

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## 100 New Orleans Students to Descend on Birmingham, Alabama To Attend 14th Annual Rickwood Classic Baseball Game

*New Orleans City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow,  
State Representative Cedric Richmond & Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman Sponsoring  
Trip That Also Includes Guided Tour of Birmingham Civil Rights Institute*

News Release

May 22, 2009

New Orleans, LA - May 22, 2009

Contact:

Kate Schneiderman  
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Ph: (504) 658-1063  
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- On Wednesday, May 27th, 100 middle school students from across New Orleans will get an opportunity to witness a unique part of American history by attending the 14th Annual Rickwood Baseball Classic in Birmingham, Alabama.

Rickwood Field is America's oldest ballpark, and played host to iconic baseball teams and players over the past 99 years. The field served as the home park for the Birmingham Barons and the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro League. Baseball legends including Babe Ruth, Satchel Paige and Willie Mays all played on Rickwood Field.

Immediately following the minor-league baseball game, the students will be taken on a private, guided tour of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute before returning to New Orleans that evening. The trip is sponsored by New Orleans City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow, State Representative Cedric Richmond (District 101) and Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman. WBOK-AM radio and Sylvain Solutions are the media sponsors.

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Council Vice President Fielkow said, "Rickwood Field is a historic ballpark where some of baseball's greats once played." Fielkow continued, "The impact of the Rickwood Classic extends far beyond baseball. It represents our nation's civil rights history and the impact that baseball had in desegregating this country. I am so excited to share this unique opportunity with New Orleans students."

The Recovery School District (RSD), Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) and the Algiers Charter School Association (ACSA) are all participating. Students will be chosen to attend this trip by their respective school districts, based upon high academic and behavioral criteria set by the three school districts.


The Rickwood Classic pays homage to the 1982 season when the Atlanta Braves traveled to Birmingham to play a mid-summer exhibition against the Southern League All-Stars. Prior to moving to New Orleans, Council Vice President Fielkow served as President of the historic Southern League. The 1982 season was the last time prior to this one that Birmingham hosted the league's annual All-Star event. The 2009 game, featuring the Birmingham Barons versus Southern League division rival Mississippi Braves, will feature the players wearing the uniforms worn by both teams in the early 1980's. The Classic is considered one of the best opportunities to experience a regulation ballgame in a historic ballpark that remains true to its original and traditional appearance.

"Our local kids have been through so much trauma in recent years," said Representative Cedric Richmond. "From the hurricane, to long evacuations, to their schools and daily routines being constantly changed, this trip is a reward for the hard work these students have performed over the school year. This trip is not just about baseball - it's about showing these kids a living piece of history and how good, clean sports can help change the world."

Sheriff Marlin Gusman said, "This trip is a tremendous opportunity to share the joy of a national past time with our kids, as well as an opportunity for them to appreciate the sacrifices made by earlier generations in the name of equality for all."

The game begins at 12:30 p.m. Immediately following the game, the New Orleans group will be taken on a private, guided tour of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

Hotard Coaches will pick-up the students and chaperones in front of New Orleans City Hall on Perdido Street at 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 27th. The buses will travel to Rickwood Field for the 12:30 p.m. game. At approximately 3:00 p.m., the group will re-board the buses and travel to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute for a 1 hour guided tour. The buses will return to New Orleans by 10:00 p.m.



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**NOTE TO EDITORS:** We are inviting you to send a reporter and photographer on this trip with us. Please notify Kate Schneiderman by Tuesday, May 26th. We will provide free transportation and access to the baseball game and museum tour and will be happy to provide an invoice to you of the travel expenses, if you need this documentation or a stated value of the trip, for your records.

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**Council Requests Attorney General Opinion  
On Document Production Time and Privilege Requirements  
Under Louisiana Public Records Act**

News Release

May 26, 2009

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New Orleans, LA - May 26, 2009 - Today, the New Orleans City Council's Special Counsel, Steven J. Lane has sent a letter to the State Attorney General James D. "Buddy" Caldwell requesting an advisory opinion relative to document production time and constituent privacy privilege requirements under the Louisiana Public Records Act.

The request for an Attorney General opinion is related to numerous public records requests made to the City Council asking that it produce three years of its emails.

To read the City Council's letter requesting an Attorney General Opinion click [here](#).

The letter was sent to the Attorney General following a three-day holiday weekend during which special counsel, technology experts and Councilmembers conducted reviews and began posting the emails on the City Council website.

Lane said, "We are acting as quickly as possible to review millions of pages of emails. But, we are seeking guidance from the Attorney General as to whether and to what extent the Council needs to act more quickly. The Council is also concerned about exposing the City of New Orleans and the City Council to liability if private, privileged or otherwise protected constituent information is divulged should the Council be forced to produce documents without having the full opportunity to review each of the over 2 million pages of over 400,000 emails."

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## City Council to Host Public Hearing Tonight on 2009 Hurricane Season Evacuation and Shelter Planning

News Release

May 26, 2009

Contact:  
Kate Schneiderman  
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This hearing will afford citizens the opportunity to hear and comment on 2009 emergency plans. Citizens will also be asked to share their experiences in state emergency shelters last fall as evacuees during Hurricane Gustav. The public hearing is a follow-up to a request for such an information session made during the May 7th City Council meeting.

Featured speakers include Kristy Nichols, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Social Services, Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Sneed of the City of New Orleans Office of Homeland Security, and representatives of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, Military Division, and the Louisiana State Police.

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**Council Requests Attorney General Opinion  
On Document Production Time and Privilege Requirements  
Under Louisiana Public Records Act**

News Release

May 26, 2009

Contact:

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

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The request for an Attorney General opinion is related to numerous public records requests made to the City Council asking that it produce three years of its emails.

To read the City Council's letter requesting an Attorney General Opinion click [here](#).

The letter was sent to the Attorney General following a three-day holiday weekend during which special counsel, technology experts and Councilmembers conducted reviews and began posting the emails on the City Council website.

Lane said, "We are acting as quickly as possible to review millions of pages of emails. But, we are seeking guidance from the Attorney General as to whether and to what extent the Council needs to act more quickly. The Council is also concerned about exposing the City of New Orleans and the City Council to liability if private, privileged or otherwise protected constituent information is divulged should the Council be forced to produce documents without having the full opportunity to review each of the over 2 million pages of over 400,000 emails."

Media calls are being referred to Steven J. Lane, Attorney and Managing Partner, Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar, (504) 680-0527, [slane@hhkc.com](mailto:slane@hhkc.com).

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**City Council Budget Committee to Address  
District Attorney Budget Request,  
Vehicles for Safety & Permits Enforcement,  
And Blighted Properties on Monday Morning**

**What:** The Budget Committee will meet to discuss the following items:

Audit Matters

- 1) Status Report on 2008 Audit - Joey Richard, Michael Bruno, Derrick Muse, Kim Delarge

Budget Matters

- 1) Capital Projects status reports - Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, William Chrisman
- 2) Budget & Financial Monthly status reports - CAO, Finance
- 3) Ordinances/Motions/Resolutions - CAO
- 4) Sewerage and Water Board bond issue - Robert Jackson
- 5) Safety and Permits inspectors' vehicles - Paul May
- 6) Special Counsel compensation increase - Steven Lane
- 7) ORDA, blighted properties - Norris Butler
- 8) District Attorney budget request - Leon Cannizzaro
- 9) PPP budget concerns - Julie Schwam Harris
- 10) Other matters

To view the Committee Meeting agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Monday, June 1, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:**Special Guests

- Joey Richard
- Michael Bruno
- Derrick Muse, Deputy Director of Finance
- Kim Delarge
- Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- William Chrisman, Director of Capital Projects
- Robert Jackson, New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board
- Paul May, Department of Safety and Permits
- Steven Lane, Managing Partner of Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar
- Norris Butler, Office of Recovery and Development Administration
- District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro
- Julie Schwam Harris, Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Committee Members

- Chair: District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
- District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head

**Contact:**

Josh Barnett

Office of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

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Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson to Speak  
In Support of Wetlands Restoration at MRGO Rally  
In Lower Ninth Ward on Monday Afternoon

News Release

May 29, 2009

Contact:  
Jacquelyn Cole  
Office of  
Councilmember-at-Large  
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
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Cell: 504-577-3600  
[jicole@cityofno.com](mailto:jicole@cityofno.com)

New Orleans  
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New Orleans, LA - May 29, 2009 - Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will join community leaders in the Lower Ninth Ward Monday in calling for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to restore the wetlands surrounding the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO).

The MRGO Rally will take place on **Monday, June 1 at 12 p.m.** at the **Bayou Bienvenue Cypress Triangle Platform** at the intersection of Caffin Ave. and Florida Ave. in the Lower Ninth Ward (click [here](#) for a

map).

Completed in 1965, MRGO is a 76-mile, man-made channel connecting New Orleans to the Gulf of Mexico. Although the channel provides a navigational shortcut, it has also allowed saltwater to intrude upon surrounding wetlands, which thrive on freshwater. Over time, this process has led to the destruction of tens of thousands of acres of wetlands.

"We must restore those wetlands," said Councilmember Clarkson. "This is a vital component of ensuring New Orleans is a viable, sustainable place to live."

She continued, "Levees, vital as they are, are not enough. We need

to restore the coastal wetlands that have for so long helped our region absorb the impact of major hurricanes."

MRGO is under congressional mandate to be closed, and the Corps began constructing the closure earlier this year. The Corps must also devise projects to restore the surrounding wetlands.

"We must join together as a regional community and ask the Corps to do everything within its power to quickly implement projects that will restore the natural hurricane barriers we so desperately need," Clarkson said.

Possibilities for wetland restoration surrounding MRGO include land diversions that would reintroduce freshwater and marsh-building sediment into the wetlands, marsh creation, and barrier island building.

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Unanimous Decision of State Supreme Court  
Vacates 4th Circuit Court of Appeal Judgment  
In City Council versus Tracie Washington Email Case

News Release

May 29, 2009

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The Supreme Court ruled that the Court of Appeal should not have considered Ms. Washington's First Amendment argument to make public non-privileged City Councilmember emails in her possession. The Court cited the longstanding jurisprudential rule of law in Louisiana that litigants cannot raise constitutional attacks on appeal unless they first raise them at the trial level.

As a result, the Supreme Court found the Court of Appeal erred in ruling in Ms. Washington's favor.

According to the City Council's Special Counsel Steven J. Lane, the City Council maintains the position it has held since it first learned that Tracie Washington had obtained City Councilmember emails without the Council's knowledge in December 2008.

Lane said, "The Council has never had an issue with non-privileged or non-private constituent information being made public. The Council wants the opportunity to review the emails in order to protect private information of constituents and attorney client privileged information. We are hopeful that the Attorney General will give some guidance on the

issues of protecting private constituent information, and expediting and reducing the cost of the email review process."

Lane went on to say, the Council will continue to go through the time consuming and costly process of reviewing every email and making public as many emails as possible, as quickly as possible.

Mr. Lane is out of town on business and will be returning to New Orleans tomorrow.

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Media Advisory

June 1, 2009

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District Attorney Budget Request,  
Vehicles for Safety & Permits Enforcement,  
And Blighted Properties this Morning**

**What:** The Budget Committee will meet to discuss the following items:

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- 1) Status Report on 2008 Audit - Joey Richard, Michael Bruno, Derrick Muse, Kim Delarge

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- 1) Capital Projects status reports - Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, William Chrisman
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**When:** Monday, June 1, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:**Special Guests

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**Contact:**

Josh Barnett

Office of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

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In Support of Wetlands Restoration at MRGO Rally  
In Lower Ninth Ward this Afternoon

News Release

June 1, 2009

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**Councilmembers Fielkow, Clarkson, Head and Hedge-Morrell  
Attend Congressional Roundtable in New Orleans  
To Discuss Recovery**

News Release

June 1, 2009

Contact:  
Ronald J. Pursell  
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*Councilmembers Fielkow, Clarkson,  
Hedge-Morrell and Head*

**New Orleans, LA - June 1, 2009** - Councilmembers Arnie Fielkow, Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, Stacy Head, and Cynthia Hedge-Morrell attended a field hearing of the U.S. House committee responsible for overseeing FEMA today. Councilmembers urged congressional leaders to reform the FEMA reimbursement process, forgive the City its Community Disaster Loans granted in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and focus on a host of other recovery projects including coastal restoration and outfall canals.

U.S. Congressman Anh "Joseph" Cao and U.S. Congressman John L. Mica of Florida, both members of the U.S. House Transportation Committee, hosted the recovery roundtable, which was held at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. U.S. Congressman Steve Scalise also attended the roundtable, as well as other state and federal leaders, including representatives from FEMA.

Councilmembers-at-Large Arnie Fielkow and Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson urged congressional leaders to reform FEMA and the Stafford Act, which outlines how the federal government reacts to disasters.

"Katrina showed us that the federal government is ill-equipped to respond to major U.S. disasters," Councilmember Clarkson said. "The federal government needs to work to give local communities the same kind of disaster response it provides to international communities."

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "It's time that the federal government and the local community reach a consensus on rebuilding efforts. Nearly four years after Katrina, we are still having this conversation, and that is unacceptable."

Councilmembers also discussed a host of recovery issues, including the forgiveness of Community Disaster Loans, coastal restoration and protection, and the redevelopment of the City's outfall canals.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head explained why forgiveness of the Community Disaster Loans (CDLs) is so vital for New Orleans.

"The forgiveness of CDLs has a ripple effect that especially reverberates at the local level," she said. "Once we know the CDLs are forgiven, our bond rating improves, and we can get credit easier and at a lower cost to our city. This enables us to provide more and better services to our citizens."

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, who chairs the Council's Budget Committee, focused on the need to reform the process by which FEMA reimburses municipal governments in the wake of disasters.

"We have a city charter that does not allow us to let contracts until we have the money in the bank. Yet FEMA will allocate money only to reimburse spent funds," she said. "When your city is under water and you have no tax base - that just doesn't make sense."


Council President Fielkow urged FEMA representative to look immediately into the gap between FEMA funding and City needs on NORD parks and playgrounds.

"We have a gap of more than \$60 million, and this is inexcusable," Fielkow said. "Our children need those parks and playgrounds now. Rebuilding them will have immediate benefits in the quality of life of our citizens."

Councilmember Clarkson urged congressional leaders to financially support the State's effort to restore coastal wetlands and to instruct the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use the best possible means of redeveloping the City's outfall canals at London Ave., Orleans Ave., and 17th St.

"The Corps needs to consider what is best for the long-term, sustainable storm protection New Orleans needs," Clarkson said. "We cannot allow the Corps to choose 'cheap' options that will ultimately put our area at risk for dramatic costs in life and property."

Councilmembers vowed to continue to work with local, state, and federal



leaders to push for reforms and a quicker pace to recovery.

"This much time and money spent by local, state, and federal governments on a recovery that has been minimal is absurd, un-American, and unacceptable," said Councilmember Clarkson. "Working together, we have to change that."

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Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson  
Returns from Trip to Netherlands  
To Study Advanced System of Flood Control

News Release

June 2, 2009

Contact:  
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New Orleans  
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - June 2, 2009 - Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson returned this weekend from a fact-finding trip to the Netherlands' hosted by U. S. Sen. Mary Landrieu and the Dutch Embassy to investigate the country's advanced system of flood control.

"When it comes to flood control, we have a lot to learn from the Dutch," Clarkson said. "The Dutch don't run from water. They manage it. If we want sustainable, long-term storm protection, we need to change our way of thinking and adopt that philosophy."

More than half of the Netherlands lies below sea level, including two of the country's major cities, Amsterdam and Rotterdam. After experiencing a flood in 1953 that killed more than 2,000 people, the Netherlands overhauled its system of seawalls and dykes, creating a national department focused solely on water management, forming local water boards devoted to flood control, constructing elaborate systems of canals, and focusing on coastal barriers.

Along with a delegation of key elected officials, community leaders, scientists, and engineers, Councilmember Clarkson observed the ins and outs of this elaborate system through on-the-ground field outings during the six day trip, May 25 - 31.

Clarkson, who is a strong advocate for the restoration of coastal wetlands using large-scale freshwater diversions and other techniques, emphasized the need for a federal, state, and local focus on sustainable, natural storm defenses in addition to man-made levees.

"I am pleased with the meetings we had in the Netherlands," Clarkson said. "There is a real commitment on the federal and state level to pursuing the kind of lasting flood control that will make our region a viable place to live for our children and children's children."

She continued "We need to rethink how we protect ourselves - starting with prioritizing our own natural defenses in coastal barriers. If the Netherlands can stop the North Sea, we can stop the Gulf."

Members of the delegation to the Netherlands included:

- U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson
- Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson
- Netherlands Honorary Consul General Connie Willems
- Representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority, the LSU Hurricane Center, Levees.org, Louisiana Speaks, the American Planning Association, and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

## **New Orleans City Council**

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## New Orleans Chosen as Site For 2014 National Association of Counties Annual Conference

News Release

June 2, 2009

Contact:  
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New Orleans, LA - June 2, 2009 - Recently it was announced that New Orleans was chosen as the host city for the 2014 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference. In December 2008 the City Council passed a Resolution authorizing the submission of a proposal for New Orleans to host the conference.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States.

The last time New Orleans hosted a NACo Annual Conference was in 2002. At that time, NACo reported some of the highest attendance numbers of any of their conferences. It is estimated that anywhere from 3,300 to 3,500 people will attend the conference, representing a huge economic impact for New Orleans.

Stephen J. Perry, President of the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau (NOMCVB), estimates the economic impact of hosting NACo's annual conference in New Orleans to be \$4,116,000.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "Securing this conference was a collaborative effort. The Council worked with the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations, Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu, the Louisiana Police Jury Association, and the NOMCVB to bring NACo back to New Orleans. It is a testament to these groups, as well as our many citizens

who work in the hospitality industry, that New Orleans continues to be a top tourist and convention destination."

The NACo annual conference typically features guest speakers, educational workshops, and forums on key issues and timely topics such as the economy, housing, employment, energy, infrastructure and economic development, transparency and accountability.

Other cities competing to host the 2014 conference were Ft. Worth, TX (Tarrant County), and Charlotte, NC (Mecklenberg County).

#### NACo - The Voice of America's Counties

Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,066 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit [www.NACo.org](http://www.NACo.org).

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Media Advisory

June 3, 2009

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**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session  
Thursday, June 4th at 10 a.m.  
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

**What:** Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Resolution commending and congratulating all those involved in securing the 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans, and a Presentation from the Super Bowl negotiating team updating the Council on their successful bid for the 2013 Super Bowl and the economic impact it will bring to the City
- Resolution restoring the designation "American Sector" in the area bounded by the uptown side of Canal Street, Calliope Street, the Mississippi River and South Claiborne Avenue
- Presentation from the local Federal Communications Office updating the Council regarding the June 12th Digital TV (DTV) conversion
- Presentation on Project Restore and its efforts to assist at-risk youth

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, June 4, 2009

10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
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**Council Reaches Out to Remind Citizens  
That Email Communications with the Council  
Might be Classified as Public Record**

News Release

June 3, 2009

Contact:

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New Orleans, LA - June 3, 2009 - This week, at a City Council Budget Committee meeting, Council President Arnie Fielkow asked that citizens be reminded that some email communications with Councilmembers could be classified as public records and might be subject to release to the public at large by media outlets.

"Our citizens should be aware that some information communicated about neighborhood issues, reports of crime activity, and requests for City services, as well as opinions on Council legislation, City zoning and related topics might be classified as a public record and possibly released to the public. We certainly do not want to discourage citizen electronic communication with us - but only want the public to be aware that our communications on these issues might not be protected," said Fielkow.

In response to recent public records requests, on May 22, 2009, the New Orleans City Council began the process to make available to the public its emails produced over the last three years. Over the next several weeks, the City Council, its staff and a staff assembled by the Council's Special Counsel will continue the task of reviewing more than two-million pages that total over 400,000 emails. A team of lawyers, paralegals, technology and communications professionals, Councilmembers and staff are working to ensure that postings are made as quickly as possible.

The City Council has never had an issue with non-privileged or non-private constituent information being made public. The Council is reviewing the emails in order to protect private information of constituents and attorney client privileged information. The Council will continue to go through the time consuming and costly process of reviewing every email and making public as many emails as possible, as quickly as possible.

The Council's Special Legal Counsel, Steven J. Lane said, "It is an overwhelming task that is costing thousands of dollars. Nonetheless, the Council is making its best effort to comply with Public Records Requests to produce over 400,000 emails."

All Councilmember emails are currently in the review process. Email postings will be made on a rolling basis and will be updated periodically on the City Council's website.

To view Council Email Communication Information and Resources click [here](#).

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City Council June 4, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

June 4, 2009

Contact:  
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**New Orleans, LA - June 4, 2009** - Today the New Orleans City Council passed Ordinances approving funding for the Economic Development Public Private Partnership, and a Resolution restoring the designation "American Sector" to a specified area of the Central Business District.

Additionally, the Council passed a Resolution commending all those involved in securing the 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans, and received a presentation from the Super Bowl negotiating team on the successful bid for the Super Bowl and the economic impact it will bring to the City.

The Council also addressed a presentation from the local Federal Communications Commission Office on the June 12th Digital TV conversion, a presentation on "Project Restore" and its efforts to assist at-risk youth, and a District "C" update from Councilmember Carter.

The Council held an Executive Session to discuss recent developments in pending litigation concerning the review and release of the City Council's email correspondence over a three-year period.



## *Supports Economic Development Public Private Partnership*



*Arthur Pulitzer & Bob Brown*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar Nos. 27,486 and 27,496, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Hedge-Morrell, relative to the funding of the Economic Development Public Private Partnership (PPP).

Arthur Pulitzer, Co-Founder of Horizon Initiative of New Orleans, and Bob Brown, Executive Director of the Business Council of New Orleans, appeared before the Council to express their support for the Ordinances and to thank all parties involved in making the PPP a reality.

Ordinance Calendar No. 27,486 temporarily suspends for a period of 270 days the deadlines for economic development project proposals and/or recommendations, by the Economic Development Advisory Committee and/or the Mayor.

Ordinance Calendar No. 27,496 allocates 2008 Economic Development Fund (EDF) millage and previous years' unexpended EDF millage to the following projects in the following amounts:

- Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund - \$758,209
- Sanitation Cleanup in the Vieux Carre - \$2,500,000
- Public Private Partnership - \$2,000,000

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "This is a great day for New Orleans and a milestone for economic development in the City. The Public Private Partnership will change the landscape of economic development. This was an ongoing collaborative effort and we are so grateful to everyone who has worked tirelessly for the last two years to make this a reality."

Councilmember Fielkow noted that after the adoption of these Ordinances several other steps must be taken, including the creation of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) legal entity, the selection of the PPP Board, and the signing of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the PPP and the Mayor.

## *Held Executive Session*



The City Council held an Executive Session to discuss recent developments in pending litigation concerning the review and release of the City Council's email correspondence over a three-year period. Due to the confidentiality of the issues, they were taken up in a duly noticed Executive Session closed to the public.

Following the Executive Session, Council President Arnie Fielkow announced that the Council would withdraw a Motion that would have authorized an increase in the maximum compensation allowed to be paid to its Special Counsel, Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar. The Council requested that Special Counsel Steven Lane explore alternate funding sources to ensure that Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar is compensated for fees exceeding the existing contract maximum compensation level, incurred related to the Council's email correspondence review and release.

Council President Fielkow also acknowledged that the Council is utilizing its best efforts to produce all public records requested in a timely manner.

"The action to withdraw the Motion today is a reflection of the Council's prioritization of general fund dollars to be spent on such important areas as crime prevention, health care, recreation programs and other critical needs of New Orleans. We have asked our Legal Counsel to explore other avenues for compensation of costs relating to the public records requests so that, at least at this time, additional public funds do not have to be expended," Fielkow said.

## *Restored "American Sector" Designation*



*Bill Detweiler & Dr. Nick Mueller*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-265, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson and Head, restoring the designation "American Sector" in the area bounded by the uptown side of Canal St., Calliope St., the Mississippi River, and S. Claiborne Ave.

The term "American Sector" was historically used to describe the area West of the French Quarter and East of the Garden District, and references the unique history of New Orleans, illuminating the City's evolution from the time of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

Dr. Nick Mueller, President and CEO of The National World War II Museum, and Bill Detweiler, Consultant to the National World War II Museum President on Military & Veterans Affairs, appeared before the Council to give some background information on the "American Sector" designation and to offer their support for the Resolution. The representatives also emphasized that the term "American Sector" would not re-name any current neighborhoods, but rather serve as an umbrella designation for the area.

District "B" Councilmember Head said, "We must ask the Downtown Development District, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and all other appropriate parties to mark this area as the "American Sector" and promote it to ensure that both our citizens and our visitors are aware of this historic designation."

### *Commended Efforts to Secure 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans*



*Bob Brown, Ron Gardner, Jay Cicero & Mary Beth Romig*

The

Council passed Resolution R-09-246, by Councilmember Clarkson, commending and congratulating all those involved in securing the 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans, including but not limited to, Governor Bobby Jindal, Tom Benson and Rita Benson LeBlanc, Mayor Nagin, Rod West, Steve Perry, Jay Cicero, Bob Brown and Ron Forman, and their staffs.

The following members of the Super Bowl negotiating team appeared before the Council today to provide the Council with an update on the successful bid and the economic impact that the Super Bowl will bring to the City:

- Bob Brown, Executive Director of the Business Council of New Orleans
- Ron Gardner, Chairman of the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation
- Jay Cicero, CEO of the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation
- Mary Beth Romig, Director of Communications and Public Relations for the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau

Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "We are exhilarated to learn that we will be hosting the Super Bowl in 2013. This event brings us an estimated \$300 million in direct economic impact and is a sign of a positive step in our recovery. Hosting this event is a victory that belongs to all New Orleanians who have chosen to come back and believe that this City

can recover."

The Super Bowl team discussed the bid presentation, which involved several informational binders featuring artwork from local children, as well as information on the importance of the City's hospitality workers and their high quality of service that will make this event a success.

The Councilmembers expressed their deep gratitude to all those organizations and individuals who worked diligently to make the 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans a reality.

### ***Addressed Upcoming Digital TV Conversion***



*Dedrick Roybiskie & Stephen Rooney*

As its second Order of Business, the Council received a presentation on the June 12 Digital TV (DTV) conversion from representatives from the local Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Office.

Dedrick Roybiskie and Stephen Rooney, local FCC representatives, presented

information relative to which consumers will be affected by the conversion and what steps they need to take to make the conversion, including purchasing a converter box. The conversion will only affect those individuals who use an antenna to receive a television signal; all those consumers who currently have cable or satellite television will be unaffected by the conversion.

The representatives also discussed the availability of government coupons for purchasing a converter box and instructed consumers to call 1-888-CALL-FCC for more information on the June 12 Digital TV conversion.

### ***Received Presentation on "Project Restore"***



*Rev. Khalil Osiris, Rev. Patricia Watson  
& Rev. Tom Watson*

Reverends Tom Watson, Patricia Watson, and Khalil Osiris appeared before the Council today to give a presentation on "Project Restore" and its efforts to assist at-

risk youth.

"Project Restore" is a program dedicated to working with at-risk youth to keep communities safe, decrease crime, and promote victim awareness.

The representatives emphasized the importance of monitoring these at-risk individuals and connecting them to the services that they need - mental health, counseling, education, and employment.

Criminal Justice Committee Chair Councilmember James Carter said, "We need to invest in our youth and empower them to make good choices and to become productive citizens - this program is doing just that. I would like to invite the representatives of Project Restore to attend our next regular Criminal Justice Committee meeting so that we can discuss this program in more detail and evaluate the ways in which the Council can assist the program with its mission."

### *District "C" Report*



*Councilmember Carter*

District "C" Councilmember James Carter gave a report today on news and happenings in his District.

The report gave updates on:

- Code enforcement sweeps
- Status of adjudicated properties in the District
- Street repair projects including road resurfacing, reconstruction and streetscape development
- New business openings including Harmony House, the Treme Community Elderly Program
- Ongoing improvements to Brechtel Park

Councilmember Carter said, "Great things are happening in District C. Repairs to major streets on both sides of the river have either been completed or are in the offing. A total of 441 properties have been adjudicated in the last few months and Code Enforcement sweeps are addressing blight in eight neighborhoods. Major developments such as the "Inspire" venture on St. Bernard Avenue, a major hotel project on General DeGaulle, and a mixed housing complex on Esplanade Avenue have been approved by the Council. District C - home to numerous festivals and special events throughout the spring and summer - is an exciting place to be."

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## Councilmember Hedge-Morrell Expresses Disappointment with Diversion of FEMA Funds

News Release

June 4, 2009

Contact:

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New Orleans, LA - June 4, 2009 - Today, District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell expressed her disappointment in Archbishop Hughes' decision to divert \$8.3 million dollars earmarked for repairs to Epiphany of Our Lord School to projects in Mandeville and St Bernard.

"The children of District D should benefit from these FEMA funds, which could be used to improve the quality of education in our area," said Councilmember Hedge-Morrell. "When I first became aware of the Archbishop's proposal, I sent a letter to FEMA encouraging them to reinvest those funds in our community, either in a community center at Corpus Christi or at St. Leo the Great Catholic School where Epiphany students now attend. I think it is essential that the parishioners of the four Catholic Churches in the district be involved in the Archdiocese's decision. The parishioners raised millions of dollars to build those churches and schools, and they must be respected regarding the use of the FEMA funds."

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell plans to contact FEMA directly and request that Archbishop Hughes meet with parishioners from the four impacted parishes in the near future to discuss possible uses of the FEMA funds.

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## Councilmember Hedge-Morrell Expresses Disappointment with Diversion of FEMA Funds

News Release

June 4, 2009

Contact:

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Councilmember  
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New Orleans, LA - June 4, 2009 - Today, District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell expressed her disappointment in Archbishop Hughes' decision to divert \$8.3 million dollars earmarked for repairs to Epiphany of Our Lord School to projects in Mandeville and St Bernard.

"The children of District D should benefit from these FEMA funds, which could be used to improve the quality of education in our area," said Councilmember Hedge-Morrell. "When I first became aware of the Archbishop's proposal, I sent a letter to FEMA encouraging them to reinvest those funds in our community, either in a community center at Corpus Christi or at St. Leo the Great Catholic School where Epiphany students now attend. I think it is essential that the parishioners of the four Catholic Churches in the district be involved in the Archdiocese's decision. The parishioners raised millions of dollars to build those churches and schools, and they must be respected regarding the use of the FEMA funds."

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell plans to contact FEMA directly and request that Archbishop Hughes meet with parishioners from the four impacted parishes in the near future to discuss possible uses of the FEMA funds.

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City Council June 4, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

June 4, 2009

Contact:  
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**New Orleans, LA - June 4, 2009** - Today the New Orleans City Council passed Ordinances approving funding for the Economic Development Public Private Partnership, and a Resolution restoring the designation "American Sector" to a specified area of the Central Business District.

Additionally, the Council passed a Resolution commending all those involved in securing the 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans, and received a presentation from the Super Bowl negotiating team on the successful bid for the Super Bowl and the economic impact it will bring to the City.

The Council also addressed a presentation from the local Federal Communications Commission Office on the June 12th Digital TV conversion, a presentation on "Project Restore" and its efforts to assist at-risk youth, and a District "C" update from Councilmember Carter.

The Council held an Executive Session to discuss recent developments in pending litigation concerning the review and release of the City Council's email correspondence over a three-year period.

## *Supports Economic Development Public Private Partnership*



*Arthur Pulitzer & Bob Brown*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar Nos. 27,486 and 27,496, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Hedge-Morrell, relative to the funding of the Economic Development Public Private Partnership (PPP).

Arthur Pulitzer, Co-Founder of Horizon Initiative of New Orleans, and Bob Brown, Executive Director of the Business Council of New Orleans, appeared before the Council to express their support for the Ordinances and to thank all parties involved in making the PPP a reality.

Ordinance Calendar No. 27,486 temporarily suspends for a period of 270 days the deadlines for economic development project proposals and/or recommendations, by the Economic Development Advisory Committee and/or the Mayor.

Ordinance Calendar No. 27,496 allocates 2008 Economic Development Fund (EDF) millage and previous years' unexpended EDF millage to the following projects in the following amounts:

- Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund - \$758,209
- Sanitation Cleanup in the Vieux Carre - \$2,500,000
- Public Private Partnership - \$2,000,000

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "This is a great day for New Orleans and a milestone for economic development in the City. The Public Private Partnership will change the landscape of economic development. This was an ongoing collaborative effort and we are so grateful to everyone who has worked tirelessly for the last two years to make this a reality."

Councilmember Fielkow noted that after the adoption of these Ordinances several other steps must be taken, including the creation of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) legal entity, the selection of the PPP Board, and the signing of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the PPP and the Mayor.

## *Held Executive Session*



The City Council held an Executive Session to discuss recent developments in pending litigation concerning the review and release of the City Council's email correspondence over a three-year period. Due to the confidentiality of the issues, they were taken up in a duly noticed Executive Session closed to the public.

Following the Executive Session, Council President Arnie Fielkow announced that the Council would withdraw a Motion that would have authorized an increase in the maximum compensation allowed to be paid to its Special Counsel, Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar. The Council requested that Special Counsel Steven Lane explore alternate funding sources to ensure that Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar is compensated for fees exceeding the existing contract maximum compensation level, incurred related to the Council's email correspondence review and release.

Council President Fielkow also acknowledged that the Council is utilizing its best efforts to produce all public records requested in a timely manner.

"The action to withdraw the Motion today is a reflection of the Council's prioritization of general fund dollars to be spent on such important areas as crime prevention, health care, recreation programs and other critical needs of New Orleans. We have asked our Legal Counsel to explore other avenues for compensation of costs relating to the public records requests so that, at least at this time, additional public funds do not have to be expended," Fielkow said.

## *Restored "American Sector" Designation*



*Bill Detweiler & Dr. Nick Mueller*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-265, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson and Head, restoring the designation "American Sector" in the area bounded by the uptown side of Canal St., Calliope St., the Mississippi River, and S. Claiborne Ave.

The term "American Sector" was historically used to describe the area West of the French Quarter and East of the Garden District, and references the unique history of New Orleans, illuminating the City's evolution from the time of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

Dr. Nick Mueller, President and CEO of The National World War II Museum, and Bill Detweiler, Consultant to the National World War II Museum President on Military & Veterans Affairs, appeared before the Council to give some background information on the "American Sector" designation and to offer their support for the Resolution. The representatives also emphasized that the term "American Sector" would not re-name any current neighborhoods, but rather serve as an umbrella designation for the area.

District "B" Councilmember Head said, "We must ask the Downtown Development District, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and all other appropriate parties to mark this area as the "American Sector" and promote it to ensure that both our citizens and our visitors are aware of this historic designation."

### *Commended Efforts to Secure 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans*



*Bob Brown, Ron Gardner, Jay Cicero & Mary Beth Romig*

The

Council passed Resolution R-09-246, by Councilmember Clarkson, commending and congratulating all those involved in securing the 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans, including but not limited to, Governor Bobby Jindal, Tom Benson and Rita Benson LeBlanc, Mayor Nagin, Rod West, Steve Perry, Jay Cicero, Bob Brown and Ron Forman, and their staffs.

The following members of the Super Bowl negotiating team appeared before the Council today to provide the Council with an update on the successful bid and the economic impact that the Super Bowl will bring to the City:

- Bob Brown, Executive Director of the Business Council of New Orleans
- Ron Gardner, Chairman of the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation
- Jay Cicero, CEO of the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation
- Mary Beth Romig, Director of Communications and Public Relations for the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau

Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "We are exhilarated to learn that we will be hosting the Super Bowl in 2013. This event brings us an estimated \$300 million in direct economic impact and is a sign of a positive step in our recovery. Hosting this event is a victory that belongs to all New Orleanians who have chosen to come back and believe that this City

can recover."

The Super Bowl team discussed the bid presentation, which involved several informational binders featuring artwork from local children, as well as information on the importance of the City's hospitality workers and their high quality of service that will make this event a success.

The Councilmembers expressed their deep gratitude to all those organizations and individuals who worked diligently to make the 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans a reality.

### ***Addressed Upcoming Digital TV Conversion***



*Dedrick Roybiskie & Stephen Rooney*

As its second Order of Business, the Council received a presentation on the June 12 Digital TV (DTV) conversion from representatives from the local Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Office.

Dedrick Roybiskie and Stephen Rooney, local FCC representatives, presented

information relative to which consumers will be affected by the conversion and what steps they need to take to make the conversion, including purchasing a converter box. The conversion will only affect those individuals who use an antenna to receive a television signal; all those consumers who currently have cable or satellite television will be unaffected by the conversion.

The representatives also discussed the availability of government coupons for purchasing a converter box and instructed consumers to call 1-888-CALL-FCC for more information on the June 12 Digital TV conversion.

### ***Received Presentation on "Project Restore"***



*Rev. Khalil Osiris, Rev. Patricia Watson  
& Rev. Tom Watson*

Reverends Tom Watson, Patricia Watson, and Khalil Osiris appeared before the Council today to give a presentation on "Project Restore" and its efforts to assist at-

risk youth.

"Project Restore" is a program dedicated to working with at-risk youth to keep communities safe, decrease crime, and promote victim awareness.

The representatives emphasized the importance of monitoring these at-risk individuals and connecting them to the services that they need - mental health, counseling, education, and employment.

Criminal Justice Committee Chair Councilmember James Carter said, "We need to invest in our youth and empower them to make good choices and to become productive citizens - this program is doing just that. I would like to invite the representatives of Project Restore to attend our next regular Criminal Justice Committee meeting so that we can discuss this program in more detail and evaluate the ways in which the Council can assist the program with its mission."

### *District "C" Report*



*Councilmember Carter*

District "C" Councilmember James Carter gave a report today on news and happenings in his District.

The report gave updates on:

- Code enforcement sweeps
- Status of adjudicated properties in the District
- Street repair projects including road resurfacing, reconstruction and streetscape development
- New business openings including Harmony House, the Treme Community Elderly Program
- Ongoing improvements to Brechtel Park

Councilmember Carter said, "Great things are happening in District C. Repairs to major streets on both sides of the river have either been completed or are in the offing. A total of 441 properties have been adjudicated in the last few months and Code Enforcement sweeps are addressing blight in eight neighborhoods. Major developments such as the "Inspire" venture on St. Bernard Avenue, a major hotel project on General DeGaulle, and a mixed housing complex on Esplanade Avenue have been approved by the Council. District C - home to numerous festivals and special events throughout the spring and summer - is an exciting place to be."



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Councilmember Stacy Head  
To Hold Business Outreach Canvassing Tour  
Throughout Commercial Corridors in District B

News Release

June 5, 2009

Contact:  
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New Orleans, LA - June 5, 2009 - District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head will hold a business outreach canvassing tour throughout commercial corridors in District "B" on June 8th and 9th. Councilmember Head and District "B" staff will canvass these commercial corridors starting at 10:00 a.m. on both days. The District "B" team will distribute business outreach brochures containing helpful contact information on city departments, elected officials and

important numbers that are used to relay information regarding city services and constituent concerns within District "B".

Councilmember Head said, "This canvassing project is part of my ongoing effort to support the continued economic growth of District "B". Our office finds that often, barriers to business or important problems current businesses face can be resolved if the businesses know where to go for solutions. My staff acts as ombudsmen to assist businesses start, grow and thrive."

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Media Advisory

June 8, 2009



**Councilmember Stacy Head  
To Lead Business Outreach Tour  
Through District "B" Commercial Corridors  
This Morning**

**WHAT:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head, along with her staff, will tour commercial corridors throughout District "B" this morning through the early afternoon. The tour is a special outreach to businesses located in commercial corridors including Magazine St., Oretha Castle Haley Blvd., Tulane Ave., Canal St., and throughout the Central Business District.

During the tour, Councilmember Head and her staff will be distributing to businesses a "Business Resource Guide," developed by Councilmember Head, designed to provide businesses with helpful contact information for City departments and elected officials, as well as information on the appropriate entities to contact to address various business needs and concerns.

The District "B" representatives will also be handing out "Constituent Comment and Request Forms," in order to give business owners the opportunity to submit any concerns, requests and/or comments to the Councilmember and her staff directly.

**WHEN:** The Councilmember will be available for interviews at the following time and location:

Monday, June 8th at 11:00 a.m.  
Feet First, 4119 Magazine St.  
(Click [here](#) for a map)

**CONTACT:** Jason Abate  
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
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**Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee  
To Address Presentation of GNO Inc.'s Maritime Industry Study  
And an Update on Local Vocational and Technical Colleges  
On Thursday Morning**

**What:** The City Council's Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee, chaired by Council President Arnie Fielkow, will host oral presentations from local and state port officials and business leaders regarding the results of Greater New Orleans, Inc.'s (GNO, Inc.) in-depth study on southeastern Louisiana ports and maritime trade operations around New Orleans.

Also included in the meeting:

- Status of Local Vocational/Technical Colleges
- Update on city's Public Private Partnership
- Report from Disaster Mitigation Task Force

To view the Committee Meeting agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, June 11, 2009  
9:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests

- Greg Rusovich, Business Council of New Orleans
- Andrea Bland, GNO, Inc.
- Gary LaGrange, Port of New Orleans
- Joe Accardo, Ports Association of Louisiana
- Kim Rugon, Provost/Dean, Delgado's Louisiana Technical College

- Belinda Little-Wood, Mayor's Office
- Michael Hecht, President of GNO, Inc.

#### Committee Members

- Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

**Contact:** Eric Granderson  
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Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee  
To Receive Status Update on Local Vocational and Technical Colleges  
And Presentation of GNO Inc.'s Maritime Industry Study  
Thursday Morning

News Release

June 10, 2009

Contact:  
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New Orleans, LA - June 10, 2009 - On Thursday, June 11, at 9 a.m., New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow welcomes local education and workforce development leaders to the Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee meeting to discuss the status of workforce development and technical and vocational education in New Orleans.

Kim Rugon, Provost/Dean of Delgado's Louisiana Technical College, and Lisa Tomlin, Regional Talent Development Vice President for Greater New Orleans Inc. (GNO Inc.), will be on hand to provide updates of current workforce development.

Before her recruitment to GNO Inc. in 2006, Tomlin served as a private consultant for public and private organizations on systemic workforce and economic development redesign in Oregon and Washington. Tomlin has extensive experience organizing statewide and regional stakeholder alliances and strategies; advocating, coordinating, marketing, managing, implementing, and recruiting workforce and economic development initiatives and policies. Kim Rugon has more than 20 years in academia including serving as Business Instructor for the Job Training Partnership Act program at Jackson State University. Also invited to speak on current vocational

education is New Orleans Recovery School District Superintendent Paul Vallas.

As chairman of the Economic Development Committee and a major proponent of increased education for New Orleans' youth, Council President Fielkow enthusiastically welcomes an update of the City's available technical schooling.

"Education and workforce development is one of the highest goals we can set for the city today," said Fielkow. "I look forward to hearing updates about our city's ongoing technical training and future instruction needs from some of our local education experts."

The Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee will also receive the first-ever presentation of GNO Inc.'s in-depth study on southeastern Louisiana ports and maritime trade operations around New Orleans. GNO Inc., the Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAAF) combined efforts approximately six months ago to commission a study that aims for a viable strategy for maximizing Louisiana's lower Mississippi River ports.

Leading strategy and technology consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton conducted the study. Several speakers will be on hand to discuss the study and international trade including: Greg Rusovich, Chairman of the Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region; Gary LaGrange, President and CEO of the Port of New Orleans; and Andrea Bland, Senior Vice President of Business Development for GNO Inc.

Council President Fielkow will also provide a status update on the City's developing Economic Development Public Private Partnership. The City Council voted unanimously on June 4 to approve an ordinance devoting \$2 million from the 2008 Economic Development Fund (EDF) millage for the establishment of the new Economic Development Public Private Partnership. The allocation will endow the City's first-ever nonprofit, public-private economic development entity.

"This is one of those real milestone moments for New Orleans," said Councilman Fielkow. "Once established, this will serve as a one-stop shop for companies that want to come to New Orleans and companies that want to expand in New Orleans. If done right this partnership will do so much for New Orleans."

Councilman Fielkow will discuss the City's next steps for realizing this goal which has been 18 months in the making. The Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee meeting will convene in the City Council Chamber beginning at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 11.



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Media Advisory

June 11, 2009



**Councilmember James Carter  
Announces 19th Annual Juneteenth Freedom Celebration**

*Four Days of Events Commemorating Emancipation Day*

**WHAT:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter announces the 19th annual Juneteenth Freedom Celebration, featuring four days of events commemorating Emancipation Day. Emancipation Day refers to the announcement of the abolition of slavery in the State of Texas on June 19, 1865. The Juneteenth Celebration will include a parade, live music, a fashion show, a documentary film screening, and much more. All events are free and open to the public.

Councilmember Carter said, "The Juneteenth Celebration is an opportunity for all members of the community to celebrate Emancipation Day. There is something for everyone to enjoy - food, live music, art and educational opportunities to learn more about the importance of this day in America's history."

Sponsors of the event include:

- The African American Male and Female Institute, Inc. - Director, Rev. John Mosley and Assistant Director, Elder Linda Tolbert-Mosley
- New Orleans City Council
- Jesus Never Fails Missionary Baptist Church - Rev. Dr. Norwood Thompson, Jr., Pastor
- St. Peter the Apostle Full Bible Church - Elder Eartha Carter, Pastor
- Southern Christian Leadership Conference New Orleans Local Chapter - Rev. Dr. Norwood Thompson, Jr., President
- Relevant Ministries - Director, Joseph Cox
- Right Way & Truth Full Gospel Baptist Church - Elder Linda Tolbert-Mosley, Pastor
- City of New Orleans & Mayor C. Ray Nagin

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

### **Press Conference**

Friday, June 12, 2009, 10:00 a.m.  
City Hall Rotunda in the first floor lobby  
1300 Perdido Street  
(click [here](#) for map)

### **Lunch Break Concert feat. local bands and artists**

Friday, June 12, 2009, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Lafayette Square  
(click [here](#) for map)

### **Film Documentary Screening: The Untold Story - 20th Century Slavery**

Thursday, June 18, 2009, 11:00 a.m.  
New Orleans Public Library, Main Branch, 219 Loyola Avenue  
(click [here](#) for map)

### **Juneteenth Freedom Parade**

Friday, June 19, 2009, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Parade begins at Fischer Elementary School, 1801 L.B. Landry Avenue  
(click [here](#) for map)

### **Juneteenth Concert & Fashion Show**

Friday, June 19, 2009, 7:00 p.m.  
Cultural Village at the Riverfront of Algiers Ferry  
200 Patterson Drive  
(click [here](#) for map)

### **Juneteenth Celebration - Music, Food and Fun for All Ages**

Saturday, June 20, 2009, 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Cultural Village at the Riverfront of Algiers Ferry  
200 Patterson Drive  
(click [here](#) for map)

### **Juneteenth Church Service on the Westbank**

Sunday, June 21, 2009, 1:00 p.m.  
Fischer Community Baptist Church, Bishop James Nelson Brown, Pastor  
1737 L.B. Landry Avenue  
(click [here](#) for map)

## CONTACT:

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Council Vice President Clarkson Joins Family in New York  
To Represent New Orleans' Arts Community  
At Premier of "Whatever Works"

News Release

June 11, 2009

Contact:  
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New Orleans, LA - June 11, 2009 - Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson and her husband, Arthur "Buzz" Clarkson, joined their five daughters in New York this week for the premier of Woody Allen's "Whatever Works," starring Patricia Clarkson, Councilmember Clarkson's youngest daughter.

Representing the New Orleans arts community, Council Vice President Clarkson promoted the City as a destination for film-making and encouraged investment in Louisiana's growing entertainment industry.

"It is an honor to represent the City of New Orleans at this exciting event. Louisiana's film industry continues to grow and is a great source of economic development throughout the state. We encourage film-making companies to invest in Louisiana and experience what our many rich cultural communities have to offer," Clarkson said.

"Whatever Works" premiered in New York yesterday evening and will open in New York and Los Angeles on June 19.

Councilmember Clarkson will return to New Orleans Friday evening.

## **New Orleans City Council**

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Council President Fielkow  
Encourages Increased Workforce Development Efforts in the City  
And Unified Governance of Southeastern Louisiana Ports

News Release

June 11, 2009

Contact:  
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New Orleans  
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - June 11, 2009  
- Council President Arnie Fielkow is calling on private and public employers to create greater opportunities for New Orleans teens by joining forces with local education providers to create work study internships.

After receiving status updates of New Orleans-area technical and vocational schools from local education stakeholders during today's Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee meeting, Councilman Fielkow reiterated the importance of creating avenues of opportunity and learning for New Orleans' youth.

"Our number one challenge in New Orleans is crime," said Fielkow. "One of the best ways to fight crime is through education. The other is through economic development and providing kids with the hope that comes from a good job and future. That is why it is important to push technical and vocational training in the city."

Speakers at today's meeting - including Recovery School District Superintendent Paul Vallas; Dr. Ron Wright, Chancellor of Delgado Region 1; Kim Rugon, Provost/Dean of Delgado's Louisiana Technical College Region 1; James Owens, Executive Director of Louisiana Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education;

and Lisa Tomlin, Regional Talent Development Vice President for Greater New Orleans Inc. - detailed key industries in need of labor, industries such as maritime, healthcare and creative and digital media.

These stakeholders, as well as Councilman Fielkow, advocate the creation of a veritable "job bank" of high school- and college-age students willing and able to participate in work study internships. An effort like this would have to come from both the education community and the private sector, said Fielkow, but it is imperative for fostering workforce development in the region. Fielkow also emphasized the need to repair Delgado's Sidney N. Collier Campus, which is part of Delgado's Louisiana Technical College Region 1. Sidney N. Collier, located at 3727 Louisa St. in New Orleans, has been closed since Hurricane Katrina. Councilman Fielkow requested that a meeting be held with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), state and local officials within the next two weeks to move this project forward.

At today's Committee meeting, Councilman Fielkow also received the first-ever presentation of GNO Inc.'s in-depth study on southeastern Louisiana ports and maritime trade operations around New Orleans from local port and trade officials.

"The GNO Inc. report has done a very good job of telling us where our trading partners are and where they will be," Fielkow said. "But what it also makes clear is that from a governance and marketing standpoint, we need a unified voice in the region for our ports. The Port of New Orleans is clearly the brand known around the world. We need to take that brand and unify it."

Industry insiders on international trade present at today's meeting included: Greg Rusovich, Chairman of the Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region; Gary LaGrange, President and CEO of the Port of New Orleans; Andrea Bland, Senior Vice President of Business Development for GNO Inc.; and Salvador Figueroa, Director of International Relations for GNO Inc.

Each panel member discussed the need for passage of certain legislative items currently winding through the Louisiana Legislature including Rep. Jim Tucker's House Bill (HB) 779, Rep. Cedric Richmond's HB 744 and Rep. Nita Rusich Hutter's HB 215.

Rusovich and the other panel members requested Council President Fielkow to author a resolution requesting the Legislature to support these measures, which will go a long way in improving southeastern Louisiana's ongoing trade operations, as well as future opportunities. Rusovich specifically cited the importance of Speaker Tucker's bill, which aims to further regionalize power on the Port of New Orleans



Dock Board by providing Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes with two extra seats. In exchange, the port will have the authority to build facilities and/or have operations in either of the two adjoining port districts.

Councilman Fielkow promised to get a resolution supporting the legislation on the agenda for the June 18th Council meeting.

"Speaking to my colleagues in Plaquemines Parish, please don't be afraid of a regional partner. We want to be a good partner for international trade and port-related purposes as this will greatly advance the region in this sector," Fielkow said.

GNO Inc. and the Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) combined efforts about six months ago to commission a study that lays out a roadmap for maximizing Louisiana's lower Mississippi River ports. Leading strategy and technology consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton conducted the study.

## **New Orleans City Council**

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**Councilmember Shelley Midura  
Announces Recent Reopening of Oak Street  
And Encourages Citizens to Explore Local Businesses  
In this District "A" Commercial Corridor**

News Release

June 12, 2009

Contact:  
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*Councilmember Midura*

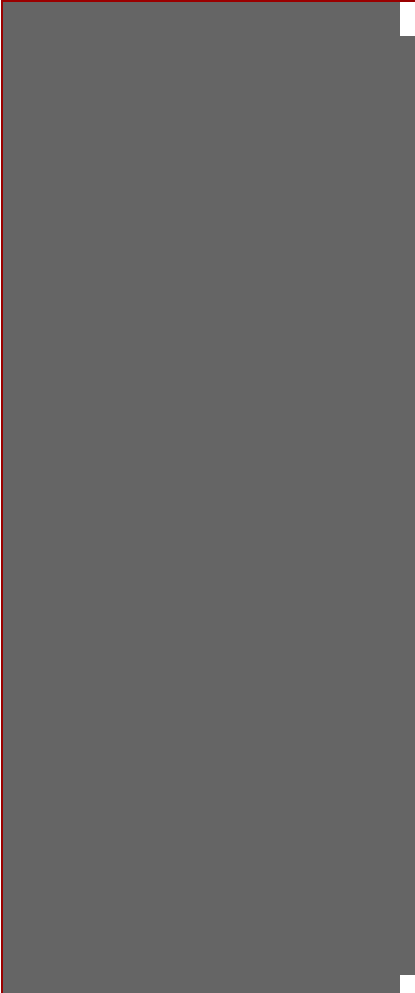
New Orleans, LA - June 12, 2009 - District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura announced the recent reopening last month of Oak Street, in conjunction with the completion of the first phase of the Oak Street reconstruction project approximately two and a half months after construction began.

The revitalized street section now features:

- New pedestrian-friendly amenities such as dining al fresco, wider sidewalks, benches, and bike racks
- New underground sewage lines, water lines, drain pipes, and high-pressure gas lines
- New asphalt roadway and driveways, featuring unique decorative cobblestone intersections
- Installation of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramps in sidewalks

A long-time favorite among families, Oak Street continues to promise something for everyone and its recent re-opening of the first two blocks symbolize a new chapter for local business. Residents are encouraged to renew their love for the street's charming boutique shops and cafés.

"Small local businesses like our Oak Street shops help define



our neighborhoods. Please bring your family and friends to Oak Street and spread the word that they are back and need our support," said Midura.

Midura continued, "Treat yourself and a friend to icy goods from Gelato Pazzo Café or coffee at Rue de la Course or lunch at Curry Corner or Oak Street Café, but be sure to spread the word. Oak Street is back and better than ever."

In total, approximately 0.5 miles of Oak Street from Carrollton Avenue to Leake Avenue will be reconstructed. The project has an estimated construction value of approximately \$5.4 million funded by the City's 2004 General Obligation Bonds and the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans.

Construction began on March 2, 2009 and is expected to last approximately eight months. During construction, residents are encouraged to use Plum Street and Willow Street to avoid delays.

The City recently gave a notice to proceed with construction on the second phase, which will focus on the three-block segment from Dante to Leonidas streets and will receive the same improvements as the first phase.

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**Councilmembers Clarkson, Midura and Hedge-Morrell  
Help Launch "Lil' Easy" Public Transportation  
Service in Lakeview and Gentilly**

News Release

June 16, 2009

Contact:

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*Councilmembers Midura & Clarkson at the "Lil' Easy" Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony*

New Orleans, LA - June 16, 2009 - Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura and District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell helped launch this morning the "Lil' Easy" public transit service - a small bus service that will operate in the Lakeview and Gentilly communities.

The "Lil' Easy" transit service, managed by Veolia Transportation and the RTA, is designed to meet the needs of communities with lower population density or light transit ridership. "Lil' Easy" service already operates in the Lower Ninth Ward.

"I am grateful to Veolia and to the RTA for investing in Gentilly, where our residents are working tirelessly to rebuild their lives and recover their community," said Councilmember Hedge-Morrell.

Passengers can call the "Lil' Easy" bus an hour in advance to schedule a pick up at a stop two to four blocks from their homes. The service operates across a

network of 24 flexible stops in each neighborhood and three main bus stops, which are also transfer points for larger RTA busses.



*Councilmembers Clarkson & Hedge-Morrell  
on the "Lil' Easy" Transit Bus*

"This is another example of an innovation in New Orleans," said Councilmember Midura. "And I challenge Veolia and RTA to bring us more innovation and greater opportunities for public transportation."

Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson said, "Veolia and RTA are helping the most devastated areas of the city recover. They are leading us in approaching public transportation in an innovative, forward-thinking way. For this, our city is truly grateful."

For more information on the "Lil' Easy" call (504) 827-7433 or visit [www.norta.com](http://www.norta.com).

## Legislation by Council President Fielkow Seeks to Invest in Local Small Businesses

News Release

June 16, 2009

Contact:  
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**New Orleans, LA - June 16, 2009 -**

At the June 18th regular New Orleans City Council meeting, Councilmembers will vote on Ordinance Calendar No. 27,520. The measure is the first step in the effort to strengthen opportunities for small businesses and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) to participate in city contracts or city funded transactions.

"Small businesses are the backbone of any strong economy, especially socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses," said Council President Fielkow. "As President of the City Council, I look forward to working with my colleagues to put forth bold initiatives to strengthen these businesses, thereby ensuring that our economy continues to grow and our city's plans for recovery and enhancement are realized."

The Ordinance seeks to codify and extend the provisions set forth by the Mayor's executive order establishing goals for DBE and local small business recovery. It institutes a goal that 50% of any project funded by the city must be controlled by local businesses. It also establishes an overall goal that 35% of any project funded by the city must be controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged businesses, particularly those located in damaged areas. Individual project goals shall be established on a project-by-project basis and based on availability of locally owned and disadvantaged businesses.

Endorsed by the Regional New Orleans Black Chamber of Commerce, this provision would multiply the economic impact of recovery money as well as guarantee equity in the contracting process. "We view this as a very important step

in ensuring that all segments of our local business community have a full and fair opportunity to participate in the long term rebuilding of our great city," said the Chairman Daniel Davillier, who will appear before the Council on Thursday to speak in support of the Ordinance.

Also testifying with Davillier is the Black Economic Development Council Executive Director Judith Williams Dangerfield, who has also expressed endorsement of the legislation. "It will take bold policy, clear vision and committed leadership to rebuild an equitable New Orleans," said Dangerfield. "This Ordinance is an important step toward the equity and parity that will make our city a great city for all citizens."

"Until we uplift the least of us, our city will never move ahead," concluded Councilmember Fielkow. "Through business development and job creation, we are taking the necessary steps in the fight against poverty and crime."

The June 18th Council Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

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Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
Meets With "Home Front Homes" Representatives  
To Discuss Locating a Factory for  
Pre-Fabricated, Storm-Resistant Homes in New Orleans

News Release

June 17, 2009

Contact:  
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*Councilmember Clarkson attends a luncheon  
for Home Front Homes representatives*

New Orleans, LA -June 17, 2009 -

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson met this week with representatives from Home Front Homes, a leading manufacturer of storm-ready, energy-efficient, pre-fabricated



homes.

Representatives of Home Front Homes are in the City to tour several possible sites for a new home-manufacturing facility they plan to build in New Orleans.

"We welcome Home Front Homes to New Orleans," Councilmember Clarkson said. "We need business like this to invest in our City and to provide jobs and services."

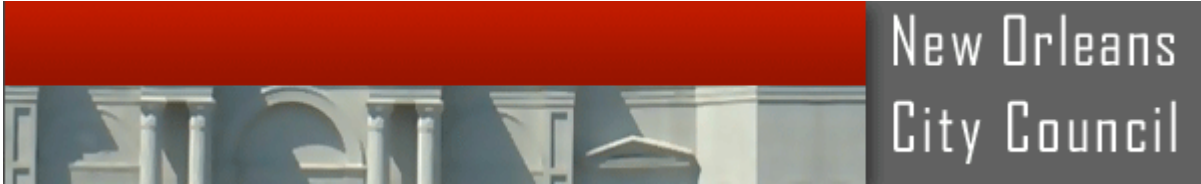
She continued, "It's fitting that this manufacturer of storm-resistant, energy-efficient homes has chosen to locate a site in New Orleans, where now more than ever we need to pursue innovative and sustainable housing."

Councilmember Clarkson met with representatives at the end of their tour around the City. She led a lengthy discussion among Home Front Homes representatives, leaders of the banking community, and community members, relative to maintaining the architectural integrity of New Orleans in pre-fabricated homes, securing sources of financing for low- and middle-income residents interested in purchasing homes, and saving money through energy efficient housing.

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Media Advisory

June 17, 2009

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**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session  
Thursday, June 18th at 10 a.m.  
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

**What:** Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Ordinance allocating funds to the Department of Police for summer overtime, and a Motion providing for additional allocation of funds after a full report on the use of the funds has been prepared by the Superintendent of Police and presented to the City Council
- Ordinance to strengthen opportunities for small businesses and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) to participate in city contracts or city funded transactions
- Ordinances providing for rate increases for meter fare, hourly rate, special events fare and airport rates, for taxicabs and Disabled Friendly Taxis (DFTs)
- Resolution urging the Legislature to pass three bills dedicated to increasing the state's international trade and improving Louisiana's ports by: creating regional governance for the state's southeastern ports, incentivizing increased trade activity through state ports and encouraging port infrastructure improvements
- Zoning Docket requesting the establishment of an Interim Zoning District (IZD) to be named the "Gert Town Mixed Use Interim Zoning District," which will down zone the industrial areas in the residential parts of Gert Town to improve the current residents' quality of life by preventing further industrial uses from expanding into their community

- Resolution opposing House Bill No. 517 and urging all members of the Louisiana State Senate to vote against this legislation, which seeks to protect from legal and job repercussions public healthcare providers who refuse to treat patients due to their "medical conscience"
- Resolution approving the filing of an application for the Louisiana Recreational Trails Program and appointing the President of the Westbank Redevelopment Corporation as agent of the City of New Orleans to conduct all business which may be necessary for the completion of this project
- Report from Leslie Jacobs, Founder of Educate Now!, on public schools in New Orleans
- Presentation congratulating the New Orleans Hornets on a second consecutive playoff season

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, June 18, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
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## Council President Fielkow Announces New Staffers

News Release

June 17, 2009

Contact:  
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New Orleans, LA - June 17, 2009 - Today, New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow's office announced the addition of two new staff members. Devona Dolliole will serve as Deputy Chief of Staff and Jaime Guillet will serve as the new Director of Communications.

Dolliole, a native New Orleanian, is a Capitol Hill veteran who has worked for a number of Members of Congress, including the Congressional Black Caucus. Dolliole also served as national spokesperson for both the Gore-Lieberman and the Kerry-Edwards presidential campaigns.

Jaime Guillet, also from the New Orleans area, formerly worked as a reporter for New Orleans CityBusiness covering New Orleans City Hall, the Port of New Orleans, Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, Louisiana Department of Transportation and the film industry.

"I am pleased that Devona and Jaime have decided to join our team," said Council President Fielkow. "They bring a wealth of experience that will prove valuable to our city's mission of recovery."

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New Orleans City Council | City Hall | 1300 Perdido Street | New Orleans | LA | 70112

City Council June 18, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

June 18, 2009

Contact:  
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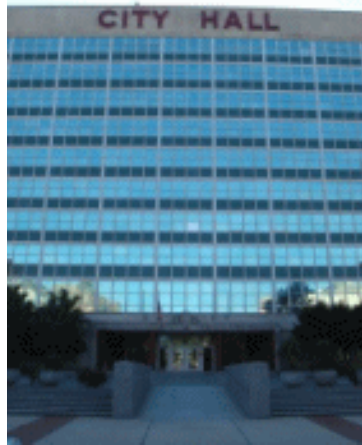
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**New Orleans, LA - June 18, 2009** - Today the New Orleans City Council addressed an Ordinance and a Motion, regarding funding allocations for NOPD summer overtime; and passed Resolutions urging the Legislature to pass bills dedicated to improving Louisiana's ports, and opposing House Bill No. 517.

Additionally, the Council adopted a Motion requesting information regarding the acquisition of the Chevron Building; passed Ordinances strengthening opportunities for small businesses and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, providing for various rate increases for taxicabs and Disabled Friendly Taxis, and expanding the scope of purposes for TIF funding; and addressed a Zoning Docket establishing the "Gert Town Mixed Use Interim Zoning District."

The Council also addressed a presentation on New Orleans public schools and held an Executive Session to address pending litigation.

## *Requested Details on Acquisition of Chevron Building*



The Council passed Motion M-09-290, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, requesting that the Administration answer questions regarding the acquisition of the Chevron Building, located at 935 Gravier Street, before action is taken by the Council on the purchase of the property, to be developed as a new City Hall.

The information requested from the Administration includes:

- Details on the funding gap between the FEMA money for current City Hall renovations and the cost of the Chevron Building
- Costs to retrofit/build out the Chevron Building and to move office equipment to the building
- Length of current office leases, money in rent that will be saved by this consolidation, and plans for current City Hall property
- The Chevron Building's hurricane rating
- Timelines for moving date and completion of the gain/loss balance sheet, and number matrix for the project

"It is necessary for the Council to be fully aware of all details concerning land deals involving City Hall. I would like to see every financial detail spelled out before I cast my vote for this project - we owe this to the taxpayers," said Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson.

## *Addressed Allocation of Funds for NOPD Overtime*



*Councilmember Midura*

The Council deferred action on and referred to the Budget Committee:

- Ordinance Calendar No. 27,519 to transfer funds from the Chief Administrative Office to the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) for summer overtime
- Motion M-09-285, authored by Councilmember Midura, recommending that the Council fund the NOPD's request of one-million dollars for summer overtime at a level of half (\$500,000), and reconsider extending the final allotment when the Superintendent of Police has prepared and presented to the Council a full report on how the funds will be used and the additional value that the use of the funds has brought to the City.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "New Orleans needs a

carefully crafted plan to combat violent crime. We can only have that if we have the big discussion that identifies goals, timelines, tactics, deliverables, indicators and measures of success in our fight against crime. Small politics cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the real work of smarter crime fighting."

Today the Times Picayune published an Opinion Editorial by Councilmember Midura on this legislation, click [here](#) to read the Opinion Editorial.

### *Supported Small Businesses and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises*



*Malcolm Suber, Member of  
New Orleans' business  
community*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,520, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Hedge-Morrell, strengthening opportunities for small businesses and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) to participate in city contracts or city funded transactions.

Members from the City's business community appeared before the Council to express their support for the Ordinance and to thank the Council for their leadership on this matter.

Specifically the Ordinance:

- Establishes an overall goal of 50% utilization of locally owned businesses and 35% utilization of socially and economically disadvantaged businesses for all public spending or private projects that utilize public funding and/or incentives
- Provides for the identification of the inventory of local businesses and services available post-Katrina
- Designates the Chief Administrative Officer as responsible for the determination of project goals re: local and disadvantaged business participation and for monitoring and reporting overall goal attainment on a quarterly basis

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "Small businesses are the backbone of any strong economy, especially socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses. If this city is to reach its full potential, we have to lift up all communities, all cultures, all races." He continued, "To make this work we must strengthen the city's compliance measures regarding actual enforcement. I applaud my colleagues and the Administration for taking this necessary first step."

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "This measure is long overdue. Supporting our local and disadvantaged businesses will



allow taxpayer dollars to remain in the community, where it can circulate and maximize the positive economic impact," said Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell. "By ensuring our public dollars go to our neighbors, we can continue to foster growth in our strong local economy."

### ***Approved Rate Increases for Taxicabs***



*Pat Murphy,  
President of United Cabs*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar Nos. 27,497, 27,498, 27,499 and 27,500, authored by Councilmember Willard-Lewis, providing for rate increases for meter fare, hourly rate, special events fare and airport rates, for taxicabs and Disabled Friendly Taxis (DFTs).

Specifically, the Ordinances increase rates for meter fare for taxicabs and DFTs from \$2.50 to \$3.50 for the first 1/8 mile; increase the taxicab hourly rate from \$30.00 to \$32.00; increase the rate for special events fare from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per person or meter; and increase taxicab rates for airports.

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Ground Transportation & Parking Committee Chair Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis said, "We understand the challenges that both our taxicab drivers and our citizens face in today's economic environment. With these modest rate increases, we aim to strike a balance between assisting our drivers and ensuring that taxicabs remain an affordable method of transportation."

### ***Supported Louisiana's Ports and International Trade***



*Councilmember-at-Large  
Fielkow*

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stimulate development and activity in South Louisiana's maritime industry by incentivizing investment in local ports by businesses that will develop infrastructure (HB 215) and trade internationally (HB 744).

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "Regional governance, a cohesive marketing strategy, and infrastructure improvements are the keys to reaching the seemingly limitless potential of the ports of the Southeast Louisiana. We are supportive of these House Bills and their efforts to achieve the economic development and trade goals of the Greater New Orleans area. We urge our representatives in Baton Rouge to overwhelmingly pass these legislative items."

### *Expanded Scope of Purposes for TIF Funds Allocations*



*Councilmember Carter*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,501, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson and Carter, to expand the scope of purposes for which Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) money can be allocated.

Specifically, the expansion of scope includes the addition of the following purposes:

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*Councilmember-at-Large  
Clarkson*

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Today we are expanding the scope of uses for the Federal City TIF money to keep pace with the continued growth and success of this vital project."

## *Supported Industrial Down Zoning in Gert Town*



*Councilmember Head*

The Council approved Zoning Docket No. 40/09, requesting the establishment of an Interim Zoning District (IZD) to be named the "Gert Town Mixed Use Interim Zoning District," which will down zone the industrial areas in residential parts of Gert Town to improve the current residents' quality of life by preventing further industrial uses from expanding into their community.

The establishment of this IZD comes after Motion M-09-124, passed by the Council in March 2009, which directed the City Planning Commission to conduct a public hearing to consider the down zoning of Gert Town.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "This new Zoning District will ensure that residential areas of Gert Town are preserved and that the residents of Gert Town can enjoy their neighborhood without concern about further industrialization."

## *Opposed House Bill on Healthcare Provider's Refusal of Service*



The Council passed Resolution R-09-284, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, opposing Louisiana House Bill No. 517 and urging all members of the Louisiana State Senate to vote against passage of this legislation.

House Bill No. 517 seeks to protect from legal and job repercussions public healthcare providers who refuse to treat patients due to their "medical conscience," potentially depriving many patients of legitimate, legal treatments due to physicians' predisposed standards of good and bad.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "This legislation potentially limits the number of doctors and pharmacists to whom a patient can turn, posing a threat to populations that have few medical service options, and therefore negatively affecting those most in need. House Bill 517 clearly prioritizes religious and moral beliefs over the medical needs of patients."

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*Leslie Jacobs,  
Founder of Educate Now!*

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Councilmembers expressed the need to develop a plan to ensure that students stay in school and invest in their future through hard work, and thanked Ms. Jacobs for her ongoing dedication to the New Orleans public school system.

### *Executive Session*



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- Case #09-4050, Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, City Council versus Penya Moses-Fields.

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City Council June 18, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

June 18, 2009

Contact:  
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Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
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[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

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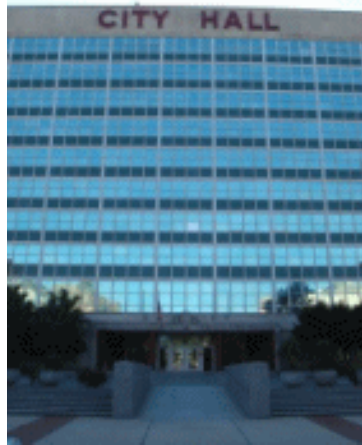
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**New Orleans, LA - June 18, 2009** - Today the New Orleans City Council addressed an Ordinance and a Motion, regarding funding allocations for NOPD summer overtime; and passed Resolutions urging the Legislature to pass bills dedicated to improving Louisiana's ports, and opposing House Bill No. 517.

Additionally, the Council adopted a Motion requesting information regarding the acquisition of the Chevron Building; passed Ordinances strengthening opportunities for small businesses and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, providing for various rate increases for taxicabs and Disabled Friendly Taxis, and expanding the scope of purposes for TIF funding; and addressed a Zoning Docket establishing the "Gert Town Mixed Use Interim Zoning District."

The Council also addressed a presentation on New Orleans public schools and held an Executive Session to address pending litigation.

## ***Requested Details on Acquisition of Chevron Building***



The Council passed Motion M-09-290, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, requesting that the Administration answer questions regarding the acquisition of the Chevron Building, located at 935 Gravier Street, before action is taken by the Council on the purchase of the property, to be developed as a new City Hall.

The information requested from the Administration includes:

- Details on the funding gap between the FEMA money for current City Hall renovations and the cost of the Chevron Building
- Costs to retrofit/build out the Chevron Building and to move office equipment to the building
- Length of current office leases, money in rent that will be saved by this consolidation, and plans for current City Hall property
- The Chevron Building's hurricane rating
- Timelines for moving date and completion of the gain/loss balance sheet, and number matrix for the project

"It is necessary for the Council to be fully aware of all details concerning land deals involving City Hall. I would like to see every financial detail spelled out before I cast my vote for this project - we owe this to the taxpayers," said Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson.

## ***Addressed Allocation of Funds for NOPD Overtime***



*Councilmember Midura*

The Council deferred action on and referred to the Budget Committee:

- Ordinance Calendar No. 27,519 to transfer funds from the Chief Administrative Office to the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) for summer overtime
- Motion M-09-285, authored by Councilmember Midura, recommending that the Council fund the NOPD's request of one-million dollars for summer overtime at a level of half (\$500,000), and reconsider extending the final allotment when the Superintendent of Police has prepared and presented to the Council a full report on how the funds will be used and the additional value that the use of the funds has brought to the City.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "New Orleans needs a

carefully crafted plan to combat violent crime. We can only have that if we have the big discussion that identifies goals, timelines, tactics, deliverables, indicators and measures of success in our fight against crime. Small politics cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the real work of smarter crime fighting."

Today the Times Picayune published an Opinion Editorial by Councilmember Midura on this legislation, click [here](#) to read the Opinion Editorial.

### *Supported Small Businesses and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises*



*Malcolm Suber, Member of  
New Orleans' business  
community*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,520, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Hedge-Morrell, strengthening opportunities for small businesses and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) to participate in city contracts or city funded transactions.

Members from the City's business community appeared before the Council to express their support for the Ordinance and to thank the Council for their leadership on this matter.

Specifically the Ordinance:

- Establishes an overall goal of 50% utilization of locally owned businesses and 35% utilization of socially and economically disadvantaged businesses for all public spending or private projects that utilize public funding and/or incentives
- Provides for the identification of the inventory of local businesses and services available post-Katrina
- Designates the Chief Administrative Officer as responsible for the determination of project goals re: local and disadvantaged business participation and for monitoring and reporting overall goal attainment on a quarterly basis

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "Small businesses are the backbone of any strong economy, especially socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses. If this city is to reach its full potential, we have to lift up all communities, all cultures, all races." He continued, "To make this work we must strengthen the city's compliance measures regarding actual enforcement. I applaud my colleagues and the Administration for taking this necessary first step."

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "This measure is long overdue. Supporting our local and disadvantaged businesses will



allow taxpayer dollars to remain in the community, where it can circulate and maximize the positive economic impact," said Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell. "By ensuring our public dollars go to our neighbors, we can continue to foster growth in our strong local economy."

### ***Approved Rate Increases for Taxicabs***



***Pat Murphy,  
President of United Cabs***

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar Nos. 27,497, 27,498, 27,499 and 27,500, authored by Councilmember Willard-Lewis, providing for rate increases for meter fare, hourly rate, special events fare and airport rates, for taxicabs and Disabled Friendly Taxis (DFTs).

Specifically, the Ordinances increase rates for meter fare for taxicabs and DFTs from \$2.50 to \$3.50 for the first 1/8 mile; increase the taxicab hourly rate from \$30.00 to \$32.00; increase the rate for special events fare from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per person or meter; and increase taxicab rates for airports.

Representatives of United Cab and other taxicab drivers were present in the Council Chamber to support the passage of the Ordinances.

Ground Transportation & Parking Committee Chair Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis said, "We understand the challenges that both our taxicab drivers and our citizens face in today's economic environment. With these modest rate increases, we aim to strike a balance between assisting our drivers and ensuring that taxicabs remain an affordable method of transportation."

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***Councilmember-at-Large  
Fielkow***

The Council passed Resolution R-09-288, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, urging the Legislature to pass three Louisiana House Bills (No. 215, 744 and 779) dedicated to increasing the State's international trade and improving Louisiana's ports.

Louisiana House Bill (HB) No. 779 would assist the Port of New Orleans in achieving a unified, regional approach to governance by adding an extra representative from St. Bernard Parish and two Plaquemines Parish representatives to the independent board that oversees the harbor.

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*Councilmember Head*

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City Council Unanimously Mandates  
Local Small Businesses Receive Larger Share of City Contracts

News Release

June 18, 2009

Contact:  
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[jiguillet@cityofno.com](mailto:jiguillet@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans, LA - June 18, 2009 - Today, the New Orleans City Council unanimously approved legislation, authored by Council President Arnie Fielkow and co-authored by District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, which guarantees more small, local and disadvantaged businesses obtain greater access to city contracts and any business that includes the use of city funds.

Councilmembers voted on the Ordinance, which Councilmember Fielkow said is the first step in the Council's effort to strengthen opportunities for local small businesses and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) to participate in city contracts or city funded transactions.

"Small businesses are the backbone of any strong economy, especially socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses. If this city is to reach its full potential, we have to lift up all communities, all cultures, all races," said Council President Fielkow. "To make this work, we must strengthen the city's compliance measures regarding actual enforcement. I applaud my colleagues and the Administration for taking this necessary first step."

The approved Ordinance codifies and extends the provisions set forth by Mayor Ray Nagin's executive order establishing goals for DBE and

local small business recovery. It institutes a goal that 50 percent of any project funded by the city must be controlled by local businesses. It also establishes an overall goal that 35 percent of any project funded by the city must be controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged businesses, particularly, those located in damaged areas. Individual project goals shall be established on a project-by-project basis and based on availability of locally owned and disadvantaged businesses.

Endorsed by the New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce (NORBCC) and the New Orleans Business Council, this provision multiplies the economic impact of recovery money. The measure also guarantees equity in the contracting process.

"We view this as a very important step in ensuring that all segments of our local business community have a full and fair opportunity to participate in the long term rebuilding of our great city," said Daniel Davillier, chairman of the NORBCC, who testified before the Council in support of the Ordinance.

Additionally, Black Economic Development Council Executive Director Judith Williams Dangerfield spoke to the Council, endorsing the legislation. "This Ordinance is an important step toward the equity and parity that will make our city a great city for all citizens," said Dangerfield.

Also appearing at today's meeting in support of the Ordinance were Urban League of Greater New Orleans President Nolan Rollins, New Orleans Business Council Chairman Greg Rusovich and NewCorp President Vaughn Fauria.

In the effort to create greater enforcement strategies for the DBE program's compliance, the Council's Budget Committee and Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee will meet jointly on Thursday, June 25th at 2:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber.

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New Orleans City Council

District A  
Councilmember  
Shelley Midura

**Councilmember Midura's Opinion Editorial  
Re: NOPD Summer Overtime Funding  
Published in Times Picayune Today**

**News Release**

**June 18, 2009**

Contact:  
Seung Hong

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Shelley Midura

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New Orleans  
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*Councilmember Midura*

New Orleans, LA - June 18, 2009 - This morning the Times Picayune published an Opinion Editorial from District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura regarding legislation, being addressed at today's regular Council meeting, which will potentially provide funding to the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) for summer overtime.

The legislation includes an Ordinance and a Motion, which if passed, will allocate funds to the NOPD for summer overtime, and provide for additional allocation of funds after a full report on the use of the funds has been prepared by the Superintendent of Police and presented to the City Council.

To read today's Opinion Editorial in the Times Picayune click [here](#).

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City Council Unanimously Voted  
To Approve an Ordinance Establishing Goals  
For Local and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises

News Release

June 19, 2009

Contact:

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New Orleans  
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New Orleans, LA - June 19, 2009 - Yesterday in its regular meeting, the New Orleans City Council unanimously voted to approve an Ordinance establishing goals for local and disadvantaged business enterprises.

The Ordinance, co-authored by Council President Arnie Fielkow and District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, will increase opportunities for local small businesses and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) by mandating that 50 percent of all city funded projects be allocated to local businesses and that 35 percent be allocated to socially and economically advantaged businesses, particularly those businesses located in storm damaged areas.

"This measure is long overdue. Supporting our local and disadvantaged businesses will allow taxpayer dollars to remain in the community, where it can circulate and maximize the positive economic impact," said Councilmember Hedge-Morrell. "By ensuring our public dollars go to our neighbors, we can continue to foster growth in our strong local economy."

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Councilmember Stacy Head  
Supports Local Workers and New Employment Opportunities  
With Resolution Passed at Council Meeting Yesterday

News Release

June 19, 2009

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Stacy Head  
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New Orleans, LA - June 19, 2009 - Yesterday in its regular meeting, the New Orleans City Council passed Resolution R-09-289, authored by Councilmember Head, supporting local participation in the upcoming job fair being held by Job 1 and the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

The City of New Orleans' Job 1 program and the Louisiana Workforce Commission are hosting the Job Fair on Saturday June 27, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dryades YMCA located at 2220 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard. The job fair is free and open to the public, and citizens are encouraged to attend. (Click [here](#) for a map)

Specifically, the Resolution urges every contractor and subcontractor who has received work that is funded wholly or partially by the government to participate in the upcoming job fair.

New Orleans is in a time of rebuilding and there are significant federal, state and locally funded construction projects throughout the City, including the redevelopment and repair of public housing, government buildings, hospitals, and schools.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "The focus of this job fair will be employment in construction and related fields. This is a great opportunity for the contractors and subcontractors receiving work from government funded projects to engage local contractors and workers."

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Statement

June 22, 2009



Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
Statement: We Must Defeat Senate Bill 75

New Orleans, LA - June 22, 2009 - In a citywide election in November of 2008, New Orleans voters approved a major amendment to the City's Home Rule Charter. This amendment requires the City Planning Commission to draft a master plan for the future development of New Orleans; a plan that, when complete, the City's elected and appointed leaders will have to abide by under force of law.

This was a historic moment for New Orleans and a serious win for neighborhoods, small businesses, legitimate major developers, and good government advocates.

New Orleans residents have spent countless hours drafting plans that have ended up collecting dust in a forgotten room in City Hall. Meanwhile, New Orleans continues to suffer from an outdated, dysfunctional system of land use in which zoning decisions are often politicized, made with little or no citizen input, and favor a privileged few. This system leads to corner bars in neighborhoods where they don't belong, landfills dumped onto vacant land in New Orleans East, and major developers who wouldn't dare invest in a city where the rules can change tomorrow. The 2008 charter amendment, supported by the administration and six of seven councilmembers, was meant to change that. It promised a coherent, meaningful plan that would bring desperately-needed stability to our City.

Senate Bill 75 threatens to derail this. Senate Bill 75 would again politicize the planning process by requiring yet another vote of the people on the plan before it can acquire the force of law. This argument - that the people should vote on the plan itself - is all too familiar. A small group of residents, developers, and consultants spent tens of thousands of dollars on TV commercials and radio ads pushing this argument in an attempt to defeat the charter amendment in 2008 - they lost.

Now, Senate Bill 75 is taking this argument to the state. It is a thinly veiled attempt to usurp the will of the people, derail the master planning process, and revert New Orleans back to the old-school land use system that has stalled economic development here for decades.

No other city in the country puts a master plan - a document composed of more than a thousand of pages - to the vote of the people. This would be like putting a state budget to a statewide vote. People would likely pick out and vote against one line, and drafting the document would become highly political. More importantly, the results of a disapproving vote would be impossible to interpret. Which part of the master plan should we change to get a favorable vote: community health clinics, plans for improving transportation, or certain components of the land use plan? How many more rounds of public meetings, changes to the plan, and costly citywide votes would we have to undergo before our City finally gets a plan and the stability we need? And for how long would people be willing to come out to meetings for a plan that might again mean nothing? Senate Bill 75 would also violate the Home Rule Charter, which was instituted in the 1950s to allow the City to govern itself on issues like city planning without the state stepping in.

For all these reasons and more, we must defeat this bill. Mayor Ray Nagin, a majority of the City Council, the Bureau of Governmental Research, the Business Council, the Home Builders Association, the New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors, Citizens for One Greater New Orleans, many state legislators, and a host of neighborhoods groups have publicly opposed it.

As the author of the 2008 charter amendment and as an elected official who worked vigorously for its passage, I have spent the past several weeks working against Senate Bill 75 in the Legislature. Unfortunately, the bill has already passed the full Senate and the House Municipal Affairs Committee. Defeating it on the House floor is our last chance. I will continue to fight it, and I need you to fight it, too. Please call or write your representative in the House and tell them to vote against Senate Bill 75.

This statement can also be found on nola.com, click [here](#) to view.

**Contact:**

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Office of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
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**New Orleans City Council**

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**Council Files Civil District Court Motion in Emails Case  
Asks that Public Records Requests Be More Specific and that  
Requestors, Not the Public, Pay Costs Associated with  
Review Necessary to Protect Citizens' Private Information**

News Release

June 23, 2009

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

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New Orleans, LA - June 23, 2009 - Today, the City Council's legal counsel filed a motion in Orleans Civil District Court asking that public records requestors specify the types of email documents requested; that citizens' private information be protected; and that the records requestors, not the public, pay the fees and costs associated with the review of 2.5 million pages of emails.

The motion addresses public records requests made by a variety of media outlets and one private citizen.

The motion references the delivery to the City Council from the City Attorney of approximately 440,000 emails comprising over 2 million pages; the vague, overbroad and burdensome requests; and the time-consuming and costly review of documents by Legal Counsel, Forensic Software Analysts and Councilmembers.

According to Legal Counsel Steven Lane, the motion asks the Court to limit the scope and define the areas of public records inquiries; protect citizens' privacy; and/or, as provided under the Louisiana Public Records Act, have public records requestors pay the fees and costs incurred to process the requested documents.

"The Council's concern is the taxpayer. Councilmembers want to avoid placing the burden of the costs and fees associated with the review of over 440,000 emails on citizens when there are critical infrastructure,

health, public safety and economic development needs in the City of New Orleans," Lane said.

Click [here](#) for the full text of the motion filed today in Orleans Civil District Court.

Media calls are being referred to Steven J. Lane, Attorney and Managing Partner, Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar, (504) 680-0527, [slane@hhkc.com](mailto:slane@hhkc.com).

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Councilmember Willard-Lewis Statement

Re: Entergy Grants Awarded Today to 26 Community Nonprofits

New Orleans, LA - June 23, 2009 - "I would like to extend a warm thanks to Rod West and the Entergy family for continuing to invest in our community. Today the Entergy team awarded 26 Community Partnership Grants, totaling more than \$25,000, to nonprofits serving our community. Entergy's Community Partnership Grants program awards up to \$1,000 for projects that effectively impact education and literacy, community improvement and enrichment, healthy families, or arts and culture. I would like to congratulate all of the nonprofits who received grants and I would also like to thank them for the services that they provide in our community.

"Since Hurricane Katrina, nonprofits have taken on a new role and much of our recovery has been attributed to them. They have in many ways become our fourth branch of government that succeeded in spite of the bureaucracy. I would like to extend special congratulations to the four District "E" grant recipients who either serve District "E", or have offices that are located in District "E." These grant recipients are:

- Desire Street Ministries - Project: Financial Literacy Education for Low Income Backgrounds
- Mary Queen of Vietnam (MQVN) - Project: MQVN Field
- National Coalition of 100 Black Women (NCBW), Greater N.O. - Project: NCBW ACT Preparation

- Parkway Partners Program - Project: Releaf New Orleans

"Once again I would like to commend all 26 agencies for a job well done, and a special thanks to the groups representing District "E." Also, I would like to add as a point of information that Entergy New Orleans grants are available to community groups who apply and are eligible. For more information please check the Entergy website at [www.entergy.com](http://www.entergy.com)."

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Media Advisory

June 24, 2009



Councilmember James Carter  
To Celebrate the Return of Broadway to New Orleans  
In Press Conference Tomorrow Morning  
At Mahalia Jackson Theater

**What:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter will speak at the Broadway Across America "Broadway is Back" press conference. The press conference will celebrate the return of the Broadway Across America series to New Orleans, another positive recovery step in the return of diverse arts and culture to District "C" and to the City as a whole. The event is open to the public and citizens are encouraged to attend.

**When:** Thursday, June 25th  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** Mahalia Jackson Theater  
801 N. Rampart Street  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Who:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter  
City Councilmembers  
Broadway Across America representatives  
Mayor Ray Nagin

**Contact:** Nadiene Van Dyke  
Office of District "C" Councilmember James Carter  
Office: (504) 658-1030  
Cell: (504) 905-8800

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Councilmember James Carter  
Congratulates Entergy Grant Recipients  
And Highlights District "C" Nonprofits

News Release

June 24, 2009

Contact:  
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James Carter

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New Orleans  
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - June 24, 2009 - Yesterday, Entergy New Orleans awarded 26 Community Partnership Grants, totaling more than \$25,000, to nonprofits serving the New Orleans community.

Recipients were chosen by grant evaluators based on their project's impact on arts, education or healthcare in the New Orleans community.

Of the 26 recipients, six are located in District "C." These grant recipients are:

- Algiers United Methodist Church - Project: Joy Club
- Esplanade Ridge Civic Association - Project: Gayerre Park Restoration

- Glory of Christ Christian Center - Project: Project Advance
- Institute of Community Development - Project: Treme Under the Bridge Beautification
- Latino Apostolate of the Episcopal Church, Diocese of LA - Project: Language Access in Healthcare
- NIKKI's Foundation Inc. - Project: KidWISE Summer Program

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "I would like to congratulate all of the grant recipients. New Orleans is lucky to have such a diverse and varied nonprofit sector that is dedicated to improving not only District "C," but the entire New Orleans community."

Entergy's Community Partnership Grants program awards up to \$1,000 for projects that effectively impact education and literacy, community improvement and enrichment, healthy families, or arts and culture. Entergy New Orleans grants are available to community groups who apply and are eligible. For more information please check the Entergy website at [www.entergy.com](http://www.entergy.com).

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## New Orleans City Council

Councilmember-at-Large  
Arnie Fielkow

Statement

June 24, 2009



### Council President Arnie Fielkow Statement: New City Hall Buy May Be Wrong Priority, Wrong Time

New Orleans, LA - June 24, 2009 - The following is a statement issued today from New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow regarding the proposed Chevron building purchase for a new City Hall:

"Much discussion over recent days has centered on whether or not the \$8 million purchase of Chevron Corp.'s office tower at 935 Gravier Street and two associated buildings, a complex known as Chevron Place, is beneficial to the City of New Orleans and its residents. I commend Mayor Nagin for wanting to upgrade City Hall, and present a better image for the seat of city government - objectives which I also share. However, I ultimately feel the prioritization, timing and proposed relocation site is not, at this time, in our citizens' best interest considering the City's existing needs.

"A City Hall relocation is a topic which merits continued study and planning, particularly regarding the

synergies which can be created with other projects planned throughout our downtown areas. It is my hope that such work would involve more public input, further consultation with business, civic and elected leaders, and be consistent with a 21st century image of New Orleans.

"I look forward to receiving the detailed information and documentation requested last week by the City Council and yesterday by the City Planning Commission, but my reservations at this time include the following:

· Prioritization

Given New Orleans' great needs in the recovery efforts following Hurricane Katrina - and the ever present limitations of services and facilities that contribute to citizens' quality of life - I do not believe that using undedicated funding for the purchase of a new City Hall, and the additional ancillary costs, is in the best interest of the citizens of New Orleans.

The \$8-million purchase price, combined with currently undetermined build out, relocation, and other related costs, will necessitate the use of monies, i.e. the proposed \$3.8 million in undedicated bond funds, which could instead be used for more important areas to enhance the quality of life for our citizens. Great city needs such as the reopening and enhancement of playgrounds, police and fire stations, street repairs, etc., certainly should be top priority when competing with limited city funds.

While it is important for all of us in city government to multi-task, I cannot in good conscience support this proposed relocation of city government when these kinds of pressing needs remain unmet. This is not to say a modern City Hall is not needed, but as residents are forced to do every day in their own personal lives, we should prioritize and undertake projects in a timeframe consistent with those priorities.

· Further Planning and Timing

Given the above, I would like to see additional planning be conducted with respect to the objectives for a new city government complex, and how those objectives fit into an overall master plan for the revitalization of downtown New Orleans (including the proposed entertainment district around the Superdome). This will entail much more discussion with the public, as well as civic, business and elected leaders, so that the best site can be determined. A new "front door" for the future of New Orleans can in fact be achieved but I do not believe the current transaction has had the necessary level of input.

Further, I feel the current transaction to relocate City Hall is ill-timed bearing in mind the City is on the threshold of new leadership both in the executive and legislative branches of city government. I believe the new Mayor, City Councilmembers and the public at large will want, and should be able, to weigh in on such an important decision. In this vein, I would propose the creation of a six-month Blue Ribbon Panel consisting of the City's living former Mayors and Councilmembers, all of which have previously examined the topic, who can help counsel our future leaders on this important subject matter.

Finally, the timing of the current transaction is problematic as we are currently within the 2009 hurricane season.

· Proposed Site

Having recently toured the Chevron building, I am unconvinced that this location is the best fit for, and image of, the seat of New Orleans city government. I question whether the site's aesthetics best represent the image of city government and further question the logistics of operating a constituent-friendly

government in such a compact area. I would recommend that if and when a relocation is pursued the City look carefully at alternatives, including other city-owned buildings, which might present less costs and provide the 'wow' factor which would present a better image for New Orleans. Any such alternatives should be part of a comprehensive planning effort, which includes a full fiscal impact report, constituency access analysis, traffic impact study and a proposed re-usage of the existing City Hall site.

"I look forward to further engaging with the Administration on this important topic and partnering with civic, business and elected leaders in selecting a plan which will be in the best, long-term interest of New Orleans and its citizens."

**Contact:**

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Media Advisory

June 24, 2009

Special Development Projects & Economic Development  
And Budget Committees to Hear Testimony on Enforcement of  
Local Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Contracting Law  
In Joint Committee Meeting on Thursday

**What:** The Special Development Projects & Economic Development (SDPED) and Budget committees will hear testimony from the Administration regarding Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) compliance for city contracts.

As a result of recently passed legislation codifying DBE and local requirements in city contracts, Councilmembers requested a joint hearing on the City's compliance of DBE and local requirements, as enforcement of the program will be instrumental to the success of the new legislation.

On June 18, the Council unanimously passed legislation, co-authored by Council President Arnie Fielkow and District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, which guarantees small, local and disadvantaged businesses obtain greater access to city contracts and any business that includes the use of city funds. The approved Ordinance codifies and extends the provisions set forth by Mayor Ray Nagin's executive order establishing goals for DBE and local small business recovery. It institutes a goal that 50 percent of any project funded by the City be controlled by local businesses. It also establishes an overall goal that 35 percent of any project funded by the City must be controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged businesses, particularly, those located in damaged areas. Individual project goals shall be established on a project-by-project basis and based on availability of locally owned and disadvantaged businesses.

The New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce, Black Economic Development Council and the New Orleans Business Council, among other business organizations, endorsed the new legislation.

To view the Joint Committee meeting agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, June 25, 2009  
2:00 p.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:**Special Guests

- Officials from the Administration

SDPED Committee Members

- Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

Budget Committee Members

- Chair: District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
- District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head

**Contact:** Jaime Guillet

Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow

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New Orleans City Council

District E  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Willard-Lewis

Media Advisory

June 24, 2009



**Councilmember Willard-Lewis  
Co-Hosts 14th Annual  
"Seniors Screen for Life" Event in District "E"**

**What:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, in conjunction with Family Advocacy & Neighborhood Services (FANS) and Mayor C. Ray Nagin, will co-host the 14th annual "Seniors Screen for Life" 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.

The event is free and open to all senior citizens, and will consist of free health screenings, including blood pressure, eye, ear and cholesterol screenings, a hot meal and a patriotic costume contest.

All senior citizens that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Certified Riders can call the Regional Transit Authority at (504) 827-7433 to schedule a ride to this event.

**Who:**

Co-Hosts

- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
- Family Advocacy & Neighborhood Services
- Mayor C. Ray Nagin

Event exhibitors will include:

- Touro Infirmary
- City of New Orleans Office of Emergency Preparedness
- Diversified Health Services
- Louisiana Department of Insurance - Office of Consumer Advocacy
- Regional Transit Authority
- Home Health Solutions
- Entergy New Orleans
- Federal Communications Commission
- United States Census Bureau
- New Orleans Council on Aging
- Housing Authority of New Orleans
- Mayor's Office of Recovery and Development Administration

**When:**

Friday, June 26, 2009  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Where:**

Crystal Palace Ballroom  
10020 Chef Menteur Highway  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Contact:**

Clarence Bickham  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
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Media Advisory

June 24, 2009

**Youth & Recreation Committee to Receive Updates  
On Former FEMA Trailer Sites, Community Pool and Parks  
In Meeting on Thursday**

**What:** The Youth and Recreation Committee, chaired by City Council President Arnie Fielkow, will hear updates on the status of:

- 15 former FEMA trailer sites
- Lyons Center pool
- Parks including Comiskey, Stallings - St. Claude, Stern, Milne, and Kingswood, among others

**When:** Thursday, June 25, 2009  
11:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests

- Larry Barabino, Jr., Director of New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD)
- Mark Cooper, Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)
- Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, City of New Orleans Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- Joe Becker, New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board
- Bill Chrisman, City of New Orleans Capital Projects Director
- Representative from the New Orleans City Attorney's Office

Committee Members

- Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
- Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
- District "C" Councilmember James Carter

**Contact:** Jaime Guillet  
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Media Advisory

June 25, 2009



**Councilmember Carter Chosen as Motivational Speaker  
For "Judge and Teen Day" Event  
At Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Tomorrow Afternoon**

*Councilmember Carter to Speak to Youth  
About Education, Health and the Court Process*

**What:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter was recently chosen as the motivational speaker for the "Judge and Teen Day" event, to be held tomorrow afternoon at Orleans Parish Juvenile Court. Councilmember Carter will speak to local youth about the court, the court process and judges; health issues; and educational and employment opportunities.

The "Kids and Judge Day" program has been held annually since 2005 for foster children and families residing in the metropolitan New Orleans area. The program aims to dispel fears about the court, the court process and judges. This year's event is geared toward teenagers to provide them with valuable information as they begin to set long-term goals for themselves.

Criminal Justice Committee Chair Councilmember Carter said, "I am honored to speak at this important community event. This is a great opportunity to provide the City's youth with useful information as they prepare to enter a new stage in their lives and become young adults."

**When:** Friday, June 26th  
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Where:** Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Section "A"  
421 Loyola Avenue

(Click [here](#) for map)

**Who:** District "C" Councilmember James Carter  
Local youth and teens

**Contact:** Nadiene Van Dyke  
Office of District "C" Councilmember James Carter  
Office: (504) 658-1030  
Cell: (504) 905-8800  
Email: [nhvandyke@cityofno.com](mailto:nhvandyke@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory  
2009

June 25,



**Councilmember Stacy Head  
Announces Community Job Fair  
To be Held this Saturday**

**WHAT:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head invites citizens to attend a local Job Fair to be held this Saturday, June 27. The City of New Orleans' Job 1 program and the Louisiana Workforce Commission are hosting the Job Fair, which will focus on employment in construction and related fields. The job fair is free and open to the public, and citizens are encouraged to attend.

Councilmember Head authored a Resolution, passed by the Council during its regular meeting last week, urging every contractor and subcontractor who has received work that is funded wholly or partially by the government to participate in the upcoming job fair.

"New Orleans is in a time of rebuilding and there are significant federal, state and locally funded construction projects throughout the City, including the redevelopment and repair of public housing, government buildings, hospitals, and schools. This is a great opportunity for the contractors and subcontractors receiving work from government funded projects to engage local contractors and workers," said Councilmember Head.

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 27th  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Dryades YMCA



2220 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard  
(Click [here](#) for a map)

**CONTACT:** Jason Abate  
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
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## New Orleans City Council

Councilmember-At-Large  
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

Statement

June 26, 2009



**Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson Statement:  
Thank You to the Broad Coalition of Community Leaders  
Who Helped Defeat Senate Bill 75 and Save New Orleans' Master Plan**

New Orleans, LA - June 26, 2009 - The following is a statement issued from New Orleans City Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson regarding Wednesday's defeat of Senate Bill 75:

"Senate Bill 75, a measure that would have politicized and derailed the City's master planning process, was defeated on the House floor Wednesday night by a vote of 54 to 37.

"This significant win for New Orleans was the result of hours and hours of work by an extraordinary coalition of New Orleanians - neighborhood leaders from Lakeview to the Lower Ninth Ward, non-profit organizations, the business community, elected and appointed City officials, and many others. Against the odds, we came together to save the City's master plan and the promise it holds for quality of life and economic development in every corner of the City.

"For the efforts of all these groups, I offer my deepest gratitude.

"I want to first thank the neighborhood leaders who turned out to fight for the master plan. These leaders have spent precious time and energy in citywide, district, and neighborhood planning meetings, charting the future of their communities. They trekked to the Capitol for several days to convince legislators that New Orleanians want and need a master plan for the future development of our City.

"I also offer thanks to my colleagues on the City Council, particularly to Councilmembers Shelley Midura

and Stacy Head, who appeared in Baton Rouge to defend a master plan with the force of law on behalf of the City. I also thank Mayor C. Ray Nagin and the City Attorney's Office for taking a clear position that Senate Bill 75 would have violated the New Orleans Home Rule Charter. Members of the City Planning Commission and its staff were also powerful advocates for our City's right to plan its future without interference from the State.

"For masterfully spearheading our efforts with legislators in Baton Rouge, I owe a special thanks to the Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region. I also thank the New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors, the Home Builders Association, and AARP Louisiana for their relentless efforts in our support.

"For their public opposition to this bill, I thank Citizens for One Greater New Orleans, the Preservation Resource Center, and the Bureau of Governmental Research. I also thank the New Orleans Downtown Development District for their educational efforts on the potential negative impact of this bill to development in our City.

"I would also like to thank my staff, who accompanied me on almost a dozen trips to the Capitol throughout the past month working in opposition to this bill.

"Lastly, I want to offer a personal pledge to the residents of New Orleans concerning the master plan. While I was in the Capitol late Wednesday night, I listened as a couple of New Orleans-area legislators explained that some of their residents feared their communities would be left out of this master plan. To them, I say: New Orleans belongs to all of us. And, as Councilmember-at-Large, I am committed to supporting a plan for redevelopment of all areas of the City.

"Rather than being a reason our communities cannot return, this master plan will be the reason our communities can not only return, but thrive and grow. We cannot expect legitimate developers and residential-friendly businesses to invest in areas like New Orleans East, the Lower Ninth Ward, Lakeview, and Gentilly until they can see that the City is committed to those areas. This is exactly why we need a master plan with the force of law. It will show that the City finally has a clear strategy for development.

"I urge you to view a copy of the working draft of the master plan online at <http://www.nolamasterplan.org/>. Please read the sections that apply to your neighborhood and give your feedback online. You can also sign up for email alerts of upcoming planning meetings in your district. If you have complaints, please contact my office, and we will put you in touch with the Planning Commission and the Goody Clancy consultants responsible for drafting this plan."

**Contact:**

Jacquelyn Cole

Office of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

Ph: 504-658-1072

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## New Orleans City Council

Councilmember-At-Large  
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

Statement

June 26, 2009



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New Orleans City Council

Councilmember-at-Large  
Arnie Fielkow

## City Council President Arnie Fielkow Pushes For Teeth On Local and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Contract Compliance

News Release

June 26, 2009

Contact:  
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New Orleans  
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - June 26, 2009 - City Council President Arnie Fielkow encouraged the Administration to beef up its Office of Compliance in order to bolster enforcement of the City's now codified local and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) contracting law.

During a joint meeting of the Special Development Projects and Economic Development and Budget committees Thursday, Councilmembers received testimony from Intergovernmental Relations Director Julie Schwam Harris that the Administration currently is preparing a comprehensive plan for its Compliance Office, which Harris said the Administration will be ready to present in 30 days.

Councilmember Fielkow stated he believes in the vital nature of such a reform, in order to ensure the success of the City's most recent law regarding fair distribution of contracts.



"This new local business and DBE law will pay dividends to this community for years to come," said Council President Fielkow. "But in order to have any effect, enforcement of the new law must have teeth. We must have, not just passage of the law, but execution of the law."

Councilmember Fielkow, and Budget Committee Chair Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell who co-authored the bill, requested the Administration to keep an "open dialogue" with the Council regarding the development of its new compliance plan. Upon completion of the proposed compliance reforms, a legislative agenda item will be placed on the agenda to codify the new enforcement strategies. Council President Fielkow expects these items will be complete for agenda placement either late July or early August.

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Statement

June 26, 2009



**Council President Fielkow Statement:  
Urges Universities to Formalize Governance Structure  
For the New Orleans Teaching Hospital**

New Orleans, LA - June 26, 2009 - The following is a statement issued today by New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow regarding the inability of Louisiana State University's and Tulane University's Boards of Directors to reach an agreement regarding the governance structure for the New Orleans teaching hospital:

"It is very disappointing that our university communities have been unable to reach consensus on a governance board structure for the proposed New Orleans teaching hospital when it appeared that such an agreement was within reach just a few short days ago. New Orleans and its residents require a first-class, modern teaching hospital to service our city's tremendous healthcare needs. Further, it is extremely important that we continue to attract and retain healthcare professionals who not only will train at this new hospital, but who also will remain in the City of New Orleans after their training is completed.

"I strongly urge the LSU and Tulane Boards to work collectively to reach an agreement on the new academic hospital's governance model. It is immensely important for the citizens of New Orleans, both from a healthcare providing standpoint and an economic development perspective. The New Orleans City Council is prepared to assist all of the stakeholders in whatever way might be necessary to help move this important initiative forward."

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## City Council Youth & Recreation Committee Receives Update from FEMA and NORD

News Release

June 26, 2009

Contact:

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at-Large

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New Orleans, LA - June 26, 2009 - Yesterday, the City Council Youth & Recreation Committee, chaired by Council President Arnie Fielkow, received updates on the former FEMA trailer sites, Harrell Playground, Comiskey and Joe Brown Parks, St. Roch-Sampson, Milne, and Kingswood, among other pools and parks.

Representatives from FEMA, the state, the city's Office of Community Development and New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) appeared before the committee to present a status report on the restoration of the former FEMA trailer sites. According to the report, all but four of the parks have been returned to the city, falling short of the June 17th deadline that was set at the March 25th meeting for the repair and return of all parks to the city. The unfinished sites are Annunciation, Bunny Friend, McCue Playground and Avenger; however, the group assured the committee that the remaining parks will be completed before the end of July. "I strongly urge you to move expeditiously to get those remaining parks completed and I expect at next month's committee meeting to hear that you have met your deadline," said Council President Fielkow.

Joe Becker, the General Superintendent of the Sewerage and Water Board, reported on the progress of Harrell Playground, located on Sewerage and Water Board property. The playground served as emergency housing for their staff in the days following Katrina. Final construction contracts for the complete restoration of the playground were extended one week to coordinate with NORD's lighting improvements. The park, its improvements, and the track are expected to be open for public use by August 1, 2009.

Comiskey Park remains in litigation. The city revealed no details of the litigation; however, the committee was informed that if all parties agree to

recent requests, the city can take possession of Comiskey Park before litigation is concluded to begin restoring the park to its pre-Katrina status.

NORD's Deputy Director Keith Wright presented the monthly report on NORD facilities and programs. According to Wright, NORD has partnered with several organizations in the community to ensure the success of this year's summer programs, including the recent Health and Recreation Fair at Behrman Playground. The next Health and Recreation Fair is scheduled for September 26, 2009 at Burke Park.

Yesterday represented the fourth in a series of public hearings chaired by Council President Fielkow and the Youth & Recreation Committee to help expedite progress of New Orleans parks, playgrounds and pools.

The next City Council Youth & Recreation Committee meeting will be held on July 29th in the City Council Chamber.

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New Orleans City Council

Councilmember-at-Large  
Arnie Fielkow

Statement

June 29, 2009



**Council President Fielkow Statement:**

**Thank You to Legislature for Voting Down House Bill 60**

New Orleans, LA - June 29, 2009 - Council President Arnie Fielkow happily thanks all Louisiana legislators who voted down House Bill 60, which aimed to restrict the right of Louisiana's adopted children to have two parents listed on a new birth certificate unless those parents are married in accordance with state law. Ultimately, this legislation would have deprived thousands of children in Louisiana of loving, caring families based on their potential adoptive parents' sexual orientation, as well as making it extremely difficult for children adopted by unmarried couples to apply for standard benefits such as school registration, medical coverage, life insurance and government services.

"The certificate of birth, especially for an adopted child, is a precious document that confers many rights and privileges. Although citizens from around this country, state and the City of New Orleans possess a wide range of views, one issue that will never be controversial is that our children come first," said Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow. "Democrats, Republicans, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, rich, poor -- all of

these disparate groups share the conviction that it is a priority to ensure the welfare of our society's children. My heartfelt thanks is given to all legislators who upheld the rights of all Louisiana citizens, and put the needs of all children first."

Council President Fielkow also congratulated the efforts of many others who helped urge state lawmakers to vote against the measure including the Louisiana chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Forum for Equality.

"The Forum for Equality strongly opposed HB 60 because it was a mean spirited bill that hurt children adopted by gay and lesbian couples," said Randy Evans, Political Director for the organization. "We applaud and deeply appreciate Councilman Arnie Fielkow's vigorous efforts to defeat this hurtful bill."

**Contact:**

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Councilmember Stacy Head  
Congratulates Entergy Grant Recipients  
In District "B" and City-wide

News Release

June 29, 2009

Contact:  
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Office of  
Councilmember  
Stacy Head  
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New Orleans  
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - June 29, 2009 - Last week, Entergy New Orleans awarded 26 Community Partnership Grants to various nonprofits throughout the City. The grants total more than \$25,000.

Recipients were chosen by grant evaluators based on their project's impact on education, community improvement, healthcare, arts, and culture in the New Orleans community.

11 of the 26 grant recipients are located in District "B." These grant recipients are:

- Radio for the Blind & Print Handicapped Inc. - Project: WRBH Studio Enrichment Program
- Urban Impact Ministries - Project: Kids Across America
- BW Cooper RMC - Project: Senior Center of BW Cooper Resident Management Corporation
- GNO Fair Housing Action Center - Project: Fair Housing Children's Book Project
- Kids Rethink New Orleans Schools - Project: Through the Youth Lens
- The Ogden Museum - Project: Ogden Museum of



### Southern Art Early Childhood Program

- Stage to Stage - Project: Crescent City Lights Youth Theater
- Louisiana Children's Museum - Project: Art Fest
- Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools - Project: Charter School Innovators: Professional Development & Networking Events
- International School of Louisiana (ISL) - Project: ISL Middle School Chinese Language & Culture Program
- National Performance Network, Inc. (NPN) - Project: NPN Multi-Tenant Arts Facility

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "District B is the home of so many nonprofits, community groups and small businesses that make a real difference in their communities. These grants represent a continued investment in the many projects spearheaded by the nonprofits in our City - congratulations to all the grant recipients."

Entergy's Community Partnership Grants program awards up to \$1,000 for projects that effectively impact education and literacy, community improvement and enrichment, healthy families, or arts and culture. Entergy New Orleans grants are available to community groups who apply and are eligible. For more information please check the Entergy website at [www.entergy.com](http://www.entergy.com).

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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.

New Orleans City Council

Councilmember-at-Large  
Arnie Fielkow

Statement

June 29, 2009



**Council President Fielkow Statement:**

**Thank You to Legislature for Voting Down House Bill 60**

New Orleans, LA - June 29, 2009 - Council President Arnie Fielkow happily thanks all Louisiana legislators who voted down House Bill 60, which aimed to restrict the right of Louisiana's adopted children to have two parents listed on a new birth certificate unless those parents are married in accordance with state law. Ultimately, this legislation would have deprived thousands of children in Louisiana of loving, caring families based on their potential adoptive parents' sexual orientation, as well as making it extremely difficult for children adopted by unmarried couples to apply for standard benefits such as school registration, medical coverage, life insurance and government services.

"The certificate of birth, especially for an adopted child, is a precious document that confers many rights and privileges. Although citizens from around this country, state and the City of New Orleans possess a wide range of views, one issue that will never be controversial is that our children come first," said Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow. "Democrats, Republicans, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, rich, poor -- all of

these disparate groups share the conviction that it is a priority to ensure the welfare of our society's children. My heartfelt thanks is given to all legislators who upheld the rights of all Louisiana citizens, and put the needs of all children first."

Council President Fielkow also congratulated the efforts of many others who helped urge state lawmakers to vote against the measure including the Louisiana chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Forum for Equality.

"The Forum for Equality strongly opposed HB 60 because it was a mean spirited bill that hurt children adopted by gay and lesbian couples," said Randy Evans, Political Director for the organization. "We applaud and deeply appreciate Councilman Arnie Fielkow's vigorous efforts to defeat this hurtful bill."

**Contact:**

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Media Advisory

June 29, 2009

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Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee  
To Hold Hearing on Wage Theft  
In Session Tomorrow Morning

**What:** The City Council's Special Development Projects and Economic Development (SDPED) Committee, chaired by Council President Arnie Fielkow, will hold its first hearing on wage theft. The committee is expected to hear from local and national organizations as well as legal experts. According to a survey by the Southern Poverty Law Center, New Orleans has by far the highest incidence of wage theft in the region, and workers have had little success bringing complaints to authorities.

Also on the agenda will be a preliminary report from the administration regarding enforcement plans for the local business/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Ordinance unanimously passed by the City Council on June 18th. Additionally, the Committee will receive an update on the Naval Support - Activity East Bank Facility (NSA) Redevelopment & Reuse.

To view the Committee meeting agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests  
- Congress of Day Laborers  
- City of New Orleans Office of Human Relations  
- City of New Orleans Economic Development Office

- City of New Orleans Office of Intergovernmental Relations

SDPED Committee Members

- Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

**Contact:** Jaime Guillet

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New Orleans City Council

Councilmember-At-Large  
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

**Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson to Introduce Resolution  
Thanking U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Mary Landrieu  
For Pushing the Corps of Engineers to Provide Top-Level Overhaul  
Of the City's Outfall Canals**

News Release

June 30, 2009

Contact:

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New Orleans  
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - June 30, 2009 -

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will introduce a resolution at Thursday's regular Council meeting, thanking U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Mary Landrieu for demanding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursue the most effective means of storm surge protection for New Orleans' three outfall canals.

Corps representatives appeared last week before a meeting of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which Senator

Boxer chairs. They made the now familiar argument that of three possible options for redeveloping the London Ave., Orleans Ave., and 17th St. canals, Congress has authorized them to pursue only the cheaper "Option 1," which involves retaining deficient canal walls, relying on existing Sewerage and Water Board pumps to handle falling water, and constructing new pumps at the mouth of each canal to handle rising water.

Senator Boxer, however, insisted that the Corps is authorized to proceed with the more expensive and more effective "Option 2," which would deepen and repave the canals and build new all-purpose pumps,

or "Option 2a," which includes these improvements and also allows for pumping excess water from the canals to the Mississippi River. Senator Boxer pledged to fast track legislation granting the Corps this express authorization, hopefully ending debate on the issue.

"This is a major component of hurricane protection for New Orleans," Clarkson said. "We owe Senator Boxer a sincere 'thank you' for taking up our cause and insisting the Corps give New Orleans real flood protection."

She continued, "We also owe as great a 'thank you' to Senator Landrieu, who has continued to powerfully advocate for this cause in Washington. Senator Landrieu invited the lead counsel of the Environment and Public Works Committee on her recent fact-finding mission to the Netherlands, where participants learned about the necessity for comprehensive flood protection in Louisiana. We can be sure her hard work is paying off for us now."

The New Orleans City Council has already passed a Resolution supporting Option 2 and/or 2a, joining the Jefferson Parish Council, the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

"Even the Corps has acknowledged that Options 2 and/or 2a are superior to Option 1," Clarkson said. "We thank Senators Boxer and Landrieu for their efforts to ensure New Orleans receives this superior protection."

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June 30, 2009

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Council President Fielkow Begins Official Process  
For Criminalizing Wage Theft

News Release

June 30, 2009

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New Orleans, LA - June 30, 2009 - City Council President Arnie Fielkow heard compelling testimony today concerning New Orleans incidents of wage theft from laborers, many of them Hispanic, in an information-gathering hearing during the Council's Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee meeting.

Council President Fielkow, concerned with escalating reports of wage theft and believing there has been too little focus placed on stamping out immoral and unethical contractor fraud, invited a variety of local labor advocates and law experts to testify about their knowledge of wage thefts occurring in New Orleans.

Council President Fielkow's goal was to compile expert information regarding existing state and federal laws with the ultimate goal of crafting an ordinance criminalizing the activity.

"We will be taking the advice and expertise from the authorities and victims who testified today, and will draft an ordinance to introduce to the full Council," said Council President Fielkow. "I have every hope and expectation that all seven members will vote to criminalize this terrible conduct."



*Jacinta Gonzalez, Congress of Day Laborers*

According to the local Congress of Day Laborers, a recent survey of 300 Hispanic day laborers indicated systematic abuses of wages for completed work. Eighty percent of those 300 interviewed experienced a total of 12,000 days unpaid and a total of \$400,000 of unpaid work.

Victims of such wage theft appeared before the Committee to notify members of their recent experiences. One witness was hired by a contractor, performed work, attempted to collect his pay and was threatened by the contractor, who ultimately called the police. When the police arrived, the unpaid worker was arrested and subsequently jailed for four months.

"There was no opportunity to explain what happened...and I spent four months in jail," said Josue Diaz, a local day laborer.



*Saket Soni, New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice*

Groups in attendance advocating for just such legislation included Larry Bagneris from the Mayor's Human Relations Committee, the Congress of Day Laborers, New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice, Loyola University's School of Law, Catholic Charities and Louisiana Association of General Contractors.

Homeowners and native New Orleanian laborers also testified to the recent spate of wage theft offenses on the part of some contractors.

Council President Fielkow said he believes, "the vast majority of contractors are honest people but regrettably in life the small few create a bad name for the majority," however he assured those in attendance that he would "take action to protect those most vulnerable in the New Orleans community."

"I can also assure you that just as July and August are the hottest months in New Orleans, we hope you can come back in August when we apply the heat to these offenders in the form of new city law."

Council President Fielkow intends to have new legislation prepared and on the Council agenda by mid- to late-August, just in time to

commemorate the Labor Day holiday.

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Media Advisory  
2009

June 30,



**Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
Announces Grand Opening Celebration  
At Canseco's Elysian Fields Market in Gentilly  
Tomorrow Morning**

**What:** District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell announces the Grand Opening celebration at Canseco's Elysian Fields Market in Gentilly tomorrow morning. Gentilly area residents now have a new place to buy groceries. The celebration will begin with a ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by a barbecue with raffles and giveaways. The event is free and open to the public.

"At Canseco's we treat our customers like family. Our goal is to provide the community with friendly service, and competitive prices. We have everything the big stores have," said Sinesio Canseco, owner of Canseco's Elysian Fields Market. "I want to thank Councilmember Morrell and her staff for their valuable help in making this store possible."

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said "It's great for our residents to have another local option for groceries and other necessities. This is a wonderful sign of the recovery and revitalization of Gentilly, and New Orleans."

Canseco's Elysian Fields Market offers a full deli, including hot sandwiches and other items, as well as catering.

**When:** Wednesday, July 1st  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** 5217 Elysian Fields Ave. at Filmore St.  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Who:** District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Canseco's representatives  
Community members

**Contact:** Joshua Barnett  
Director of Communications  
Office of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
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## NOLA Council News

June 30, 2009 Vol. 2, No. 8

Click [here](#) to view full Newsletter or click on links below to view individual articles.

- [Council President Fielkow Pushes for Teeth on Local and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Contract Compliance](#)
- [Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson Statement: Thank You to the Broad Coalition of Community Leaders Who Helped Defeat Senate Bill 75 and Save New Orleans' Master Plan](#)
- [Councilmember Carter Speaks to Local Teens at "Judge and Teen Day" Event at Orleans Parish Juvenile Court](#)
- [Council Files Civil District Court Motion in Emails Case and Reaches Out to Citizens Re: Email Communications with the Council](#)
- [City Council June 18, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary](#)
- [Councilmember Willard-Lewis Spearheads Legislation to Increase Taxicab Rates](#)
- [Councilmembers Launch "Lil' Easy" Public Transportation Service in Lakeview and Gentilly](#)
- [Councilmember Midura Announces Recent Reopening of Oak Street](#)
- [Councilmember Head Leads Business Outreach Tour Through District "B" Commercial Corridors](#)
- [Councilmember Hedge-Morrell Expresses Disappointment with Diversion of FEMA Funds](#)
- [City Council June 4, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary](#)
- [Councilmember Carter Presents Status Report on News and Happenings in District "C"](#)
- [New Orleans Chosen as Site for 2014 National Association of Counties Annual Conference](#)
- [Councilmembers Fielkow, Clarkson, Head and Hedge-Morrell Attend Congressional Roundtable in New Orleans to Discuss Recovery](#)





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Media Advisory

July 1, 2009

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session  
Thursday, July 2nd at 10 a.m.  
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

**What:** Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Report from Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, answering the questions posed in [Motion M-09-290](#), passed by the Council, regarding the Chevron Building
- Resolution urging the Army Corps of Engineers to take steps necessary to ensure that it meets the June 2011 deadline to provide a quality system of protection for a 100-year storm
- Resolution thanking U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Mary Landrieu for demanding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursue Option 2A, the most effective means of storm surge protection for New Orleans' three outfall canals
- Report from Bill Chrisman, Director of Capital Projects, on the status of blights at the Cut Off Playground and Center in Algiers
- District "E" report on news and happenings throughout the District
- Motion providing for the creation of the Multicultural Committee, a new standing Council Committee
- Presentation acknowledging Major Bob Bardy, of the NOPD 6th District, for his Capital One Bank Keller Award for Innovation from the Bureau of

## Governmental Research

- Presentation congratulating the New Orleans Hornets on a second consecutive playoff season

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, July 2, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
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Statement

July 1, 2009



**Council President Fielkow Statement:  
Calls Gov. Jindal's Veto of Funding  
For New Orleans Adolescent Hospital Irresponsible;  
Sponsors Forum for Legislative Override**

New Orleans, LA - July 1, 2009 - "I am truly frustrated with Governor Bobby Jindal's decision to apply a line item veto to \$14.2 million in funds dedicated by the Legislature to the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital - one of the last vestiges of mental health facilities in Orleans Parish.

"Governor Jindal must know what this veto will mean for those New Orleans-area citizens in need of hospitalization: the reduction of in-patient beds by another 35 for a total loss of 231 in-patient beds since Hurricane Katrina; that parents, guardians and/or significant others will be forced to commute 40 miles to see and assist in the assessment and treatment of their loved ones; and there will be zero public sector facilities in New Orleans to provide comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services for children and adolescents.

"I beseech Gov. Jindal and Department of Health and Hospital Secretary Alan Levine to reconsider this critical decision. I heartily thank all legislators who voted against the closure and who voted in favor of additional funding to keep this crucial facility open. Various groups have requested, and I have accepted, to sponsor a forum for advocates to appeal to legislators to override Governor Jindal's veto. The meeting will be held on **July 14, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**, in the City Council Chamber."

**Contact:**

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**Council President Fielkow  
Seeks to Establish Council Multicultural Committee**

**News Release**

**July 1, 2009**

Contact:  
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New Orleans  
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New Orleans, LA - July 1, 2009 - Tomorrow at the regular New Orleans City Council meeting, members will vote on Motion M-09-291 to establish a City Council Multicultural Committee with the mission of better serving the needs of our city's growing diverse population.

"Throughout its history New Orleans has always enjoyed a great blend of cultures, which has lent to our uniqueness and success, and post Katrina we have grown even more," said Council President Fielkow.

Since its inception as a French port city, New Orleans' multicultural diversity of people, especially African-American, French and Spanish Creole, Irish, Italian and German has shaped its history. In the 1970's, men and women fleeing the Vietnam War, resettled in eastern New Orleans and Algiers, making these some of the densest ethnically Vietnamese populations outside of Vietnam. Further adding to the mix of cultures is a growing number of Hispanics who began to arrive in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to aid in the recovery. The Motion, which Council President Fielkow introduced at the last City Council meeting, will serve several purposes including pursuing a strategy and initiatives that encompass all the cultures and communities in the City.

It will also work in concert with other government entities, like the

Louisiana Council on the Provision of Governmental Services to Latin Americans, to ensure all communities have access to, and are being served, by state and local agencies. The Committee will be chaired by Council President Fielkow. The other members serving on the Committee are Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis and District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell as an alternate.

Also on tomorrow's agenda is a Resolution by Council President Fielkow calling on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take the necessary steps to ensure that it meets the June 2011 deadline to provide a quality system of protection for a 100-year storm. The Resolution goes further to request that Corps officials and Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East President Tim Doody appear at the August 6 City Council meeting to present a status report.

In 2007, the U.S. Congress allocated more than \$12 billion to the Corps to repair Katrina-related damages, provide long-term solutions to pre-existing unsound structures and completely strengthen the City's hurricane defenses to combat a 100-year storm. The deadline for completion is June 1, 2011.

Tomorrow's City Council meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

## New Orleans City Council

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Media Advisory  
2009

July 1,



**Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
Announces Grand Opening Celebration  
At Canseco's Elysian Fields Market  
In Gentilly this Morning**

**What:** District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell announces the Grand Opening celebration at Canseco's Elysian Fields Market in Gentilly this morning. Gentilly area residents now have a new place to buy groceries. The celebration will begin with a ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by a barbecue with raffles and giveaways. The event is free and open to the public.

"At Canseco's we treat our customers like family. Our goal is to provide the community with friendly service, and competitive prices. We have everything the big stores have," said Sinesio Canseco, owner of Canseco's Elysian Fields Market. "I want to thank Councilmember Morrell and her staff for their valuable help in making this store possible."

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said "It's great for our residents to have another local option for groceries and other necessities. This is a wonderful sign of the recovery and revitalization of Gentilly, and New Orleans."

Canseco's Elysian Fields Market offers a full deli, including hot sandwiches and other items, as well as catering.

**When:** Wednesday, July 1st  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** 5217 Elysian Fields Ave. at Filmore St.  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Who:** District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Canseco's representatives  
Community members



**Contact:** Joshua Barnett  
Director of Communications  
Office of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Office: (504) 658-1040  
Email: [jbarnett@cityofno.com](mailto:jbarnett@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory

July 1, 2009



**SCHEDULE CHANGE:**

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
Announces Grand Opening Celebration  
At Canseco's Elysian Fields Market  
In Gentilly at 11:00 a.m. this Morning

**What:** District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell announces the Grand Opening celebration at Canseco's Elysian Fields Market in Gentilly at 11:00 a.m. this morning. Gentilly area residents now have a new place to buy groceries. The celebration will begin with a ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by a barbecue with raffles and giveaways. The event is free and open to the public.

"At Canseco's we treat our customers like family. Our goal is to provide the community with friendly service, and competitive prices. We have everything the big stores have," said Sinesio Canseco, owner of Canseco's Elysian Fields Market. "I want to thank Councilmember Morrell and her staff for their valuable help in making this store possible."

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Canseco's representatives  
Community members

**Contact:** Joshua Barnett  
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**Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson  
To Receive Administration's Report on Chevron Building  
At Council Meeting Thursday**

**News Release**

**July 1, 2009**

Contact:

Jacquelyn Cole

Office of

Councilmember-at-Large  
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

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[jlcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jlcole@cityofno.com)

New Orleans  
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - July 1, 2009 -

Representatives from Mayor C. Ray Nagin's administration will appear before the Council Thursday to answer a series of questions regarding the financial details of a pending purchase of the Chevron Building, located at 935 Gravier Street. In a Motion authored by Councilmember Clarkson and unanimously approved by the Council, the Council pledged not to act on the purchase of this property as a site for City Hall until these questions are answered.

"The Chevron Building is a good building at a good price, but is it a good building for City Hall?" Clarkson said. "We need to consider whether the downtown building is an appropriate site for housing what should be a landmark building in any city."

She continued, "We also need to consider whether the entire deal is a financial gain or loss for the City, including the value of the liquidation of our present site and other city owned properties."

The series of questions outlined in the Motion are:

1. What is the funding gap between FEMA funds allotted for City Hall repairs and renovations,

and the cost of the Chevron Building?

2. How will the gap in financing be filled (mortgage, bonds, etc.)?
3. What are the costs to retrofit/build out the Chevron building?
4. What are the savings in leased office space if the offices occupying these spaces are consolidated in the Chevron Building, and how much longer is the City committed to its current leases?
5. What are the plans for the current City Hall property? Will it be sold, retained, leased?
6. What is the cost of physically moving the offices now housed in City Hall and other leased spaces to the Chevron Building?
7. With hurricane season in mind, when is the move planned?
8. What is the Chevron Building's hurricane rating?
9. By what date will the Council receive a comprehensive gain/loss balance sheet on this purchase?

Councilmember Clarkson received a copy of the building's appraisal from the Mayor. This appraisal was delivered to her office last week as requested.

"I'm in the process of reviewing the appraisal," said Clarkson, who is a Realtor with 40 years experience.

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Statement

July 1, 2009



**Council President Fielkow Statement:  
Calls Gov. Jindal's Veto of Funding  
For New Orleans Adolescent Hospital Irresponsible;  
Sponsors Forum for Legislative Override**

New Orleans, LA - July 1, 2009 - "I am truly frustrated with Governor Bobby Jindal's decision to apply a line item veto to \$14.2 million in funds dedicated by the Legislature to the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital - one of the last vestiges of mental health facilities in Orleans Parish.

"Governor Jindal must know what this veto will mean for those New Orleans-area citizens in need of hospitalization: the reduction of in-patient beds by another 35 for a total loss of 231 in-patient beds since Hurricane Katrina; that parents, guardians and/or significant others will be forced to commute 40 miles to see and assist in the assessment and treatment of their loved ones; and there will be zero public sector facilities in New Orleans to provide comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services for children and adolescents.

"I beseech Gov. Jindal and Department of Health and Hospital Secretary Alan Levine to reconsider this critical decision. I heartily thank all legislators who voted against the closure and who voted in favor of additional funding to keep this crucial facility open. Various groups have requested, and I have accepted, to sponsor a forum for advocates to appeal to legislators to override Governor Jindal's veto. The meeting will be held on **July 14, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**, in the City Council Chamber."

**Contact:**

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Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow  
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City Council July 2, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

July 2, 2009

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell  
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[rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

**New Orleans, LA - July 2, 2009** - Today the New Orleans City Council passed legislation supporting 100-year storm protection, funding for crime fighting initiatives, emergency repairs at Cut Off Playground and Community Center and at various NORD facilities, and effective storm surge protection for the City's three outfall canals.

Additionally, the Council received a presentation from the Administration on the Chevron Building as a possible site for a new City Hall, and a status report on District "E", congratulated Major Bob Bardy on his Innovation Award and the New Orleans Hornets on a second consecutive playoff season.

The Council also held an Executive Session to address pending litigation, and passed Motion M-09-322 rescheduling the Council's regular July 16th meeting to July 23rd.

## *Received Report from Administration on Chevron Building*



*Bill Chrisman, Cynthia Sylvain-Lear  
and Brenda Hatfield*

Brenda Hatfield, Chief Administrative Officer, Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, and Bill Chrisman, Director of Capital Projects, appeared before the Council today to answer the questions posed in

[Motion M-09-290](#), authored by Councilmember Clarkson and passed by the Council last month, regarding financial details of a pending purchase of the Chevron Building, located at 935 Gravier Street, and it possibly being the site of a new City Hall.

The Council pledged not to act on the purchase of this property as a site for City Hall until these questions are answered. The Administration's representatives presented the Council with a document containing answers to each question posed in Motion M-09-290, as well as a "Fact Sheet" on the Chevron Place purchase. The "Fact Sheet" contains a "funding matrix," as well as information including:

- The purchase price of the Chevron Building and anticipated additional expenses
- Potential savings that would result from moving City Hall
- Comparative analysis of facilities between the current City Hall and the Chevron Building

Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "The Chevron Building is a good building at a good price, but is it a good building for City Hall? We need to consider whether the downtown building is an appropriate site for housing what should be a landmark building in any city; and whether the entire deal is a financial gain or loss for the City, including the value of the liquidation of our present site and other city owned properties."

### *Urged Army Corps to Meet Deadline for 100-year Storm Protection*



*Councilmember-at-Large  
Fielkow*

The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-09-326, authored by Council President Arnie Fielkow, urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take steps necessary to ensure that it meets the June 1, 2011 deadline to provide a quality system of protection for a 100-year storm. A 100-year storm is defined as a storm with a 1% chance of striking in any given year.

Specifically, the Resolution requests:

- That top Corps officials attend the August 6th City Council meeting to testify as to the status of 100-year storm protection and the June 2011 deadline

- Quarterly written progress reports from the Corps so as to keep publicly stated timelines consistent with internal schedules

Councilmember Fielkow said, "Protection from a 100-year storm is a vital part of the City's overall hurricane protection and preparedness. The Corps has committed to provide this level of protection and we want to ensure that they are held accountable to the June 2011 deadline. Pushing the deadline back may result in perpetual delays and a lack of essential hurricane protection - we cannot allow that to happen. I look forward to hearing the Corps' plan to meet the deadline at the August Council meeting."

#### *Voted to Fund Crime Fighting Initiatives*



*Councilmember Hedge-Morrell*

The Council unanimously approved Ordinance Calendar Nos. 27,519, 27,526 and 27,527 to allocate funds for summer overtime for the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) as well as to fund investigators for the District Attorney's office.

The Ordinances were authored and introduced by District "D" Councilmember and Budget Committee Chair Cynthia Hedge-Morrell and co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow, Head, and Clarkson.

Ordinance Calendar No. 27,519 shifted \$1 Million from the Chief Administrative Office to the NOPD to fund 12 hour shifts for patrol officers through the summer months.

Ordinances 27,526 and 27,527 allocate \$150,710 from the General Fund to the Office of District Attorney. The money will be used to hire eight investigators who will work on cases that currently lack sufficient evidence for prosecution. The District Attorney hopes to close a number of homicide cases where a suspect has been identified but not charged, thereby reducing the number of violent criminals on the streets.

"Public safety is my number one concern. We typically see an increase in crime during the summer months," Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said. "These measures will have an immediate impact on our residents' safety."

#### *Received Update on Repairs at Cut Off Playground & Community Center in Algiers*



*Bill Chrisman,  
Director of Capital Projects*

At the request of Councilmember Carter, Bill Chrisman, Director of Capital Projects, presented the Council with a report on the status of the air conditioning and lights at the Cut Off Playground and Community Center in Algiers.

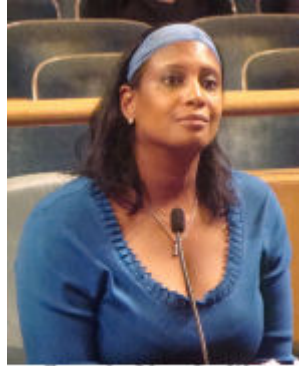
Currently Cut Off Playground and Community Center does not have outdoor lighting or a working air conditioning system. An Algiers resident, present at the meeting, also voiced concerns about the unpaved parking lot at the facility.

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "The current situation and lack of maintenance at the Cut Off Playground and Community Center is unacceptable. We owe it to the Algiers community and their children to provide a safe and comfortable recreational setting with air conditioning and appropriate lighting. We will do all we can to expedite improvements at this location so that citizens can safely enjoy the facilities once more."



Councilmember Carter

The Council unanimously passed an emergency Motion to direct the Department of Property Management to replace the air conditioning at the Cut Off Community Center under emergency procedures.



Pamela Sims Smith,  
Director of Property  
Management

Pamela Sims Smith, Director of Property Management for the City, indicated that contractors would go to the location next week to replace the air conditioning. Mr. Chrisman assured Councilmembers that the improvements to the lighting and parking lot would begin within the next 30 days, and he stated that he would return to the Council within that time frame to give an

update on the progress of those improvements.

### *Supported Option 2A for City's Outfall Canals*



Councilmember-at-Large  
Clarkson

The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-09-306, introduced by Councilmember Clarkson, thanking U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Mary Landrieu for demanding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursue Option 2A, the most effective means of storm surge protection for New Orleans' three outfall canals - London Ave., Orleans Ave., and 17th St.

Option 2A includes deepening and repaving the canals, building new all-purpose pumps, and pumping excess water from the canals to the Mississippi River.



LaVerne Saulny, Regional  
Manager of Senator Landrieu's  
New Orleans Office

LaVerne Saulny, Regional Manager of Senator Landrieu's New Orleans Office appeared before the Council to thank the Council for their support on this issue.

Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "This is a major component of hurricane protection for New Orleans. We thank Senators Boxer and Landrieu for their efforts to ensure New Orleans receives this superior protection."

Click [here](#) to read a News Release on this legislation.

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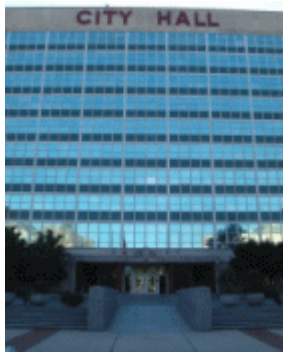
### *Received Update on District "E"*

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis presented the Council with a District Report on news and happenings throughout the District.

The Councilmember offered updates on:

- Funding sources for Methodist Hospital and Mary Queen of Vietnam's efforts to provide health services to New Orleans East residents
  
- Improvements at Joe Brown Park and Village L'Est Playground, and emergency repairs at Goretti, Sampson and Eastshore Playgrounds
  
- Ongoing renovations at the 7th District Police Station and District "E" Fire Stations and the New Orleans Fire Department/New Orleans Police Department Municipal Training Academy
  
- New Orleans East Regional Library
  
- Build-out at Pete Sanchez Community Center
  
- Community Markets including the Sankofa and Renaissance markets

Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "We salute the spirit and love for New Orleans of all those who have returned to District E and the City as a whole. District E residents dedicate their time and energy every day to move our City's recovery forward - they are a testament to the persistence and dedication of all of our citizens to make this City better than it was before."



### *Declared Emergency Status for Repairs at NORD Facilities*

The Council passed Motion M-09-328, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, declaring the need for plumbing and general construction repairs at various New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) facilities, to be a certified emergency. Therefore, the City may obtain bids without formal, public advertising and may contract the public work needed to abate and correct the emergency.

Property Management and NORD have been unsuccessful in obtaining contractors to perform the work in two formal bid attempts through the normal procurement process. Funding has been identified to complete the work and the Chief Administrative Officer has certified this situation as an emergency.

The NORD facilities which will receive emergency repairs are:

- Gorretti, Sampson, Conrad, Eastshore, Taylor, Milne, McDonogh, Skelly Rupp, and Kenilworth Playgrounds
- Treme Center
- St. Bernard Locker Rooms

- Perry Roehm Stadium
- Bunny Friend
- Pontchartrain NORD Center

***Acknowledged Major Bob Bardy for Innovation Award***



***Major Bob Bardy of  
NOPD's 6th District***

The Council congratulated Major Bob Bardy, of the NOPD 6th District, on his Capital One Bank Keller Award for Innovation from the Bureau of Governmental Research (BGR).

The Capital One Bank Keller Award for Innovation recognizes employees who have used innovative solutions to solve pressing problems. It is named in honor of the Keller Family Foundation, the founder of the BGR Excellence in Government Awards. The Keller Awards include a cash prize of \$1,000 each.

The Council thanked Major Bardy for his ongoing dedication to serving the City and for consistently going above and beyond the call of duty.

***Congratulated Hornets on Second Consecutive Playoff Season***



***Hornets Representatives  
Harold Kaufman (L.) and Chad Shinn***

New Orleans Hornets representatives Chad Shinn, Executive Officer of the Board, and Harold Kaufman, Senior Director of Communications, appeared before the Council today for a presentation congratulating the team

on a second consecutive playoff season.

The representatives thanked the Council for their ongoing support of the team and Councilmembers recognized the Hornets for the economic impact and the spirit that the team brings to the City. The Council assured the Hornets representatives that they would continue to support the team in their endeavors and look forward to next season.



***Held Executive Session***

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

Special Counsel informed the City Council as to the current status of the following pending litigation:

- Case #09-2279 "D", Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans,
- Case #2009-C-0389, 4th Circuit Court of Appeal, Case #09-1067, Louisiana Supreme Court, City Council versus Tracie Washington, Tionne Simon and the Louisiana Justice Institute;

- Case #09-4050, Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, City Council versus Penny Moses-Fields.

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City Council July 2, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

July 2, 2009

Contact:

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#### *Received Update on Repairs at Cut Off Playground & Community Center in Algiers*



*Bill Chrisman,  
Director of Capital Projects*

At the request of Councilmember Carter, Bill Chrisman, Director of Capital Projects, presented the Council with a report on the status of the air conditioning and lights at the Cut Off Playground and Community Center in Algiers.

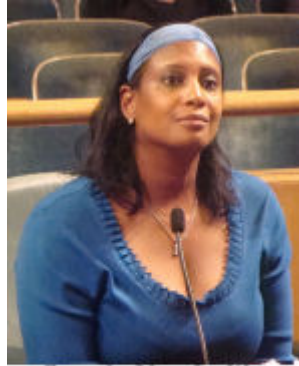
Currently Cut Off Playground and Community Center does not have outdoor lighting or a working air conditioning system. An Algiers resident, present at the meeting, also voiced concerns about the unpaved parking lot at the facility.

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "The current situation and lack of maintenance at the Cut Off Playground and Community Center is unacceptable. We owe it to the Algiers community and their children to provide a safe and comfortable recreational setting with air conditioning and appropriate lighting. We will do all we can to expedite improvements at this location so that citizens can safely enjoy the facilities once more."



Councilmember Carter

The Council unanimously passed an emergency Motion to direct the Department of Property Management to replace the air conditioning at the Cut Off Community Center under emergency procedures.



Pamela Sims Smith,  
Director of Property  
Management

Pamela Sims Smith, Director of Property Management for the City, indicated that contractors would go to the location next week to replace the air conditioning. Mr. Chrisman assured Councilmembers that the improvements to the lighting and parking lot would begin within the next 30 days, and he stated that he would return to the Council within that time frame to give an

update on the progress of those improvements.

### *Supported Option 2A for City's Outfall Canals*



Councilmember-at-Large  
Clarkson

The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-09-306, introduced by Councilmember Clarkson, thanking U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Mary Landrieu for demanding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursue Option 2A, the most effective means of storm surge protection for New Orleans' three outfall canals - London Ave., Orleans Ave., and 17th St.

Option 2A includes deepening and repaving the canals, building new all-purpose pumps, and pumping excess water from the canals to the Mississippi River.



LaVerne Saulny, Regional  
Manager of Senator Landrieu's  
New Orleans Office

LaVerne Saulny, Regional Manager of Senator Landrieu's New Orleans Office appeared before the Council to thank the Council for their support on this issue.

Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "This is a major component of hurricane protection for New Orleans. We thank Senators Boxer and Landrieu for their efforts to ensure New Orleans receives this superior protection."

Click [here](#) to read a News Release on this legislation.



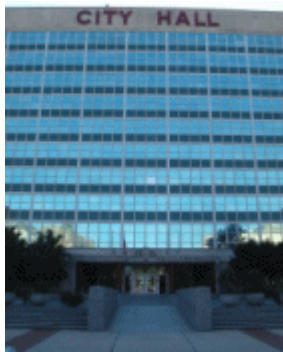
### *Received Update on District "E"*

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis presented the Council with a District Report on news and happenings throughout the District.

The Councilmember offered updates on:

- Funding sources for Methodist Hospital and Mary Queen of Vietnam's efforts to provide health services to New Orleans East residents
- Improvements at Joe Brown Park and Village L'Est Playground, and emergency repairs at Goretti, Sampson and Eastshore Playgrounds
- Ongoing renovations at the 7th District Police Station and District "E" Fire Stations and the New Orleans Fire Department/New Orleans Police Department Municipal Training Academy
- New Orleans East Regional Library
- Build-out at Pete Sanchez Community Center
- Community Markets including the Sankofa and Renaissance markets

Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "We salute the spirit and love for New Orleans of all those who have returned to District E and the City as a whole. District E residents dedicate their time and energy every day to move our City's recovery forward - they are a testament to the persistence and dedication of all of our citizens to make this City better than it was before."



### *Declared Emergency Status for Repairs at NORD Facilities*

The Council passed Motion M-09-328, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, declaring the need for plumbing and general construction repairs at various New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) facilities, to be a certified emergency. Therefore, the City may obtain bids without formal, public advertising and may contract the public work needed to abate and correct the emergency.

Property Management and NORD have been unsuccessful in obtaining contractors to perform the work in two formal bid attempts through the normal procurement process. Funding has been identified to complete the work and the Chief Administrative Officer has certified this situation as an emergency.

The NORD facilities which will receive emergency repairs are:

- Gorretti, Sampson, Conrad, Eastshore, Taylor, Milne, McDonogh, Skelly Rupp, and Kenilworth Playgrounds
- Treme Center
- St. Bernard Locker Rooms

- Perry Roehm Stadium
- Bunny Friend
- Pontchartrain NORD Center

***Acknowledged Major Bob Bardy for Innovation Award***



***Major Bob Bardy of  
NOPD's 6th District***

The Council congratulated Major Bob Bardy, of the NOPD 6th District, on his Capital One Bank Keller Award for Innovation from the Bureau of Governmental Research (BGR).

The Capital One Bank Keller Award for Innovation recognizes employees who have used innovative solutions to solve pressing problems. It is named in honor of the Keller Family Foundation, the founder of the BGR Excellence in

Government Awards. The Keller Awards include a cash prize of \$1,000 each.

The Council thanked Major Bardy for his ongoing dedication to serving the City and for consistently going above and beyond the call of duty.

***Congratulated Hornets on Second Consecutive Playoff Season***



***Hornets Representatives  
Harold Kaufman (L.) and Chad Shinn***

New Orleans Hornets representatives Chad Shinn, Executive Officer of the Board, and Harold Kaufman, Senior Director of Communications, appeared before the Council today for a presentation congratulating the team

on a second consecutive playoff season.

The representatives thanked the Council for their ongoing support of the team and Councilmembers recognized the Hornets for the economic impact and the spirit that the team brings to the City. The Council assured the Hornets representatives that they would continue to support the team in their endeavors and look forward to next season.



***Held Executive Session***

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

Special Counsel informed the City Council as to the current status of the following pending litigation:

- Case #09-2279 "D", Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans,
- Case #2009-C-0389, 4th Circuit Court of Appeal, Case #09-1067, Louisiana Supreme Court, City Council versus Tracie Washington, Tionne Simon and the Louisiana Justice Institute;

- Case #09-4050, Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, City Council versus Penny Moses-Fields.

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City Council Passes Legislation  
Spearheaded by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
To Fund Crime Fighting Initiatives

News Release

July 3, 2009

Contact:

Joshua Barnett  
Director of Communications  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Ph: 504-658-1040  
[jbarnett@cityofno.com](mailto:jbarnett@cityofno.com)

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**New Orleans, LA - July 3, 2009 -**

At yesterday's regular meeting, the New Orleans City Council unanimously approved Ordinances to allocate funds for summer overtime for the New Orleans Police Department, as well as to fund investigators for the District Attorney's office.

The Ordinances were authored and introduced by District "D" Councilmember and Budget

Committee Chair Cynthia Hedge-Morrell and co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow, Head, and Clarkson.

Ordinance Calendar No. 27,519 shifted \$1 Million from the Chief Administrative Office to the New Orleans Police Department to fund 12 hour shifts for patrol officers through the summer months.

Ordinance Calendar Nos. 27,526 and 27,527 allocate \$150,710 from the General Fund to the Office of District Attorney. The money will be used to hire eight investigators who will work on cases that currently lack sufficient evidence for prosecution. The District Attorney hopes to close a number of homicide cases where a suspect has been identified but not charged, thereby reducing the number of violent criminals on the streets.

"Public safety is my number one concern. We typically see an increase in crime during the summer months," Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said. "These measures will have an immediate impact on our residents' safety."

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New Orleans City Council

District E  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Willard-Lewis

Media Advisory

July 6, 2009



**Councilmember Willard-Lewis  
Announces Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
Commemorating Completion of Michoud Bridge Project  
Tomorrow in New Orleans East**

**What:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, along with the City of New Orleans Department of Public Works, announces a ribbon cutting ceremony to be held tomorrow afternoon in New Orleans East, to commemorate the completion of the Michoud Bridge Project.

Boh Bros. Construction Co., Inc. was awarded the contract for the project. The project work consists of removing and replacing both existing bridges over the Maxent Canal, replacing the sewer and water lines currently connected to the bridges, constructing approach slabs and driveways, and placing American

Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks on the bridges. The new bridge is now supported by concrete piles and an additional 995 feet of new asphalt roadway along Michoud Boulevard is included as well. The project cost an estimated \$3.85 million with \$3.1 million provided by the Federal Highway Administration and \$750,000 provided by the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans.

**Who:**

- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
- Department of Public Works
- District "E" Community Leaders
- Mayor Nagin

**When:** Tuesday, July 7th  
2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Michoud Boulevard at Lourdes Street  
New Orleans East  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Contact:** Clarence Bickham  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
Phone: (504) 658-1055  
Email: [cbickham@cityofno.com](mailto:cbickham@cityofno.com)

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Councilmember Stacy Head  
Hosts Summer Gert Town Community Outreach  
On Saturday, July 11th

News Release

July 6, 2009

Contact:  
Jason Abate  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Stacy Head  
Ph: 504-658-1020  
[jabate@cityofno.com](mailto:jabate@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans, LA - July 6, 2009 - District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head will host a summer Gert Town community outreach event demonstrating her commitment to empowering communities.

The Councilmember will host an ice cream party at Norwood Thompson Park on Saturday morning, July 11th at 11:00 a.m. Community support organizations that will be present include People Improving

Communities through Organizing (PICO), Gert Town Revival Initiative, Gert Town Enterprise Economic Redevelopment, and members of The Greater King Solomon Baptist Church.

Councilmember Head continues her consistent efforts to move the Gert Town community toward full recovery. Among the neighborhood's critical issues addressed by the Councilmember are, promoting zoning modifications from heavy and light industrial to commercial and residential; ensuring health and safety code compliance; and establishing a Gert Town Community Center. She has also led community beautification efforts, including community clean-ups and tree planting initiatives, while advocating street repairs by the Department of Public Works and FEMA, and drainage repairs by the Sewerage and Water Board.

According to Councilmember Head, her community outreach efforts are inspired by President Barack Obama's view that a nation's greatness depends on mutual respect and responsibility for ourselves and our communities.

Councilmember Head said, "Obstacles exist that cannot be solved alone. We must come together to revitalize and make whole again the Gert Town neighborhood. To do this effectively, we must know one another and this community outreach is just a small step - we must continually reach out to one another."

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Media Advisory

July 7, 2009



**CANCELED:**

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
Commemorating Completion of Michoud Bridge Project  
Today in New Orleans East**

**What:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, along with the City of New Orleans Department of Public Works, announces that today's ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the completion of the Michoud Bridge Project has been canceled. The ceremony will be rescheduled for a later date.

Boh Bros. Construction Co., Inc. was awarded the contract for the project. The project work consists of removing and replacing both existing bridges over the Maxent Canal, replacing the sewer and water lines currently connected to the bridges, constructing approach slabs and driveways, and placing American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks on the bridges. The new bridge is now supported by concrete piles and an additional 995 feet of new asphalt roadway along Michoud Boulevard is included as well. The project cost an estimated \$3.85 million with \$3.1 million provided by the Federal Highway Administration and \$750,000 provided by the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans.

**Who:**

- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
- Department of Public Works
- District "E" Community Leaders
- Mayor Nagin

**When:** TO BE RESCHEDULED

**Where:** Michoud Boulevard at Lourdes Street  
New Orleans East  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Contact:** Clarence Bickham  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
Phone: (504) 658-1055  
Email: [cbickham@cityofno.com](mailto:cbickham@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans City Council

District B  
Councilmember  
Stacy Head

Council District "B" Constituent Services Staffer  
Named a 'New Orleans Freedom's Sister'  
By Ford Motor Company

News Release

July 7, 2009

Contact:  
Jason Abate  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Stacy Head  
Ph: 504-658-1020  
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New Orleans  
City Council

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*Barbara Lacen-Keller*

New Orleans, LA - July 7, 2009 - Council District "B" Director of Constituent Services, Barbara Lacen-Keller, was named by Ford Motor Company as one of twenty New Orleans Freedom's Sisters for 2009. The award recognizes Barbara's lifelong accomplishments and commitment to the New Orleans community.

Freedom's Sisters is a national multimedia traveling exhibition that celebrates twenty African American women, including 19th-century figures and contemporary leaders, who helped shape the spirit and substance of the civil rights movement in America. The exhibit will

travel to nine cities during its three-year tour, and while New Orleans is not a venue for the exhibit, Ford Motor Company, in partnership with Essence Music Festival, is honoring twenty New Orleans women who embody the spirit and substance of the women in the national exhibit.

As District B's Director of Constituent Services, Barbara has worked tirelessly to advocate for its residents. She has helped obtain housing for the homeless, assisted multitudes of constituents in resolving concerns over city services, aided many citizens in finding answers to questions about the city permitting process and continues to provide leadership in a myriad of grassroots organizations.

Barbara serves on the board of the directors for the Dryades YMCA, dedicated to empowering families through education, social services and economic development. She is the Chair-elect of the Central City Partnership which delivers social and medical services to Central City residents. She is Co-Chair of the Central City Comeback Committee, which partners with the 6th Police District and is dedicated to finding innovative ways to combat crime. Lacen-Keller is also a member of Someone Who Cares, Inc. an organization that provides school children with uniforms, school supplies, etc.

Finally, Barbara has served in government positions for over forty years, and the City of New Orleans, and District "B" in particular, have been the beneficiaries of her dedication to public service.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "District B is lucky to have such a dedicated, hard-working and committed Director of Constituent Services. Barbara is tireless in her efforts to help not only the communities in District B, but neighborhoods all over the City of New Orleans."

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New Orleans City Council

District E  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Willard-Lewis

Councilmember Willard-Lewis  
Provides Information for District "E" Constituents  
Re: Agriculture Street Landfill Litigation

Community Announcement

July 7, 2009

Contact:  
Clarence Bickham  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
Ph: 504-658-1050  
[cbickham@cityofno.com](mailto:cbickham@cityofno.com)



New Orleans, LA - July 7, 2009 - District "E"  
Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis is distributing the information below on the Agriculture Street Landfill Litigation to her constituents in District "E."

New Orleans  
City Council

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The Agriculture Street Landfill (ASL) is a former landfill, closed in 1966, that has been developed in part for residential use. In the early 1980's, Gordon Plaza Subdivision, Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) housing, Gordon Plaza Apartments, the Moton School, the Press Park residential area and community center were constructed over the landfill.

Site contaminants have been detected in soil, dust, air, and garden produce - the highest levels of contaminants have been detected in the undeveloped area of the site, which has been classified as a public health hazard.

Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "District E residents have many

concerns in relation to this landfill, including - cleanup activities, run-off of contaminants, maintenance of undeveloped property, and poor response from utility companies, as well as health concerns. I want to ensure that they have this important information on the ongoing litigation regarding the Agriculture Street Landfill."

## Important Notice - Proof of Claim Process

Read carefully - this may affect your rights.

### - Agriculture Street Landfill Litigation -

Pursuant to order of the Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, notice is hereby given to: all persons of business entities who meet the following criteria for membership in the class:

1. Current and former residents who lived within the "Class Area Boundaries" [the area bounded on the north by Higgins Boulevard, on the east by Louisa Street, on the south by Florida Avenue and on the west by Almonaster Boulevard and the Peoples Avenue Canal, including the adjacent property located between Montegut and Feliciana Streets and the west side of Louisa Street] for at least one full year before February 1, 1994;
2. Current and former business owners, operators and their employees who operated a business within the Class Area Boundaries for at least one full year before February 1, 1994;
3. Current and former owners of a home or commercial property within the Class Area Boundaries for at least one full year prior to February 1, 1994, including residents who are buying their homes but have not yet completed their payments; and/or
4. Former students and employees of Robert Moton Elementary School who attended or worked at the school within the Class Area Boundaries for at least one complete school year between and including the 1986-1987 school year through the 1993-1994 school year.

Purpose of this notice: If you fit the definition of the class as stated above and 1) you suffered loss of value to your home or business property located within the class area boundaries and/or 2) you suffered emotional distress as a result of living or working in the class area boundaries, your legal rights may be affected by a proof of claim process that has been ordered by the court.

To find out more information or to obtain a more detailed notice and



official claim form, contact Class Counsel at 1-877-233- 4470 or [www.bagnerislawfirm.com](http://www.bagnerislawfirm.com), or write to the Claims Administrator at:

Claims Administrator

Post Office Box 60600

New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0600

Important:

Please note that if you are a member of the class, have a claim, and wish to pursue that claim, you must timely submit an official claim form. If you do not submit the official claim form with all attachments postmarked no later than November 13, 2009, you will not be able to recover any money related to the legal claims in this litigation, even if you determine later that you are a part of the class. The period to exclude yourself from the class has already passed. The only way to possibly recover any damages from the defendants is to timely submit an official claim form. Do not contact the court, the clerk of court, or Counsel for the defendants.

## New Orleans City Council

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Councilmember Willard-Lewis  
Alerts District "E" Residents  
Of Non-Toxic Chemical Release from Dow Chemical Plant

Community Announcement

July 7, 2009

Contact:  
Clarence Bickham  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
Ph: 504-658-1050  
[cbickham@cityofno.com](mailto:cbickham@cityofno.com)

New Orleans  
City Council

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



New Orleans, LA - July 7, 2009 - District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis is alerting District "E" residents that the odor permeating the air this morning is a result of a release of ethyl acrylate at the Dow Chemical Plant in Hahnville. According to Dow officials, the chemical is not dangerous at the levels released.

The St. Charles Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness indicates that although very pungent, the smell is non-toxic to people and animals. The chemical may cause effects if inhaled or absorbed through skin, and it can irritate or burn the skin and eyes. Some people may experience headaches, dizziness and vomiting.

Dow informed St. Charles Parish officials that a crack had developed along a seam in a tank at the plant, which released the odor at about 6:40 a.m. this morning.

The current weather conditions have kept the release from dissipating as quickly as possible and the odor may last for some time today. The strong, chemical smell is being reported across the metro area, from St. Charles Parish to Metairie to New Orleans. St. Charles parish is working with Dow Chemical to remedy the situation.

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New Orleans City Council

District E  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Willard-Lewis

Councilmember Willard-Lewis  
Provides Information for District "E" Constituents  
Re: Agriculture Street Landfill Litigation

Community Announcement

July 7, 2009

Contact:  
Clarence Bickham  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
Ph: 504-658-1050  
[cbickham@cityofno.com](mailto:cbickham@cityofno.com)



New Orleans, LA - July 7, 2009 - District "E"  
Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis is distributing the information below on the Agriculture Street Landfill Litigation to her constituents in District "E."

New Orleans  
City Council

Join Our Mailing List!

The Agriculture Street Landfill (ASL) is a former landfill, closed in 1966, that has been developed in part for residential use. In the early 1980's, Gordon Plaza Subdivision, Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) housing, Gordon Plaza Apartments, the Moton School, the Press Park residential area and community center were constructed over the landfill.

Site contaminants have been detected in soil, dust, air, and garden produce - the highest levels of contaminants have been detected in the undeveloped area of the site, which has been classified as a public health hazard.

Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "District E residents have many

concerns in relation to this landfill, including - cleanup activities, run-off of contaminants, maintenance of undeveloped property, and poor response from utility companies, as well as health concerns. I want to ensure that they have this important information on the ongoing litigation regarding the Agriculture Street Landfill."

## Important Notice - Proof of Claim Process

Read carefully - this may affect your rights.

### - Agriculture Street Landfill Litigation -

Pursuant to order of the Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, notice is hereby given to: all persons of business entities who meet the following criteria for membership in the class:

1. Current and former residents who lived within the "Class Area Boundaries" [the area bounded on the north by Higgins Boulevard, on the east by Louisa Street, on the south by Florida Avenue and on the west by Almonaster Boulevard and the Peoples Avenue Canal, including the adjacent property located between Montegut and Feliciana Streets and the west side of Louisa Street] for at least one full year before February 1, 1994;
2. Current and former business owners, operators and their employees who operated a business within the Class Area Boundaries for at least one full year before February 1, 1994;
3. Current and former owners of a home or commercial property within the Class Area Boundaries for at least one full year prior to February 1, 1994, including residents who are buying their homes but have not yet completed their payments; and/or
4. Former students and employees of Robert Moton Elementary School who attended or worked at the school within the Class Area Boundaries for at least one complete school year between and including the 1986-1987 school year through the 1993-1994 school year.

Purpose of this notice: If you fit the definition of the class as stated above and 1) you suffered loss of value to your home or business property located within the class area boundaries and/or 2) you suffered emotional distress as a result of living or working in the class area boundaries, your legal rights may be affected by a proof of claim process that has been ordered by the court.

To find out more information or to obtain a more detailed notice and

official claim form, contact Class Counsel at 1-877-233- 4470 or [www.bagnerislawfirm.com](http://www.bagnerislawfirm.com), or write to the Claims Administrator at:

Claims Administrator

Post Office Box 60600

New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0600

Important:

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Media Advisory  
2009

July 8,



Councilmember Stacy Head  
To Host Town Hall Meeting Tonight  
To Engage Hispanic Community in District "B"

**What:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head will host a Town Hall meeting tonight to engage and open a perpetual dialogue with the Hispanic community in District "B." The meeting will also provide updates on city services, reconstruction and contact information for city departments and elected officials. The meeting is open to the public and residents of District "B" are encouraged to attend.

**Who:**

- Councilmember Stacy Head
- District "B" Community Members

Invited Guests

- Representative Walt Leger, III
- Representative Neil Abramson
- Officer T. J. Johnson, 1st Police District Quality of Life Officer

**When:** Wednesday, July 8th  
6:00 p.m.

**Where:** Grace Episcopal Church  
3700 Canal Street  
(Click [here](#) for a map)

**Contact:** Jason Abate  
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
Office: (504) 658-1021  
Cell: (504) 473-4953  
Email: [jabate@cityofno.com](mailto:jabate@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory  
2009

July 8,



Councilmember Stacy Head  
To Host Town Hall Meeting Tonight  
To Engage Hispanic Community in District "B"

**What:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head will host a Town Hall meeting tonight to engage and open a perpetual dialogue with the Hispanic community in District "B." The meeting will also provide updates on city services, reconstruction and contact information for city departments and elected officials. The meeting is open to the public and residents of District "B" are encouraged to attend.

**Who:**

- Councilmember Stacy Head
- District "B" Community Members

Invited Guests

- Representative Walt Leger, III
- Representative Neil Abramson
- Officer T. J. Johnson, 1st Police District Quality of Life Officer

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Office: (504) 658-1021  
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Media Advisory  
2009

July 9,



**Councilmember Stacy Head  
To Host Summer Gert Town Community Outreach Event  
On Saturday Morning**

**What:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head will host an ice cream party at Norwood Thompson Park on Saturday morning, July 11th at 11:00 a.m. The ice cream party is a community outreach event demonstrating the Councilmember's commitment to empowering communities, and several community support organizations will be present at the event. The event is free and open to all Gert Town residents.

Councilmember Head continues her consistent efforts to move the Gert Town community toward full recovery, including: promoting zoning modifications from industrial to commercial and residential; ensuring health and safety code compliance; establishing a Gert Town Community Center; leading community beautification efforts; and advocating street and drainage repairs.

Councilmember Head said, "Obstacles exist that cannot be solved alone. We must come together to revitalize and make whole again the Gert Town neighborhood. To do this effectively, we must know one another and this community outreach is just a small step - we must continually reach out to one another."

**Who:**

- Councilmember Stacy Head
- People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO)
- Gert Town Revival Initiative
- Gert Town Enterprise Economic Redevelopment
- Members of The Greater King Solomon Baptist Church
- Gert Town residents and community members

**When:** Saturday, July 11th  
11:00 a.m.

**Where:** Norwood Thompson Park  
7200 Forshey Street  
(Click [here](#) for a map)

**Contact:** Jason Abate  
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
Office: (504) 658-1021  
Cell: (504) 473-4953  
Email: [jabate@cityofno.com](mailto:jabate@cityofno.com)

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2009

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Media Advisory

July 13, 2009

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**City Council to Host  
Community-Led Public Meeting Tomorrow Night  
On Planned New Orleans Adolescent Hospital Closure**

**What:** The City Council will host a community-led public meeting on the closing of the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital (NOAH). City Council President Arnie Fielkow secured the City Council Chamber for the meeting at the request of many concerned citizens. A resource panel, led by Derrick Morrison, will examine the devastating repercussions of the Governor's recent veto of NOAH funding. The panel will also include representatives of community organizations that requested use of the Council Chamber, including Advocates for Louisiana Public Healthcare, United Teachers of New Orleans and Louisiana ACORN.

In earlier statements, Council President Fielkow has stated his belief the NOAH facility is vital to providing mental health services in the City.

"Governor Jindal's decision to apply a line item veto to \$14.2 million dedicated by the Legislature to NOAH destroys our ability to serve residents in crisis and offer them a family-supported continuum of mental health services in the staged progress back to health and independence," stated Council President Fielkow, following Governor Jindal's announcement. "Without the full range of services offered at NOAH, our entire community is put at risk. Expanding mental health services is an essential part of building a safer, healthier City - we cannot cut services."

**When:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests

- State Representative Neil Abramson, District 98
- State Representative Cedric Richmond, District 101
- Dr. Kevin Stephens, Director, City of New Orleans Health Department
- Cecile Tebo, NOPD Crisis Unit
- Pat Roy, President, NOAH's Friends
- Willie Zanders, Attorney

**Contact:** Jaime Guillet  
Office of Council President Arnie Fielkow  
Ph: (504) 957-2035  
Email: [jlguillet@cityofno.com](mailto:jlguillet@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory

July 13, 2009



**RESCHEDULED:**

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
Commemorating Completion of Michoud Bridge Project  
Friday in New Orleans East**

**What:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, along with the City of New Orleans Department of Public Works, announces that the ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the completion of the Michoud Bridge Project has been rescheduled for Friday morning.

Boh Bros. Construction Co., Inc. was awarded the contract for the project. The project work consists of removing and replacing both existing bridges over the Maxent Canal, replacing the sewer and water lines currently connected to the bridges, constructing approach slabs and driveways, and placing American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks on the bridges. The new bridge is now supported by concrete piles and an additional 995 feet of new asphalt roadway along Michoud Boulevard is included as well. The project cost an estimated \$3.85 million with \$3.1 million provided by the Federal Highway Administration and \$750,000 provided by the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans.

**Who:**

- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
- Department of Public Works
- District "E" Community Leaders
- Mayor Nagin

**When:** Friday, July 17th  
11:00 a.m.

**Where:** Michoud Boulevard at Lourdes Street  
New Orleans East  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Contact:** Clarence Bickham  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
Phone: (504) 658-1055  
Email: [cbickham@cityofno.com](mailto:cbickham@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans City Council

District D  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell Supported  
The Children's Defense Fund  
Freedom Schools Rally Held at City Hall

News Release

July 15, 2009

Contact:

Joshua Barnett  
Director of Communications  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Ph: 504-658-1040  
[jbarnett@cityofno.com](mailto:jbarnett@cityofno.com)



New Orleans, LA - July 15, 2009 - The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools® held a rally as part of a National Day of Social Action on the steps of City Hall.

[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

The purpose of the rally was to advocate for healthcare reform to include comprehensive, affordable and seamless coverage for all children and pregnant women. Youth and families from across the City were in attendance to express their support.

The City Council District "D" staff participated in the rally, reading a statement from Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, Chair of the City Council Education Committee.

"I am a strong supporter of the mission of the CDF Freedom Schools. Providing quality after-school and summer programs for children is essential to our city. These programs enrich our children, while

keeping them from the boredom that leads to crime.

"I thank the Children's Defense Fund for their work at the Broad Street Storefront and other Freedom Schools, and for their work in advocating for comprehensive, affordable healthcare for children.

"No child in America should be without adequate medical care. Our current system has too many cracks for children to slip through. That's why we need a seamless program that encompasses all children. The Children's Defense Fund has taken the lead in pushing for this reform.

"On this National Day of Social Action, I stand with them to call on our legislators to fight for comprehensive, affordable, and seamless healthcare for all children in New Orleans, and America."

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Statement

July 15, 2009



Councilmember Midura

**Councilmember Midura Statement  
Re: 2010 City Council Election**

New Orleans, LA - July 15, 2009 - Dear Citizens of District "A" and the City of New Orleans:

It has been a privilege to serve the City of New Orleans as the District "A" Councilmember for the last three years. I have been humbled by this honor, and am forever grateful to all who had confidence in my ability and entrusted me with the opportunity to represent the district.

During my time in office, I have aspired to be a reformer of government systems, watchdog of public funds, and champion of accountability and better government. I am proud of the accomplishments my office has achieved in these areas, the highlight of which was spearheading the creation and funding of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to fight corruption, mismanagement, and government waste. I believe the creation of this office is the single most important step the City has taken toward reform of government and will have historic impact as it grows with charter-protected funding. Please click [here](#) to view a list of highlights during my time in office as District "A" Councilmember.

After much thought and reflection, I have decided that I will not be a candidate for re-election to the District "A" City Council seat in 2010. Having experienced first-hand the challenges of running a long-shot campaign in 2006, I wanted to make this decision publicly as early as possible for the benefit of potential candidates in District "A" so they may have enough time to decide whether to seek election. I believe the City Council will benefit from continued new blood at the dais and look forward to supporting a candidate who will pick up the mantle of reform and continue the march toward good government.

Like so many of you, Hurricane Katrina was a call to duty for me, and I felt a deep sense of obligation to

contribute to the recovery of the City of New Orleans in a significant way; hence my run for and subsequent election to the District A seat in the 2006 race. I have fulfilled my campaign promises: the OIG has been created and funded, the charter has been amended to require a master plan to guide land use decisions (rather than continued politicization); the Council has approved and funded the establishment of a public/private economic development entity, the City is better prepared for hurricanes, and the neighborhoods have been deeply engaged with my Council office throughout my term. As Iagnippe, we have made significant long-term structural reforms to the criminal justice system through the involvement of the Vera Institute, and we have approved a citywide energy efficiency program the details of which are currently under development.

True public service requires a deep sacrifice of time and a selfless commitment to pursuing the common good. My personal goal for public service never was to build a Midura family political machine. Indeed, career public servants too often forget that "service" is to the public, rather than to themselves. Too often the political courage needed to confront the most difficult decisions we as public officials must make is compromised in the quest for re-election or election to the next public office. Rather, my hope was to improve the lives of our citizens and their fair access to opportunity by achieving significant reforms that would position the City for a stronger future. By example and for similar motivations, I hoped like-minded individuals would re-engage in the public policy arena.

While much work remains, I believe this goal has been accomplished, and my period in city government has served its purpose. I look forward to returning to life in the private sector.

While I make this announcement early so that others may toss their hat in the ring with enough time to raise funds and run a successful campaign, there is still much work to be done over the next 10 months. As far as we have come since the storm, we still have miles to go before we can rest. The work ahead is evident on my daily drive by pockmarked streets, lights that still don't work, homes and businesses that remain vacant, and parks and pools that sit unlit and empty. And almost everyday I read about yet another senseless murder.

What troubles me most about New Orleans is the democracy gap between the priorities of the people and the priorities of the decision-makers in power. Too many of our elected officials and influential citizens continue to do the public wrong by protecting the status quo or their own self-interest. Rather than using data or best practices or evidence of success, policy and budget decisions with long-term consequences for the City's future are too often made in the absence of sufficient public input, and instead on the basis of personal whim, anecdotal evidence, or alliance with entrenched institutions that have much to lose or gain by a given decision. Make no mistake about it: defending the status quo is not in the best interest of this City, and anyone who does so is not putting the City's interest ahead of their own. The status quo has not worked, is not working, and will not work to make New Orleans a world-class city. I will spend the last year or so of my term fighting adherents to the status quo, as I believe our greatest hope for the future lies in continued reform.

The process of deciding whether or not to run for this seat in 2010 has led me to focus on what I want to get done for the City while I am still serving and in a position to effect change. Constituents should continue to expect honest and candid discussion from me as I will be as or more vocal than ever about our city's continuing challenges, the greatest of which is the daunting budget shortfall we will face in 2010 and how we choose to cut spending to make ends meet. To a great extent our success will depend on active public participation and support of these efforts, and I urge you to become part of the debate so that the democracy gap is reduced and your priorities will be reflected by the votes of your elected officials.

Answering the question, "Is this in the best interest of the City of New Orleans" has been my guiding principle over the last three years, and it will continue to be the basis for every decision I make, position

I defend or advocate, and points I raise on any given issue. Thank you for trusting in me to make sure the answer is always "yes."

Sincerely,  
Shelley

**Contact:**

Seung Hong

Office of District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura

Ph: 504-658-1010

Cell: 504-202-5267

[shong@cityofno.com](mailto:shong@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans City Council

District D  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell Supported  
The Children's Defense Fund  
Freedom Schools Rally Held at City Hall

News Release

July 15, 2009

Contact:

Joshua Barnett  
Director of Communications  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Ph: 504-658-1040  
[jbarnett@cityofno.com](mailto:jbarnett@cityofno.com)



New Orleans, LA - July 15, 2009 - The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools<sup>®</sup> held a rally as part of a National Day of Social Action on the steps of City Hall.

[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

The purpose of the rally was to advocate for healthcare reform to include comprehensive, affordable and seamless coverage for all children and pregnant women. Youth and families from across the City were in attendance to express their support.

The City Council District "D" staff participated in the rally, reading a statement from Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, Chair of the City Council Education Committee.

"I am a strong supporter of the mission of the CDF Freedom Schools. Providing quality after-school and summer programs for children is essential to our city. These programs enrich our children, while



keeping them from the boredom that leads to crime.

"I thank the Children's Defense Fund for their work at the Broad Street Storefront and other Freedom Schools, and for their work in advocating for comprehensive, affordable healthcare for children.

"No child in America should be without adequate medical care. Our current system has too many cracks for children to slip through. That's why we need a seamless program that encompasses all children. The Children's Defense Fund has taken the lead in pushing for this reform.

"On this National Day of Social Action, I stand with them to call on our legislators to fight for comprehensive, affordable, and seamless healthcare for all children in New Orleans, and America."

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Statement

July 15, 2009



Councilmember Midura

Councilmember Midura Statement  
Re: 2010 City Council Election

New Orleans, LA - July 15, 2009 - Dear Citizens of District "A" and the City of New Orleans:

It has been a privilege to serve the City of New Orleans as the District "A" Councilmember for the last three years. I have been humbled by this honor, and am forever grateful to all who had confidence in my ability and entrusted me with the opportunity to represent the district.

During my time in office, I have aspired to be a reformer of government systems, watchdog of public funds, and champion of accountability and better government. I am proud of the accomplishments my office has achieved in these areas, the highlight of which was spearheading the creation and funding of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to fight corruption, mismanagement, and government waste. I believe the creation of this office is the single most important step the City has taken toward reform of government and will have historic impact as it grows with charter-protected funding. Please click [here](#) to view a list of highlights during my time in office as District "A" Councilmember.

After much thought and reflection, I have decided that I will not be a candidate for re-election to the District "A" City Council seat in 2010. Having experienced first-hand the challenges of running a long-shot campaign in 2006, I wanted to make this decision publicly as early as possible for the benefit of potential candidates in District "A" so they may have enough time to decide whether to seek election. I believe the City Council will benefit from continued new blood at the dais and look forward to supporting a candidate who will pick up the mantle of reform and continue the march toward good government.

Like so many of you, Hurricane Katrina was a call to duty for me, and I felt a deep sense of obligation to

contribute to the recovery of the City of New Orleans in a significant way; hence my run for and subsequent election to the District A seat in the 2006 race. I have fulfilled my campaign promises: the OIG has been created and funded, the charter has been amended to require a master plan to guide land use decisions (rather than continued politicization); the Council has approved and funded the establishment of a public/private economic development entity, the City is better prepared for hurricanes, and the neighborhoods have been deeply engaged with my Council office throughout my term. As Iagnippe, we have made significant long-term structural reforms to the criminal justice system through the involvement of the Vera Institute, and we have approved a citywide energy efficiency program the details of which are currently under development.

True public service requires a deep sacrifice of time and a selfless commitment to pursuing the common good. My personal goal for public service never was to build a Midura family political machine. Indeed, career public servants too often forget that "service" is to the public, rather than to themselves. Too often the political courage needed to confront the most difficult decisions we as public officials must make is compromised in the quest for re-election or election to the next public office. Rather, my hope was to improve the lives of our citizens and their fair access to opportunity by achieving significant reforms that would position the City for a stronger future. By example and for similar motivations, I hoped like-minded individuals would re-engage in the public policy arena.

While much work remains, I believe this goal has been accomplished, and my period in city government has served its purpose. I look forward to returning to life in the private sector.

While I make this announcement early so that others may toss their hat in the ring with enough time to raise funds and run a successful campaign, there is still much work to be done over the next 10 months. As far as we have come since the storm, we still have miles to go before we can rest. The work ahead is evident on my daily drive by pockmarked streets, lights that still don't work, homes and businesses that remain vacant, and parks and pools that sit unlit and empty. And almost everyday I read about yet another senseless murder.

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Media Advisory

July 16, 2009



**Councilmember Willard-Lewis  
Announces Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
Commemorating Completion of Michoud Bridge Project  
Tomorrow Morning in New Orleans East**

**What:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, along with the City of New Orleans Department of Public Works, announces a ribbon cutting ceremony to be held tomorrow morning in New Orleans East, to commemorate the completion of the Michoud Bridge Project.

Boh Bros. Construction Co., Inc. was awarded the contract for the project. The project work consists of removing and replacing both existing bridges over the Maxent Canal, replacing the sewer and water lines currently connected to the bridges, constructing approach slabs and driveways, and placing American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks on the bridges. The new bridge is now supported by concrete piles and an additional 995 feet of new asphalt roadway along Michoud Boulevard is included as well. The project cost an estimated \$3.85 million with \$3.1 million provided by the Federal Highway Administration and \$750,000 provided by the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans.

**Who:**

- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
- Department of Public Works
- District "E" Community Leaders
- Mayor Nagin

**When:** Friday, July 17th

11:00 a.m.

**Where:** Michoud Boulevard at Lourdes Street  
New Orleans East  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Contact:** Clarence Bickham  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
Phone: (504) 658-1055  
Email: [cbickham@cityofno.com](mailto:cbickham@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory

July 17, 2009



**Councilmember Stacy Head  
To Host Community Clean-Up in Mid-City  
On Saturday July 25th**

**What:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head, in conjunction with 80 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) volunteers, will conduct a Mid-City Community Clean-Up on the morning of Saturday, July 25th. The clean-up will begin at the intersection of South Claiborne Avenue and Canal Street.

The community event is part of Councilmember Head's commitment to the Mid-City community, and her dedication to help revitalize this historic section of District "B."

The ELCA volunteers are a part of the ELCA's 2009 Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 22nd - July 26th. The Youth Gathering will consist of over 12,000 volunteers converging on the City to do volunteer labor for the citizens of New Orleans recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. For more information on the ELCA 2009 Youth Gathering click [here](#).

Councilmember Head said, "The future of our city is being decided by the day to day efforts we choose to perform. Through neighborhood clean-ups, community meetings, and the help of volunteers, we will continue to rebuild."

**Who:**

- Councilmember Stacy Head
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America volunteers
- Mid-City residents and community members

**When:** Saturday, July 25th  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** South Claiborne Avenue at Canal Street  
(Click [here](#) for a map)

**Contact:** Jason Abate  
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
Office: (504) 658-1021  
Cell: (504) 473-4953  
Email: [jabate@cityofno.com](mailto:jabate@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory

July 17, 2009



**Councilmember Stacy Head  
To Host Gert Town Community Clean-Up  
On July 23rd & July 24th**

**What:** Councilmember Stacy Head, in conjunction with 80 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) volunteers, will conduct a Gert Town Community Clean-Up on Thursday, July 23rd and Friday, July 24th. The clean-up will begin at the Greater King Solomon Church, located at 3221 Audubon Street.

The clean-up is part of Councilmember Head's ongoing commitment to the Gert Town community to help rebuild and revitalize this important District "B" neighborhood.

The ELCA volunteers are a part of the ELCA's 2009 Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 22nd - July 26th. The Youth Gathering will consist of over 12,000 volunteers converging on the City to do volunteer labor for the citizens of New Orleans recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. For more information on the ELCA 2009 Youth Gathering click [here](#).

Councilmember Head said, "As Gert Town continues to rebuild, we are working hard to engage community members to contribute to the neighborhood's development. We are thankful for the ELCA volunteers who have dedicated their time to helping New Orleans and the City's many communities."

**Who:**

- District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Volunteers
- Gert Town community members

**When:** Thursday, July 23rd & Friday, July 24th  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (both days)

**Where:** Greater King Solomon Church  
3221 Audubon Street  
(Click [here](#) for a map)

**Contact:** Jason Abate  
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
Office: (504) 658-1021  
Cell: (504) 473-4953  
Email: [jabate@cityofno.com](mailto:jabate@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory

July 17, 2009

CANCELED:



**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
Commemorating Completion of Michoud Bridge Project  
Today in New Orleans East**

**What:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, along with the City of New Orleans Department of Public Works, announces that today's ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the completion of the Michoud Bridge Project has been canceled.

Boh Bros. Construction Co., Inc. was awarded the contract for the project. The project work consists of removing and replacing both existing bridges over the Maxent Canal, replacing the sewer and water lines currently connected to the bridges, constructing approach slabs and driveways, and placing American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks on the bridges. The new bridge is now supported by concrete piles and an additional 995 feet of new asphalt roadway along Michoud Boulevard is included as well. The project cost an estimated \$3.85 million with \$3.1 million provided by the Federal Highway Administration and \$750,000 provided by the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans.

**Who:**

- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
- Department of Public Works
- District "E" Community Leaders
- Mayor Nagin

**When:** CANCELED

**Where:** Michoud Boulevard at Lourdes Street  
New Orleans East  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Contact:** Clarence Bickham  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
Phone: (504) 658-1055  
Email: [cbickham@cityofno.com](mailto:cbickham@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory

July 17, 2009



**Councilmember Willard-Lewis  
Announces Community Tour of  
UNO Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Studies  
Tomorrow in Lake Catherine Neighborhood**

**What:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, along with the nonprofit Foundation for Coastal and Habitat Enhancement Studies, announces a community tour of the University of New Orleans (UNO) Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Science (PIES) to be held tomorrow. The facility, formerly the triplex boathouse, is located in the Lake Catherine neighborhood in District "E" and all community members and citizens are invited to attend.

The PIES will serve as a research facility for scientists and educators to study the marine life and aspects of the Pontchartrain estuary, all the way from Pass Manchac to the Chandeleur Islands. The facility will also provide classrooms for a program that will bring middle and high school students to the facility to introduce them to wetlands and marine biology.

The PIES facility features approximately 4,300 square feet of air conditioned labs and classrooms, along with a kitchen and dining space. The facility is also American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and equipped with an elevator.

Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "This event is a great opportunity for the community to come in and view this great new facility before UNO moves in and begins operating. This is a true sign of the ongoing recovery and reinvestment in District E."

**Who:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

Community members and residents

**When:** Saturday, July 18th  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Where:** 21000 Chef Menteur Highway  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Contact:** Clarence Bickham  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
Phone: (504) 658-1055  
Cell: (504) 485-1979  
Email: [cbickham@cityofno.com](mailto:cbickham@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans City Council

Councilmember-At-Large  
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

**Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson  
Joins Local, State and National Leaders  
To Announce Legislation Authorizing Corps of Engineers  
To Pursue Effective Outfall Canal Protection for New Orleans**

News Release

July 20, 2009

Contact:

Jacquelyn Cole

Office of

Councilmember-at-Large  
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

Ph: 504-658-1072

Cell: 504-577-3600

[jlcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jlcole@cityofno.com)

New Orleans  
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - July 20, 2009 -

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson joined local, state, and national leaders today in announcing legislation filed in Congress authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to pursue the most effective means of storm protection for New Orleans' three outfall canals.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has consistently argued that of three possible options for redeveloping the London Ave., Orleans Ave., and 17th St. canals, Congress

has authorized them to pursue only the cheaper "Option 1," which involves retaining deficient canal walls, relying on existing Sewerage and Water Board pumps to handle falling water, and constructing new pumps at the mouth of each canal to handle rising water.

Senators David Vitter, Mary Landrieu, and Barbara Boxer introduced the legislation today to put an end to that debate by expressly authorizing the Corps to pursue the more expensive and far safer "Option 2," which would deepen and repave the canals and build new all-purpose pumps, or "Option 2a," which includes these improvements and also allows for pumping excess water from the canals to the Mississippi River.

"This is a great step forward," said Councilmember Clarkson, who has been a strong advocate on this issue both in Washington, D.C. and in New Orleans. "We simply cannot allow the Corps to move forward on a 'cheaper', less effective plan that will end up putting our region at risk for dramatic costs in life and property."

She continued, "There is no real choice here. We simply need to follow the science and not the money. The important fact here is that lives and property will be lost or saved depending upon which method the Corps pursues. And what is the value of a life?"

In announcing this significant step forward, Councilmember Clarkson joined Senator David Vitter, Representative Steve Scalise, Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard, Jefferson Parish Councilman-at-Large John Young, and representatives from the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board in making this announcement.

## New Orleans City Council

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New Orleans City Council

Councilmember-At-Large  
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

**Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson  
Joins Local, State and National Leaders  
To Announce Legislation Authorizing Corps of Engineers  
To Pursue Effective Outfall Canal Protection for New Orleans**

News Release

July 20, 2009

Contact:

Jacquelyn Cole

Office of

Councilmember-at-Large  
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

Ph: 504-658-1072

Cell: 504-577-3600

[jlcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jlcole@cityofno.com)

New Orleans  
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - July 20, 2009 -

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson joined local, state, and national leaders today in announcing legislation filed in Congress authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to pursue the most effective means of storm protection for New Orleans' three outfall canals.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has consistently argued that of three possible options for redeveloping the London Ave., Orleans Ave., and 17th St. canals, Congress

has authorized them to pursue only the cheaper "Option 1," which involves retaining deficient canal walls, relying on existing Sewerage and Water Board pumps to handle falling water, and constructing new pumps at the mouth of each canal to handle rising water.

Senators David Vitter, Mary Landrieu, and Barbara Boxer introduced the legislation today to put an end to that debate by expressly authorizing the Corps to pursue the more expensive and far safer "Option 2," which would deepen and repave the canals and build new all-purpose pumps, or "Option 2a," which includes these improvements and also allows for pumping excess water from the canals to the Mississippi River.

"This is a great step forward," said Councilmember Clarkson, who has been a strong advocate on this issue both in Washington, D.C. and in New Orleans. "We simply cannot allow the Corps to move forward on a 'cheaper', less effective plan that will end up putting our region at risk for dramatic costs in life and property."

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In announcing this significant step forward, Councilmember Clarkson joined Senator David Vitter, Representative Steve Scalise, Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard, Jefferson Parish Councilman-at-Large John Young, and representatives from the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board in making this announcement.

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Statement

June 22, 2009



Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
Statement: We Must Defeat Senate Bill 75

New Orleans, LA - June 22, 2009 - In a citywide election in November of 2008, New Orleans voters approved a major amendment to the City's Home Rule Charter. This amendment requires the City Planning Commission to draft a master plan for the future development of New Orleans; a plan that, when complete, the City's elected and appointed leaders will have to abide by under force of law.

This was a historic moment for New Orleans and a serious win for neighborhoods, small businesses, legitimate major developers, and good government advocates.

New Orleans residents have spent countless hours drafting plans that have ended up collecting dust in a forgotten room in City Hall. Meanwhile, New Orleans continues to suffer from an outdated, dysfunctional system of land use in which zoning decisions are often politicized, made with little or no citizen input, and favor a privileged few. This system leads to corner bars in neighborhoods where they don't belong, landfills dumped onto vacant land in New Orleans East, and major developers who wouldn't dare invest in a city where the rules can change tomorrow. The 2008 charter amendment, supported by the administration and six of seven councilmembers, was meant to change that. It promised a coherent, meaningful plan that would bring desperately-needed stability to our City.

Senate Bill 75 threatens to derail this. Senate Bill 75 would again politicize the planning process by requiring yet another vote of the people on the plan before it can acquire the force of law. This argument - that the people should vote on the plan itself - is all too familiar. A small group of residents, developers, and consultants spent tens of thousands of dollars on TV commercials and radio ads pushing this argument in an attempt to defeat the charter amendment in 2008 - they lost.

Now, Senate Bill 75 is taking this argument to the state. It is a thinly veiled attempt to usurp the will of the people, derail the master planning process, and revert New Orleans back to the old-school land use system that has stalled economic development here for decades.

No other city in the country puts a master plan - a document composed of more than a thousand of pages - to the vote of the people. This would be like putting a state budget to a statewide vote. People would likely pick out and vote against one line, and drafting the document would become highly political. More importantly, the results of a disapproving vote would be impossible to interpret. Which part of the master plan should we change to get a favorable vote: community health clinics, plans for improving transportation, or certain components of the land use plan? How many more rounds of public meetings, changes to the plan, and costly citywide votes would we have to undergo before our City finally gets a plan and the stability we need? And for how long would people be willing to come out to meetings for a plan that might again mean nothing? Senate Bill 75 would also violate the Home Rule Charter, which was instituted in the 1950s to allow the City to govern itself on issues like city planning without the state stepping in.

For all these reasons and more, we must defeat this bill. Mayor Ray Nagin, a majority of the City Council, the Bureau of Governmental Research, the Business Council, the Home Builders Association, the New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors, Citizens for One Greater New Orleans, many state legislators, and a host of neighborhoods groups have publicly opposed it.

As the author of the 2008 charter amendment and as an elected official who worked vigorously for its passage, I have spent the past several weeks working against Senate Bill 75 in the Legislature. Unfortunately, the bill has already passed the full Senate and the House Municipal Affairs Committee. Defeating it on the House floor is our last chance. I will continue to fight it, and I need you to fight it, too. Please call or write your representative in the House and tell them to vote against Senate Bill 75.

This statement can also be found on nola.com, click [here](#) to view.

**Contact:**

Jacquelyn Cole  
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
Ph: 504-658-1072  
[jlcole@cityofno.com](mailto:jlcole@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory

July 22, 2009

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**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session  
Thursday, July 23rd 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 ensure that collection of property liens and ad valorem taxes occurs as required by law
- Ordinance to establish spacing restrictions relative to the sale of tobacco products near playgrounds, schools, and any entities providing structured, organized care for youth
- Resolution honoring Edwin Hampton, legendary band Director and Founder of the iconic St. Augustine High School Marching 100, and recognizing him for his many contributions to the City throughout his lifetime
- Presentation and a Resolution congratulating Tulane University on the forthcoming opening of its new Disaster Management Leadership Academy
- Report from Captain Edwin Stanton of the U.S. Coast Guard and Port of New Orleans, on prohibiting floating vessels in the Inner Harbor Navigational Canal and the Harvey Canal in the advance of a storm
- Presentation thanking the New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors (NOMAR) and Diana LeBlanc, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for NOMAR, for their assistance to the City on legislative issues

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, July 23, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
Email: [rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

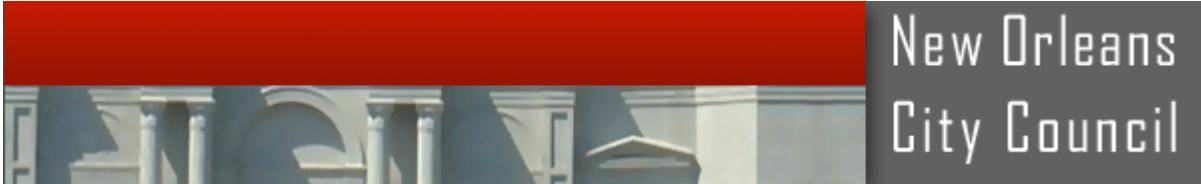
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Media Advisory

July 22, 2009



**Councilmember Stacy Head  
To Host Gert Town Community Clean-Up  
Tomorrow and Friday**

**What:** Councilmember Stacy Head, in conjunction with 80 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) volunteers, will conduct a Gert Town Community Clean-Up tomorrow and Friday. The clean-up will begin at the Greater King Solomon Church, located at 3221 Audubon Street.

The community event is part of Councilmember Head's ongoing commitment to the Gert Town neighborhood to help rebuild and revitalize this important District "B" community.

The ELCA volunteers are a part of the ELCA's 2009 Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 22nd - July 26th. The Youth Gathering will consist of over 12,000 volunteers converging on the City to do volunteer labor for the citizens of New Orleans recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. For more information on the ELCA 2009 Youth Gathering click [here](#).

Councilmember Head said, "As Gert Town continues to rebuild, we are working hard to engage community members to contribute to the neighborhood's development. We are thankful for the ELCA volunteers who have dedicated their time to helping New Orleans and the City's many communities."

**Who:**

- District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Volunteers
- Gert Town community members

**When:** Thursday, July 23rd & Friday, July 24th  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (both days)

**Where:** Greater King Solomon Church  
3221 Audubon Street  
(Click [here](#) for a map)

**Contact:** Jason Abate  
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
Office: (504) 658-1021  
Cell: (504) 473-4953  
Email: [jabate@cityofno.com](mailto:jabate@cityofno.com)

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City Council July 23, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

July 23, 2009

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

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[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

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**New Orleans, LA - July 23, 2009** - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed Ordinances ensuring proper collection of property liens and establishing spacing restrictions for the sale of tobacco products near children, and Resolutions honoring Edwin Hampton, band Director and Founder of the St. Augustine Marching 100, and supporting New Orleans Adolescent Hospital.

The Council also passed a Resolution and addressed a presentation congratulating Tulane University on the forthcoming opening of its new Disaster Management Leadership Academy.

Additionally, the Council deferred the Ordinance providing for the acquisition of the Chevron building as a potential new site for City Hall, and the hearing of the Lake Carmel subdivision appeal.

The Council also addressed a presentation on prohibiting floating vessels in canals in advance of a storm, thanked the New Orleans Metropolitan Realtors Association for its assistance to the City on legislative issues throughout the years, and received a status report from the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority.

## *Deferred Vote on Acquisition of Chevron Building*



*Cynthia Sylvain-Lear,  
Deputy Chief  
Administrative Officer*

The Council, at the request of Budget Chair Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, voted to defer until next week Ordinance Calendar No. 27,563 regarding the acquisition of the Chevron building as a possible site for a new City Hall.

Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, gave a presentation to the Council on the need for a new City Hall, the improvements needed at the current City Hall, and a comparative analysis of the current City Hall and the Chevron building.

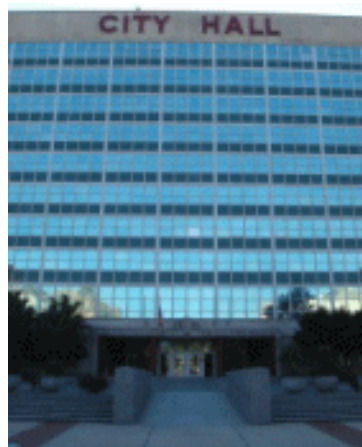


*Qi Wiggins,  
Chevron Spokesperson*

Qi Wiggins, a Chevron spokesperson, informed the Council that Chevron was unwilling to extend the July 31st purchase agreement deadline and therefore recommended that the Council defer their vote to next week rather than the August 6th regular Council meeting.

The Councilmembers will collectively decide which day next week the majority of the Council can convene for a special Council meeting to address this matter.

## *Addressed Process for Collection of Property Liens*



The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,571, authored by Councilmember Head, to ensure that collection of property liens and ad valorem taxes occurs as required by law.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "This legislation directly links the payment of property liens to the payment of property taxes, therefore preventing property owners from taking advantage of any loopholes which might allow them to pay one without paying the other. We are working to make certain that any and all property liens are paid in a timely and appropriate manner."

## *Honored Legendary Founder of St. Augustine Marching 100*



*St. Augustine High School  
Marching 100*

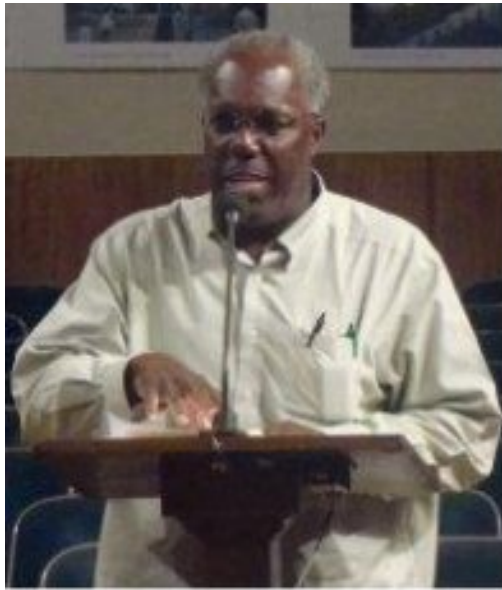
The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-09-374, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, honoring Edwin Hampton, legendary band Director and Founder of the iconic St. Augustine High School Marching 100.

The Resolution also recognizes Hampton for his many contributions to the City throughout his lifetime. Hampton passed away on Monday, July 20th at home in his sleep, at the age of 81.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "St. Augustine High School's quintessential Band Master, Mr. Edwin Hampton, will forever be remembered for the look and sound of the Marching 100 Purple Knights. Mr. Hampton took over the band in 1952, the second year after the school's founding, and honed his vision to instill a 'different style of marching' in his students resulting in the complicated formation known as 'patterns in motion'."

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell continued, "'Hamp', as he was fondly called, was a mentor to thousands of musicians and young men who passed through the ranks of the Marching 100. He was a disciplinarian but a gentle man who taught teamwork through practice and hard work, first appealing to the integrity of the young men and requiring that they reciprocate with honesty."

*Supported New Orleans Adolescent Hospital*



*Derrick Morrison*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-376, co-authored by Council President Fielkow and Council Vice President Clarkson, requesting that the City Attorney consider filing amicus curiae briefs to support the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital (NOAH) in any and all litigation involving the closing of NOAH.

Amicus curiae, Latin for "friend of the court", briefs are filed by an individual who is not a party in the litigation being addressed, but who would like to submit their opinion on the matter for consideration of the court.

Derrick Morrison, Co-Founder of the Committee to Reopen Charity Hospital and Moderator for community forums sponsored by the Council to keep NOAH open, appeared before the Council to show his support for the Resolution.

Governor Bobby Jindal recently used a line-item veto to deny \$14.2 million for NOAH, causing the closing of NOAH and leaving no mental health beds for the uninsured in Orleans Parish.

Council Vice President Fielkow said, "NOAH is the only remaining institution in New Orleans that provides a continuum of care from inpatient beds to evaluations to daily group and family support. Relocating NOAH patients to Mandeville disproportionately impacts low and moderate income families who routinely use public transportation, which is not available between New Orleans and Mandeville. With this Resolution, the Council encourages our City Attorney to officially declare the City's support of any legal efforts to keep NOAH's doors open."

### ***Established Spacing Restrictions for the Sale of Tobacco Products near Children***



*Councilmember Head*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,550, authored by Councilmember Head, to establish spacing restrictions relative to the sale of tobacco products near playgrounds, schools, churches, and any entities providing structured, organized care for youth.

Specifically, the Ordinance requires that no tobacco retailer shall be permitted to sell, donate, distribute, or deliver to any person(s) tobacco products within 1,000 feet of any playground, church, public library, school, or any childcare



facility or similar entity providing structured, organized care for youth. The Ordinance also mandates that no tobacco retailer shall be permitted to establish or open in any residential district or park and recreation district of the City.

District "B" Councilmember Head said, "It is vital that we instill in our children the importance of a healthy lifestyle. By restricting the proximity of tobacco products to children, not only can we ensure that they are not exposed to second-hand smoke, but we can also encourage them to make healthy choices."

### ***Addressed Lake Carmel Subdivision Appeal***



The Council did not hear the appeal on the Lake Carmel subdivision, located in District "E", as a result of a stay of 30 days, granted by the Civil District Court this morning.

District "E" Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "This morning there was a hearing on the Lake Carmel subdivision appeal at the Civil District Court in front of Judge Piper Griffin. The developer, VOB, was requesting that the court issue a mandamus ordering that this matter be removed from the Council's agenda - challenging the right of the Lake Carmel Subdivision Improvement District to file its appeal to the Council."

She continued, "After consideration of the arguments, Judge Griffin ruled in favor of the City and of the homeowners, denied the mandamus and then granted a stay of 30 days to allow the developer to appeal the ruling to the Fourth Circuit. This matter was on deadline before the City Council, but the court's granting of a stay suspends that deadline. The deadline for the Council to act will not begin to run again as long as this stay is in effect."

The Council deferred the hearing of this appeal to the next Council meeting on August 6th.

### ***Received Report on Prohibiting Floating Vessels in Canals in Advance of a Storm***



*Captain Edwin Stanton,  
U.S. Coast Guard and  
Port of New Orleans*

At the request of Council Vice President Clarkson, Captain Edwin Stanton of the U.S. Coast Guard and Port of New Orleans appeared before the Council to give a report on prohibiting floating vessels in the Inner Harbor Navigational Canal and the Harvey Canal in advance of a storm.

Captain Stanton discussed:

- The plan to mandate that all floating vessels be out of the two canals at least 24 hours before the impact of storm force winds
- The Army Corps of Engineers' request that the plan be extended to the Algiers Canal
- The potential economic impact of this prohibition on businesses along these waterways

Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Floating vessels in canals were one of the most prominent threats during Hurricane Gustav last year. We must learn from our previous experiences with hurricanes, and this is one step towards making our City as safe as possible in the face of both natural and man-made disasters."

### *Congratulated Tulane University on its New Disaster Management Leadership Academy*



Dr. Charles Figley, Paul Henry Kurzweg Distinguished Chair in Disaster Mental Health at Tulane University School of Social Work, appeared before the Council

for a presentation congratulating the university on the formation of its new Disaster Management Leadership Academy (DMLA).

A three-year \$2.1 million federal grant will allow Tulane to begin the DMLA, which will grant certifications to high-level government officials and masters and doctoral degrees to students in research programs. Figley provided details on the formation and curriculum of DMLA, as well identified the DMLA staff and others who were integral in the formation of the academy. For more information on the DMLA, visit [www.dmlatulane.org](http://www.dmlatulane.org).

The Council passed Resolution R-09-325, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, applauding Tulane University for the forthcoming opening of the DMLA and anticipating a strong group of graduates who will be able to lead the City in the case of a natural or manmade disaster.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "Tulane has firsthand experience with disasters and their effect on the community - we are grateful that Tulane University is taking this proactive stance on disaster and emergency training. The academy's rigorous interdisciplinary curriculum will introduce students to the wide range of issues and the varied skills associated with disaster management."

### *Addressed NORA Report on New Headquarters*



*L to R: Jim Singleton, Rob Couhig, Richard Monteilh, Ommeed Sathe*

Representatives from the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) appeared before the Council, at the request of Councilmember Clarkson, to give a progress report and to detail the funding for its new headquarters, currently being built on Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard.

The representatives - Jim Singleton, NORA Board of Directors Vice Chair, Rob Couhig, NORA Board of Directors Secretary, Richard Monteilh, NORA Executive Director, and NORA Director of Real Estate Strategy Ommeed Sathe - provided detailed information on their funding sources and their ongoing efforts to supplement NORA's resources, as well as offered updates on the Lot Next Door program and their involvement with other projects throughout the City.



*Austin Penny,  
Director of ORDA*

Austin Penny, Director of the Office of Recovery and Development Administration (ORDA), appeared before the Council to give additional information on NORA's funding sources.

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "We need to make sure NORA is aggressively fighting blight - an issue that affects nearly every neighborhood in New Orleans."

*Recognized Metropolitan Association of Realtors for their Assistance to the City*



*Diana LeBlanc,  
Director of Intergovernmental  
Affairs for NOMAR*

Diana LeBlanc, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors (NOMAR), along with other NOMAR representatives, was recognized by the Council for their assistance to the City on legislative issues throughout the years.

"I want to thank NOMAR for their tireless efforts lobbying our state and federal government for New Orleans' needs. NOMAR was instrumental in the City's effort to defeat Senate Bill 75, which would have derailed the City's master planning process," said Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson.

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City Council July 23, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

July 23, 2009

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

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[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

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**New Orleans, LA - July 23, 2009** - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed Ordinances ensuring proper collection of property liens and establishing spacing restrictions for the sale of tobacco products near children, and Resolutions honoring Edwin Hampton, band Director and Founder of the St. Augustine Marching 100, and supporting New Orleans Adolescent Hospital.

The Council also passed a Resolution and addressed a presentation congratulating Tulane University on the forthcoming opening of its new Disaster Management Leadership Academy.

Additionally, the Council deferred the Ordinance providing for the acquisition of the Chevron building as a potential new site for City Hall, and the hearing of the Lake Carmel subdivision appeal.

The Council also addressed a presentation on prohibiting floating vessels in canals in advance of a storm, thanked the New Orleans Metropolitan Realtors Association for its assistance to the City on legislative issues throughout the years, and received a status report from the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority.

## *Deferred Vote on Acquisition of Chevron Building*



*Cynthia Sylvain-Lear,  
Deputy Chief  
Administrative Officer*

The Council, at the request of Budget Chair Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, voted to defer until next week Ordinance Calendar No. 27,563 regarding the acquisition of the Chevron building as a possible site for a new City Hall.

Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, gave a presentation to the Council on the need for a new City Hall, the improvements needed at the current City Hall, and a comparative analysis of the current City Hall and the Chevron building.



*Qi Wiggins,  
Chevron Spokesperson*

Qi Wiggins, a Chevron spokesperson, informed the Council that Chevron was unwilling to extend the July 31st purchase agreement deadline and therefore recommended that the Council defer their vote to next week rather than the August 6th regular Council meeting.

The Councilmembers will collectively decide which day next week the majority of the Council can convene for a special Council meeting to address this matter.

## *Addressed Process for Collection of Property Liens*



The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,571, authored by Councilmember Head, to ensure that collection of property liens and ad valorem taxes occurs as required by law.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "This legislation directly links the payment of property liens to the payment of property taxes, therefore preventing property owners from taking advantage of any loopholes which might allow them to pay one without paying the other. We are working to make certain that any and all property liens are paid in a timely and appropriate manner."

## *Honored Legendary Founder of St. Augustine Marching 100*



*St. Augustine High School  
Marching 100*

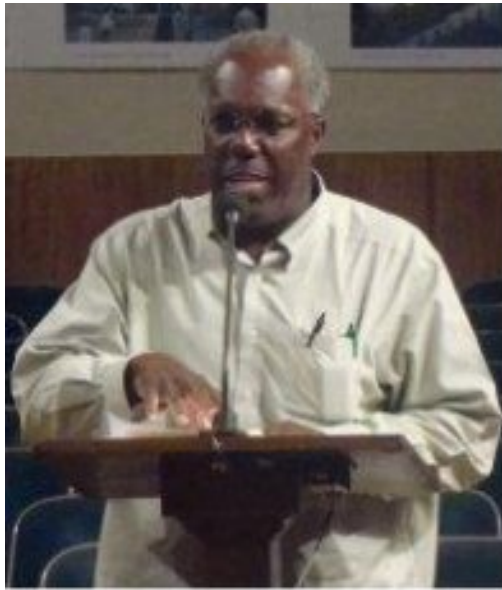
The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-09-374, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, honoring Edwin Hampton, legendary band Director and Founder of the iconic St. Augustine High School Marching 100.

The Resolution also recognizes Hampton for his many contributions to the City throughout his lifetime. Hampton passed away on Monday, July 20th at home in his sleep, at the age of 81.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "St. Augustine High School's quintessential Band Master, Mr. Edwin Hampton, will forever be remembered for the look and sound of the Marching 100 Purple Knights. Mr. Hampton took over the band in 1952, the second year after the school's founding, and honed his vision to instill a 'different style of marching' in his students resulting in the complicated formation known as 'patterns in motion'."

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell continued, "'Hamp', as he was fondly called, was a mentor to thousands of musicians and young men who passed through the ranks of the Marching 100. He was a disciplinarian but a gentle man who taught teamwork through practice and hard work, first appealing to the integrity of the young men and requiring that they reciprocate with honesty."

*Supported New Orleans Adolescent Hospital*



*Derrick Morrison*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-376, co-authored by Council President Fielkow and Council Vice President Clarkson, requesting that the City Attorney consider filing amicus curiae briefs to support the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital (NOAH) in any and all litigation involving the closing of NOAH.

Amicus curiae, Latin for "friend of the court", briefs are filed by an individual who is not a party in the litigation being addressed, but who would like to submit their opinion on the matter for consideration of the court.

Derrick Morrison, Co-Founder of the Committee to Reopen Charity Hospital and Moderator for community forums sponsored by the Council to keep NOAH open, appeared before the Council to show his support for the Resolution.

Governor Bobby Jindal recently used a line-item veto to deny \$14.2 million for NOAH, causing the closing of NOAH and leaving no mental health beds for the uninsured in Orleans Parish.

Council Vice President Fielkow said, "NOAH is the only remaining institution in New Orleans that provides a continuum of care from inpatient beds to evaluations to daily group and family support. Relocating NOAH patients to Mandeville disproportionately impacts low and moderate income families who routinely use public transportation, which is not available between New Orleans and Mandeville. With this Resolution, the Council encourages our City Attorney to officially declare the City's support of any legal efforts to keep NOAH's doors open."

### ***Established Spacing Restrictions for the Sale of Tobacco Products near Children***



*Councilmember Head*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,550, authored by Councilmember Head, to establish spacing restrictions relative to the sale of tobacco products near playgrounds, schools, churches, and any entities providing structured, organized care for youth.

Specifically, the Ordinance requires that no tobacco retailer shall be permitted to sell, donate, distribute, or deliver to any person(s) tobacco products within 1,000 feet of any playground, church, public library, school, or any childcare



facility or similar entity providing structured, organized care for youth. The Ordinance also mandates that no tobacco retailer shall be permitted to establish or open in any residential district or park and recreation district of the City.

District "B" Councilmember Head said, "It is vital that we instill in our children the importance of a healthy lifestyle. By restricting the proximity of tobacco products to children, not only can we ensure that they are not exposed to second-hand smoke, but we can also encourage them to make healthy choices."

### ***Addressed Lake Carmel Subdivision Appeal***



The Council did not hear the appeal on the Lake Carmel subdivision, located in District "E", as a result of a stay of 30 days, granted by the Civil District Court this morning.

District "E" Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "This morning there was a hearing on the Lake Carmel subdivision appeal at the Civil District Court in front of Judge Piper Griffin. The developer, VOB, was requesting that the court issue a mandamus ordering that this matter be removed from the Council's agenda - challenging the right of the Lake Carmel Subdivision Improvement District to file its appeal to the Council."

She continued, "After consideration of the arguments, Judge Griffin ruled in favor of the City and of the homeowners, denied the mandamus and then granted a stay of 30 days to allow the developer to appeal the ruling to the Fourth Circuit. This matter was on deadline before the City Council, but the court's granting of a stay suspends that deadline. The deadline for the Council to act will not begin to run again as long as this stay is in effect."

The Council deferred the hearing of this appeal to the next Council meeting on August 6th.

### ***Received Report on Prohibiting Floating Vessels in Canals in Advance of a Storm***



*Captain Edwin Stanton,  
U.S. Coast Guard and  
Port of New Orleans*

At the request of Council Vice President Clarkson, Captain Edwin Stanton of the U.S. Coast Guard and Port of New Orleans appeared before the Council to give a report on prohibiting floating vessels in the Inner Harbor Navigational Canal and the Harvey Canal in advance of a storm.

Captain Stanton discussed:

- The plan to mandate that all floating vessels be out of the two canals at least 24 hours before the impact of storm force winds
- The Army Corps of Engineers' request that the plan be extended to the Algiers Canal
- The potential economic impact of this prohibition on businesses along these waterways

Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Floating vessels in canals were one of the most prominent threats during Hurricane Gustav last year. We must learn from our previous experiences with hurricanes, and this is one step towards making our City as safe as possible in the face of both natural and man-made disasters."

### *Congratulated Tulane University on its New Disaster Management Leadership Academy*



Dr. Charles Figley, Paul Henry Kurzweg Distinguished Chair in Disaster Mental Health at Tulane University School of Social Work, appeared before the Council

for a presentation congratulating the university on the formation of its new Disaster Management Leadership Academy (DMLA).

A three-year \$2.1 million federal grant will allow Tulane to begin the DMLA, which will grant certifications to high-level government officials and masters and doctoral degrees to students in research programs. Figley provided details on the formation and curriculum of DMLA, as well identified the DMLA staff and others who were integral in the formation of the academy. For more information on the DMLA, visit [www.dmlatulane.org](http://www.dmlatulane.org).

The Council passed Resolution R-09-325, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, applauding Tulane University for the forthcoming opening of the DMLA and anticipating a strong group of graduates who will be able to lead the City in the case of a natural or manmade disaster.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "Tulane has firsthand experience with disasters and their effect on the community - we are grateful that Tulane University is taking this proactive stance on disaster and emergency training. The academy's rigorous interdisciplinary curriculum will introduce students to the wide range of issues and the varied skills associated with disaster management."

### *Addressed NORA Report on New Headquarters*



*L to R: Jim Singleton, Rob Couhig, Richard Monteilh, Ommeed Sathe*

Representatives from the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) appeared before the Council, at the request of Councilmember Clarkson, to give a progress report and to detail the funding for its new headquarters, currently being built on Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard.

The representatives - Jim Singleton, NORA Board of Directors Vice Chair, Rob Couhig, NORA Board of Directors Secretary, Richard Monteilh, NORA Executive Director, and NORA Director of Real Estate Strategy Ommeed Sathe - provided detailed information on their funding sources and their ongoing efforts to supplement NORA's resources, as well as offered updates on the Lot Next Door program and their involvement with other projects throughout the City.



*Austin Penny,  
Director of ORDA*

Austin Penny, Director of the Office of Recovery and Development Administration (ORDA), appeared before the Council to give additional information on NORA's funding sources.

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "We need to make sure NORA is aggressively fighting blight - an issue that affects nearly every neighborhood in New Orleans."

*Recognized Metropolitan Association of Realtors for their Assistance to the City*



*Diana LeBlanc,  
Director of Intergovernmental  
Affairs for NOMAR*

Diana LeBlanc, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors (NOMAR), along with other NOMAR representatives, was recognized by the Council for their assistance to the City on legislative issues throughout the years.

"I want to thank NOMAR for their tireless efforts lobbying our state and federal government for New Orleans' needs. NOMAR was instrumental in the City's effort to defeat Senate Bill 75, which would have derailed the City's master planning process," said Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson.

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And Council Has Fulfilled Its Public Records Request Obligations**

News Release

July 24, 2009

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The ruling resulted from a decision by the Times Picayune and other media outlets to withdraw their pending public records requests.

Judge Madeleine Landrieu also ruled that radio station WBOK had waived its right to demand the City Council emails because no one from WBOK appeared in court to respond to the City Council's motion.

The City Council's Special Counsel previously filed a [motion](#) with the court, addressing public records requests made by a variety of media outlets and one private citizen, and referencing the delivery to the Council from the City Attorney of approximately 440,000 emails.

The Motion asked that the public records requestors specify the types of email documents requested; that citizens' private information be protected;

and that records requestors, not the public, pay the fees and costs associated with the review of 2.5 million pages of emails by Legal Counsel, Forensic Software Analysts and Councilmembers.

As a result of today's court ruling, citizens' private information will be protected and the public will not pay any future costs associated with the review of the Council emails requested in the public records requests at issue. For the last several months Councilmembers have posted thousands of their emails online on the [City Council website](#).

Media calls are being referred to Special Counsel, Steven J. Lane, Attorney and Managing Partner, Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar, (504) 680-0527, [slane@hhkc.com](mailto:slane@hhkc.com).

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**City Council to Hold Special Meeting at 2 p.m., July 28th  
To Consider Ordinances Relative to Acquisition of the Chevron Building  
As the Site for a New City Hall**

News Release

July 24, 2009

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
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New Orleans, LA - July 24, 2009 - The New Orleans City Council will hold a Special Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 28th at 2 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

The Council will consider Ordinances relative to the acquisition of the Chevron Building, located at 935 Gravier Street, as the site for a new City Hall, as well as any other matters that may properly come before the Council.

These Ordinances are to be considered in a Special Council Meeting as a result of their deferral at yesterday's regular Council meeting.

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Cynthia Sylvain-Lear made a presentation yesterday on the Administration's position regarding the need for a new City Hall, improvements needed at the current City Hall, and a comparative analysis of the current City Hall and the Chevron Building.

To view the Public Notice of the Special Council Meeting, click [here](#).

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Media Advisory

July 24, 2009



Council President Arnie Fielkow  
And the New Orleans Zephyrs  
Provide Kids with End of Summer Treat

**What:** New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow and New Orleans Zephyrs General Manager Mike Schline are inviting all Greater New Orleans area kids under the age of 15 to the Zephyrs baseball game on Monday.

"With recreation camps ending and summer vacation activities winding down, we thought it would be a great treat before they head back to school," said Council President Fielkow.

The Zephyrs will be playing the Memphis Redbirds. A complimentary ticket can be obtained by emailing Mike Schline at [mikes@zephyrsbaseball.com](mailto:mikes@zephyrsbaseball.com) or contacting the Zephyr's office at (504) 734-5155.

**Who:**

- Council President Arnie Fielkow
- Mike Schline, General Manager of the New Orleans Zephyrs
- All Greater New Orleans area kids

**When:** Monday, July 27, 2009  
11.30 a.m.

**Where:** Zephyrs Field  
6000 Airline Drive  
(Click [here](#) for a map)

**Contact:** Jaime Guillet  
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow  
Ph: (504) 650-1063  
Email: [jlguillet@cityofno.com](mailto:jlguillet@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory

July 24, 2009



**Councilmember Stacy Head  
To Host Community Clean-Up in Mid-City  
Tomorrow Morning**

**What:** District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head, in conjunction with 80 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) volunteers, will conduct a Mid-City Community Clean-Up tomorrow morning. The clean-up will begin at the intersection of South Claiborne Avenue and Canal Street.

The community event is part of Councilmember Head's commitment to the Mid-City neighborhood, and her dedication to help revitalize this historic section of District "B."

The ELCA volunteers are a part of the ELCA's 2009 Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 22nd - July 26th. The Youth Gathering will consist of over 12,000 volunteers converging on the City to do volunteer labor for the citizens of New Orleans recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. For more information on the ELCA 2009 Youth Gathering click [here](#).

Councilmember Head said, "The future of our city is being decided by the day to day efforts we choose to perform. Through neighborhood clean-ups, community meetings, and the help of volunteers, we will continue to rebuild."

**Who:**

- Councilmember Stacy Head
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America volunteers
- Mid-City residents and community members

**When:** Saturday, July 25th  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Where:** South Claiborne Avenue at Canal Street  
(Click [here](#) for a map)

**Contact:** Jason Abate  
Office of District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
Office: (504) 658-1021  
Cell: (504) 473-4953  
Email: [jabate@cityofno.com](mailto:jabate@cityofno.com)

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**Contact:** Jason Abate  
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Judge Madeleine Landrieu also ruled that radio station WBOK had waived its right to demand the City Council emails because no one from WBOK appeared in court to respond to the City Council's motion.

The City Council's Special Counsel previously filed a [motion](#) with the court, addressing public records requests made by a variety of media outlets and one private citizen, and referencing the delivery to the Council from the City Attorney of approximately 440,000 emails.

The Motion asked that the public records requestors specify the types of email documents requested; that citizens' private information be protected;

and that records requestors, not the public, pay the fees and costs associated with the review of 2.5 million pages of emails by Legal Counsel, Forensic Software Analysts and Councilmembers.

As a result of today's court ruling, citizens' private information will be protected and the public will not pay any future costs associated with the review of the Council emails requested in the public records requests at issue. For the last several months Councilmembers have posted thousands of their emails online on the [City Council website](#).

Media calls are being referred to Special Counsel, Steven J. Lane, Attorney and Managing Partner, Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar, (504) 680-0527, [slane@hhkc.com](mailto:slane@hhkc.com).

## New Orleans City Council

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Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
And New Orleans Hornets' Chris Paul  
Dedicate Basketball Court in 7th Ward

News Release

July 27, 2009

Contact:  
Joshua Barnett  
Director of  
Communications  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
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*Hornets' Point Guard Chris Paul, Councilmember Hedge-Morrell and NORD Director Larry Barabino Jr. dedicate new basketball court at Hardin Park*

New Orleans, LA - July 27, 2009 - District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell and New Orleans Hornets' point guard Chris Paul officially opened a new outdoor basketball court at Hardin Park in the 7th Ward on Sunday. This is the second of three courts Paul is revitalizing in the community.

The new court is painted with the black and gold logo of Wake Forest University, where Paul played for two years before entering the NBA draft. Paul dedicated the new court to his college basketball coach, Skip Prosser, who died exactly two years earlier.

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "This is a wonderful addition for this community. St. Augustine High School uses this park for their athletics and P.E., and it's great for them to have use of such a nice facility." Councilmember Hedge-Morrell has also secured funding to renovate the park's playground.



Taking advantage of a break in the rain, Paul took time to shoot a few baskets, and then sign autographs for the dozens of neighborhood children in attendance.

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New Orleans City Council

District D  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
Cuts Ribbon at Reopening of Lakefront Aquatic Center  
At University of New Orleans Today

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*Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, Lakefront Arena  
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The facility will once again be home to the UNO swim team, which for the past four years has had to practice and compete at other pools around the City. The pool will also be used by many high school programs, and will be open to the community for lap swimming and

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City Council

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Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said of the opening, "I am so proud to have this facility in my District. UNO is a great partner to this community. This pool will serve them well, and will be a nice asset for the community to enjoy."

New amenities at the pool include an updated sound system, automatic chemical treatment system and a new video scoreboard. Additionally, the outdoor pool has been resurfaced with new deck lights and landscaping.

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## New Orleans City Council

Councilmember-At-Large  
Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

Statement

July 28, 2009



### Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson Statement Re: Purchase of Chevron Building for City Hall

New Orleans, LA - July 28, 2009 - "Today, I voted against purchasing the Chevron Building as a new location for City Hall.

"When the Mayor first approached the Council with the idea of relocating City Hall, I considered the issue with an open mind. I was not predisposed to oppose or support the purchase because of any personalities involved. Instead, I wanted to give the idea a fair hearing and all the due diligence that it and my

constituents deserve.

"I did not then, nor do I now, think the City needs a new City Hall for ourselves while many of our constituents continue to live without streetlights, parks, and in some areas without libraries and hospitals. But, as a Realtor with 40 years of experience, I did see an excellent financial opportunity to buy a modern office building at a great price as an investment, instead of pumping the same dollar amount into a building that probably will be demolished in the coming decade.

"I believe the City's leaders ought to "think big" about the current City Hall site - a site that, with the renovations to the Superdome, Dominion Towers, the Hyatt, and the demolition of the old state buildings around Duncan Plaza, is land too valuable to be holding only a dilapidated City Hall. This site should instead be master planned for a public/private, mixed-development, government complex with an architecturally appropriate City Hall, incorporating the adjacent state property and Duncan Plaza, with private tenants to buy down the cost of government. Other progressive cities have done this, and it has worked. Twenty years ago, as a District Councilmember, I proposed this idea to the Administration. With that perspective, I have taken the opportunity to investigate the possibility of using the Chevron Building as an interim City Hall. I have consulted with my fellow Councilmembers, community leaders, constituents, former professional colleagues, the Mayor, and members of his administration.

"But even in spite of the great opportunity and potential I see for this land, I have continued to have serious reservations about the purchase. Without a comprehensive, public plan for a new City Hall development; a plan that the public has time to understand and buy into; a plan that we can show beyond a reasonable doubt will contribute to the City's wealth and not detract from its recovery, purchasing the Chevron Building is a mistake. With a team of the best minds in this City, we may yet have a chance in the future to come up with a planning process that provides for a new City Hall that doesn't detract from recovery. But with the contract for the Chevron Building on the table today, my vote is 'No.' "

#### Contact:

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Relative to Acquisition of the Chevron Building  
As the Site for a New City Hall**

News Release

July 28, 2009

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If passed, Ordinance Calendar No. 27,552 would have transferred funds to the Department of Property Management for the purchase of the Chevron Building, and Ordinance Calendar No. 27,563 would have provided for the acquisition of the building.

These Ordinances were considered at today's Special Council Meeting as a result of their deferral at last week's regular Council meeting.

Voting in support of the Ordinances were District "C" Councilmember James Carter, District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, and District "E" Councilmember Willard-Lewis. Voting in opposition to the Ordinances were Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow, Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura and District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head.

The vote was taken after the Council heard comments from the public and received additional comments from Deputy Chief Administrative

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**City Council Budget Committee  
Receives Report on City Hall Repair Costs  
And Addresses Orleans Parish Sheriff's Department Budget**

News Release

July 29, 2009

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*Councilmember Hedge-Morrell*

New Orleans, LA - July 29, 2009 - The New Orleans City Council Budget Committee met this afternoon at 2 p.m. in the Council Chamber. One of the agenda highlights was a report on the cost of immediate repairs and replacements needed at City Hall, presented by Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, and William Chrisman, Director of Capital Projects.

According to the report, \$9,650,000 is needed immediately to fund such projects as a new roof, and new boilers. Another \$9 million is estimated to be needed by the end of the year. A further \$21 million is forecast for ongoing needs, the bulk of which is slated for asbestos abatement, bringing the total needed to approximately \$39,785,000.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, Chair of the Budget Committee, said, "We need to provide a safe workplace for our city workers. This money won't be spent on plush offices or upgrades, it's just to make the building usable for the next 20 years."

Also on the agenda was a presentation from Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman, who reported that the Sheriff's department is facing a critical budget shortfall. According to the Sheriff, his department will run out of funds in August, forcing the courts to cut hours and services unless additional funding is found.

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell stated, "We need to keep the courts working.

If we don't get defendants to trial quickly, we incur even more costs in housing them longer. The Council will work to find a way to fund the continued operation of the Sheriff's Department. We can't afford, from a public safety standpoint, to do anything less."

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Media Advisory

July 29, 2009

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## Recovery Committee to Receive Update on Libraries and Regional Parks this Afternoon

**What:** The Recovery Committee will receive a report on the City's construction efforts in libraries and regional parks this afternoon, at the request of Council Vice President and Recovery Committee Co-Chair Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson. Randy Richardson, representing the City's recovery projects manager of Montgomery Watson Harza (MWH), will appear before the committee. Also appearing will be Bill Chrisman, Director of Capital Projects.

To view the Committee meeting agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Wednesday, July 29, 2009  
12:00 p.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests  
- Randy Richardson, MWH Representative  
- Bill Chrisman, Director of Capital Projects

SDPED Committee Members

- Co-Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
- Co-Chair: District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis



- District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
- District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
- District "C" Councilmember James Carter
- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

**Contact:** Jacquelyn Cole

Office of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

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## New Orleans City Council

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## NOLA Council News

July 31, 2009 Vol. 2, No. 9

Click [here](#) to view full Newsletter or click on links below to view individual articles.

- [Council Defeats Ordinances Relative to Acquisition of the Chevron Building as the Site for a New City Hall](#)
- [Councilmember Hedge-Morrell Participates in District "D" Community Events](#)
- [Civil District Court Rules on Motion in Council Emails Case, Council Has Fulfilled Its Public Records Request Obligations](#)
- [Councilmember Head Hosts Neighborhood Clean-Up Sweeps and Community Outreach Event](#)
- [City Council July 23, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary](#)
- [Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson Joins Local, State and National Leaders to Announce Legislation Authorizing Corps of Engineers to Pursue Effective Outfall Canal Protection for New Orleans](#)
- [Councilmember Willard-Lewis Provides Information on Upcoming Events and Important Litigation to District "E" Constituents](#)
- [Councilmember Midura Statement Re: 2010 City Council Election](#)
- [Council Receives Update on Repairs at Cut Off Playground and Community Center in Algiers](#)
- [City Council July 2, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary](#)
- [Council President Fielkow Statement: Calls Gov. Jindal's Veto of Funding For New Orleans Adolescent Hospital Irresponsible; Sponsors Forum for Legislative Override](#)



  
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New Orleans City Council

District D  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

Media Advisory

August 3, 2009



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
To Kick Off "Crime Night Out"  
Tomorrow in Ponchartrain Park

**What:** District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell will be joined in her district tomorrow night by Mayor Ray Nagin and New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Superintendent Warren Riley to kick off the 26th annual Kelly Marrison National Night Out Against Crime. The event will be commemorated at 179 block parties across the City tomorrow evening, but the primary event will be at the intersection of Press Drive and

Prentiss Avenue in Pontchartrain Park. The kickoff block party is free and there will be food and entertainment, as well as demonstrations of crime fighting equipment.

"District D is proud to host this kickoff party," said Councilmember Hedge-Morrell. "Come out to show your support and band together with neighbors to make a statement against crime."

After kicking off the night in Pontchartrain Park, Councilmember Hedge-Morrell will visit many other National Night Out block parties in District "D."

"This event is designated to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, reduce violent crime and generate support for and participation in local anti-crime programs," said NOPD 3rd District Commander Greg Elder. "Together we want to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships to bring back this great city."

**When:** Tuesday, August 4th  
6 p.m.

**Where:** Press Drive at Prentiss Avenue  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Who:** District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
NOPD Superintendent Warren Riley  
Mayor Nagin  
Community members

**Contact:** Joshua Barnett  
Director of Communications  
Office of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
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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 Arnie Fielkow Honors CREST  
And Intl. School of Fine & Performing Arts at Live Oak Elementary  
During Tomorrow's Council Meeting**

News Release

August 5, 2009

Contact:  
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[jguillet@cityofno.com](mailto:jguillet@cityofno.com)

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New Orleans, LA - August 5, 2009 - Tomorrow at the regular City Council meeting, members will vote on Resolution R-09-404 in support of the Coastal Restoration and Enhancement through Science and Technology (CREST) Program.

"Coastal restoration is critical to the survival of our area and requires a clear understanding of the problem with the mission of developing the best solution. CREST serves as a much needed resource by providing the latest science and best technologies," said Council President Fielkow.

Established in 2003, CREST utilizes the exceptional concentration of coastal restoration scientists and researchers found in Louisiana and provides training for the next generation of scientists by supporting graduate and post-graduate students. 11 universities in Louisiana, including four in New Orleans - Loyola University of New Orleans, Southern University of New Orleans, Tulane University of New Orleans, University of New Orleans, as well as, the University of Southern Mississippi have joined CREST as Member Universities. However, funding for CREST is extremely vulnerable, and through this Resolution, the Council expresses its support for the CREST Program and urges the State's Congressional Delegation to work with their colleagues in the U.S. Congress and with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration to ensure continued financial support of this important program.

Council President Fielkow will host an Order of Business for and present a Proclamation to the world-renowned Batiste musical family, the Recovery School District (RSD), Greater New Orleans Afterschool Partnership and the New Orleans South African Connection for partnering to establish and administer the International School of Fine and Performing Arts at Live Oak Elementary. The school will serve as the RSD's flagship arts school and students will be taught by acclaimed artists from around the world. The curriculum will supplement traditional academic subjects with quality arts education,

music, drama, dance, and the visual arts. The group has also put together a short musical performance, which will take place prior to the Council meeting.

Also on tomorrow's agenda Council President Fielkow has requested a presentation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the June 2011 deadline to provide a quality system of protection for a 100-year storm. Appearing before the Council to present status reports will be Corps officials and Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority's East Executive Director Tim Doody.

In 2007, the US Congress allocated more than \$12 billion to the Corps to repair Katrina-related damages, provide long-term solutions to pre-existing unsound structures and completely strengthen the City's hurricane defenses to combat a 100-year storm. As project timetables become more clear, the Corps has stated that it may not be able to complete its 100-year storm protection by the June 2011 deadline, and Council President Fielkow has requested that Corps officials testify to the Council on the matter

Also at the request of Council President Fielkow, Justin Augustine of Veolia Transportation will report on the Regional Transit Authority's plans to expand the streetcar system.

Tomorrow's City Council Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

### **New Orleans City Council**

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## City Council Announces Nominations For the Public-Private Partnership Board

News Release

August 5, 2009

Contact:  
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New Orleans, LA - August 5, 2009 - At tomorrow's regular City Council meeting, Councilmembers will vote on Motion M-09-406, a measure finalizing the nomination of six local community leaders for the New Orleans Economic Development Council (NOEDC) Board of Directors.

At its June 2 meeting, the City Council voted unanimously on an Ordinance authored by Council President Arnie Fielkow, and co-authored by District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, which established a public-private partnership dedicated to overseeing economic development in New Orleans. The Ordinance dedicated \$2 million from the 2008 Economic Development Fund millage. A 17-member board consisting of individuals with diverse public, private and non-profit backgrounds will lead the NOEDC and will guide the organization's mission, goals and strategic objectives.

"This is going to create a long-term vision for New Orleans," said Council President Fielkow. "It will change the landscape of economic development in our city and will establish a development strategy that benefits everyone."

The City Council submitted six NOEDC board nominations, with each Councilmember proposing one name for consideration, barring Council President Fielkow who abstained from submitting a nomination in favor of allowing all other Councilmembers a candidate. In addition, other

names will be submitted by Mayor C. Ray Nagin, the Mayor's Executive Assistant for Development, the Chairman of the City Planning Commission, the Chairman of the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, and representatives from the private and non-governmental sectors. An Advisory Committee consisting of local university presidents will review the nominations and make the final selections. Of the nominations submitted by the City Council, two will be selected by the Committee.

The following are the names of the nominees submitted by the Councilmembers:

- Donald "Boysie" Bollinger, President, CEO and Board Chairman of Bollinger Shipyards
- Sheila Burns
- Vaughn Fauria, President of NewCorp, Inc.
- Gaye Anderson Frederic, Chief Operating Officer of Jefferson Parish Development Commission
- Marshall Page, Attorney and Partner of Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrère & Denègre L.L.P.
- James Williams, Williams Construction and Building Company L.L.C. & Williams Acquisitions and Consulting L.L.C.

Tomorrow's City Council meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

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## City Council Announces Nominations For the Public-Private Partnership Board

News Release

August 6, 2009

Contact:  
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City Council Education Committee  
Hears Presentation from  
Teaching Responsible Earth Education Program

News Release

August 5, 2009

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Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

New Orleans, LA - August 5, 2009 - Today, the City Council Education Committee heard a presentation from Debi Theobald, Coordinator of Earthkeepers Program for Teaching Responsible Earth Education (T.R.E.E.) program.

Earthkeepers, a three-day outdoor classroom program for fourth grade students, is a curriculum-based environmental science program in which students learn basic scientific concepts including energy flow, cycles, interrelationships and change. Students also explore the natural world with the goal of using their knowledge and awareness to make personal commitments for environmental change.



Debi Theobald, Coord. of Earthkeepers Program for T.R.E.E., along with two T.R.E.E Staffers

The program takes place at Jean Lafitte's National Historic Park and Preserve and at T.R.E.E.'s outdoor classroom. The program is offered to New Orleans area students from November through February.

Education Committee Chair Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "This program is fantastic. I want the public to know about it, so more of our young people can participate."

For more information on the T.R.E.E. program visit [www.treetalk.org](http://www.treetalk.org).

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**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session  
Thursday, August 6th at 10 a.m.  
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

**What:** Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Resolution supporting the Louisiana Recovery Authority directing surplus recovery dollars to remediate blight and redevelop neighborhoods in New Orleans
- Resolution expressing support for the Coastal Restoration Enhancement Science Technology (CREST) Program and urging the state's Congressional Delegation to work to ensure continued funding of this program
- Report on and Resolution supporting the action of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Board of Commissioners to expand the streetcar system
- Motion submitting to the Advisory Committee of University Presidents the Council's six nominations for the board of the New Orleans Economic Development Corporation
- Presentation celebrating the life of Edwin Hampton, Music Director of St. Augustine High School, and presenting Tamara Hingle, his daughter, and Father Joseph M. Doyle, S.S.J., President of St. Augustine High School, with Resolutions in Mr. Hampton's memory
- Presentation from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority on the progress of 100-year storm protection and its June

## 2011 deadline

- Presentation from the Batiste family, the Recovery School District (RSD), Live Oak Elementary and the Greater New Orleans Afterschool Partnership on the new International School of Fine and Performing Arts at Live Oak Elementary

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, August 6, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
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Email: [rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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City Council August 6, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

August 6, 2009

Contact:  
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**New Orleans, LA - August 6, 2009** - Today, the New Orleans City Council addressed a request from the District Attorney regarding case transfers, and passed Motions submitting the Council's six nominations for the board of the New Orleans Economic Development Corporation and approving the City Council's Hurricane Emergency Preparedness Plan.

The Council also passed an emergency Motion allowing for the immediate allocation of additional funds for security services at Criminal District Court, and Ordinances establishing the criteria for the assignment of take home vehicles and a moratorium to preserve the quality of District "D" neighborhoods.

Additionally, the Council addressed a report on and passed a Resolution supporting the action of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) to expand the streetcar system.

The Council also addressed presentations on the progress of 100-year storm protection, celebrating the life of Edwin Hampton, Music Director of St. Augustine High School, and announcing the new International School of Fine and Performing Arts at Live Oak Elementary.

### ***Addressed Security at Criminal District Court***



The Council passed an emergency Motion M-09-409, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, to provide for the immediate adoption of Ordinance Calendar Nos. 27,615 and 27,616, which will allow for allocation of additional funds to Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman for maintaining security services and measures at Criminal Court.

The Council moved that a state of emergency exists as a result of the inability of the Criminal Sheriff to continue providing critical security services and measures including metal detection screening on a daily basis at the Criminal Court building, due to a lack of funding. The Home Rule Charter provides a means by which these Ordinances may be adopted immediately due to the existence of this emergency.

The Motion reflects the Council's belief that the Criminal Court is a major component of the City's criminal justice system and requires a high level of security in order to protect the lives and safety of the City's workers, citizens and visitors.

### ***Addressed Request from District Attorney Regarding Case Transfers***



***District Attorney  
Leon Cannizzaro***

District Attorney (DA) Leon Cannizzaro appeared before the Council to request that the Council pass an Ordinance allowing for the transfer of simple possession of marijuana cases from Criminal District Court to Municipal Court. Cannizzaro also requested that the Ordinance allow police officers to issue a ticket to, rather than make an arrest of, individuals charged with simple possession of marijuana.

Cannizzaro informed the Council that his office is currently dealing with 2,100 open cases, a third of which involve simple possession of marijuana. By current law, simple possession of marijuana offenders must be arrested and taken to Central Lockup and the case must go to Criminal Court.

The DA stated that the Ordinance will allow the Criminal Court and the DA to focus on dealing with more serious charges, use resources more efficiently, relieve crowded conditions in jail, and cut costs, while still ensuring that offenders are held accountable. Cannizzaro ensured the Council these measures would not apply to those cases dealing with offenders charged with possession of large amounts of marijuana or dealing marijuana.



Councilmember Carter

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "We appreciate the District Attorney making us aware of this issue. The DA's proposal will affect the entire criminal justice system and must be considered carefully. We will bring representatives from all the relevant criminal justice agencies to the table for a full and complete discussion of the proposal."

At the request of several Councilmembers, Criminal Justice Committee Chair Councilmember Carter stated that this matter would be placed as the first item on the agenda for the Criminal Justice Committee meeting to be held Wednesday, August 12 at 10 a.m. in the Council Chamber.

### *Established Criteria for Assignment of Take Home Vehicles*



The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,574, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, to establish criteria for the assignment of take home vehicles and to exempt public safety and service departments from the restrictions on assignments of take home vehicles.

Specifically, the Ordinance provides that within the executive branch of government vehicles will be assigned to employees providing that the vehicle is used to perform a critical function that contributes to the overall operations and recovery of the City and maintenance of its infrastructure, and the vehicle is used to respond to critical needs on a 24-hour basis.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "Our City is still recovering and we need to ensure that all departments contributing to the rebuilding of this City have the tools and resources necessary to do their jobs. Ensuring that these departments and staff have access to vehicles when necessary will help them to perform their duties in an efficient and timely manner."

## *Approved Hurricane Emergency Preparedness Plan*



The Council passed Motion M-09-387, approving the City Council's Hurricane Emergency Preparedness Plan and stating that such plan be implemented under the circumstances delineated in the plan and in accordance with its terms.

Rule 47 of the Council's Rules and Regulations requires that the Council establish an Emergency Preparedness Plan. The plan was developed in coordination with the Office of Emergency Preparedness of the City's Office of Homeland Security.

The plan provides mechanisms to ensure that the City Council can sustain operational capacity under emergency conditions.

## *Received Report on Progress of 100-Year Storm Protection*



*Col. Greg Gunter & Col. Bob Sinkler of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers & Tim Doody of Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East*

Col. Greg Gunter and Col. Bob Sinkler of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Tim Doody, Executive Director of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East, appeared before the Council to present status reports on the progress of meeting the June 2011 deadline to provide a quality system of protection for a 100-year storm.

The representatives expressed their commitment to meeting the June 2011 deadline and to providing the citizens of New Orleans with the storm protection they deserve. They also gave an overview of the planned flood protection system, the programmatic schedule to meet their deadlines, the various contracts projected past June 1, 2011, and the status of current projects related to achieving 100-year storm protection.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "We thank you for keeping us up to date on the progress of reaching this important deadline for 100-year storm protection. This is a vital piece of our hurricane preparedness plan,

and we must do everything we can to expedite the completion of this project."

### ***Established Moratorium to Preserve Quality of District "D" Neighborhoods***



*Councilmember Hedge-Morrell*

The Council approved Ordinance Calendar No. 27,594, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, that established a temporary moratorium in Council District "D" on the opening of new tattoo parlors, as well as bars, cocktail lounges, package liquor stores, grocery stores, and restaurants. The Ordinance also extends the moratorium on the issuance or renewal of alcoholic beverage permits to anyone who doesn't already have an active alcoholic beverage outlet.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said "There are two reasons for this Ordinance. One is an incident in my district where the Department of Safety and Permits issued an alcoholic beverage permit in error; the other is to prevent businesses like tattoo parlors from opening in inappropriate locations. This Ordinance protects the residents from these types of businesses opening in their neighborhood without a public hearing."

The Ordinance includes a provision that allows anyone interested in opening one of the prohibited establishments to appeal to the City Council for a waiver of the moratorium.

Hedge-Morrell continued, "This is something my constituents have asked for - this legislation allows the Council to have a more active role in deciding what types of businesses will be allowed in our neighborhoods in District "D"."

### ***Supported Expansion of Streetcar System***



*RTA representatives  
Mark Major & Justin Augustine*

At the request of Council President Fielkow, Justin Augustine, Regional Vice President of Veolia Transportation, Mark Major, General Manager of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA), and other RTA representatives appeared before the Council to give a report on the RTA's expansion of the streetcar system.

The representatives presented the Council with information on a study, completed by RTA, to determine the feasibility of future streetcar

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### ***Submitted Nominations for Board of the New Orleans Economic Development Corporation***



Councilmember-at-Large  
Felkew

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The Council submitted six NOEDC board nominations:

- Donald "Boysie" Bollinger, President, CEO and Board Chairman of Bollinger Shipyards, nominated by Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
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- Vaughn Fauria, President of NewCorp, Inc., nominated by District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- Gaye Anderson Frederic, Chief Operating Officer of Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission, nominated by District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
- Marshall Page, Attorney and Partner of Jones, Walker, Waechter,

Poitevent, Carrère & Denègre L.L.P., nominated by District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head

- James Williams, Williams Construction and Building Company L.L.C. & Williams Acquisitions and Consulting L.L.C., nominated by District "C" Councilmember James Carter

Other names will be submitted by Mayor C. Ray Nagin, the Mayor's Executive Assistant for Development, the Chairman of the City Planning Commission, the Chairman of the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, and representatives from the private and non-governmental sectors. An Advisory Committee of local University Presidents will review the nominations and make the final selections. Of the nominations submitted by the Council, two will be selected by the Committee.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "I am pleased that the Motion carrying the City Council's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) board nominations passed. However, I am highly frustrated that the Mayor has obstructed the progress of the city's new economic development partnership by suspending the PPP board nomination process indefinitely as an apparent retaliation for the outcome of the Council's vote on the Chevron building."

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*Councilmembers with Rev. Doyle, Rev. Raphael, Tamara Hingle and Yakitha Hingle*

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Resolution [R-09-374](#), authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell and passed at the July 23rd Council meeting, honored Hampton as the legendary band Director and Founder of the iconic St. Augustine High School Marching 100.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "Thank you for sharing your father with this City. He was a great inspiration to so many people throughout his community and he gave our children the opportunity to involve themselves in music and the arts. His legacy will continue to live on through the Marching 100."

***Addressed Presentation on New International School of Fine and Performing Arts at Live Oak Elementary***



***L to R: Damon Batiste, Leslie Williams and a RSD representative***

At the request of Councilmember Fielkow, Damon Batiste and other members of the Batiste family, a representative of the Recovery School District (RSD), Live Oak Elementary Principal Leslie Williams and Gina Warner of the Greater New Orleans Afterschool Partnership appeared before the Council to announce the new International School of Fine and Performing Arts at Live Oak Elementary.

The school will serve as the RSD's flagship arts school, and students will be taught by acclaimed artists from around the world. The representatives provided information on the curriculum to be offered at the school, which will supplement traditional academic subjects with quality arts education, music, drama, dance, and the visual arts.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "We congratulate you all for partnering to establish and administer this great new facility. We understand the importance of providing this City's children with experiences and opportunities to interact with art, culture and music - this school will serve to do just that."

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"E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.

City Council August 6, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

August 6, 2009

Contact:  
Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
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[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

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Join Our Mailing List!

**New Orleans, LA - August 6, 2009** - Today, the New Orleans City Council addressed a request from the District Attorney regarding case transfers, and passed Motions submitting the Council's six nominations for the board of the New Orleans Economic Development Corporation and approving the City Council's Hurricane Emergency Preparedness Plan.

The Council also passed an emergency Motion allowing for the immediate allocation of additional funds for security services at Criminal District Court, and Ordinances establishing the criteria for the assignment of take home vehicles and a moratorium to preserve the quality of District "D" neighborhoods.

Additionally, the Council addressed a report on and passed a Resolution supporting the action of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) to expand the streetcar system.

The Council also addressed presentations on the progress of 100-year storm protection, celebrating the life of Edwin Hampton, Music Director of St. Augustine High School, and announcing the new International School of Fine and Performing Arts at Live Oak Elementary.

### ***Addressed Security at Criminal District Court***



The Council passed an emergency Motion M-09-409, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, to provide for the immediate adoption of Ordinance Calendar Nos. 27,615 and 27,616, which will allow for allocation of additional funds to Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman for maintaining security services and measures at Criminal Court.

The Council moved that a state of emergency exists as a result of the inability of the Criminal Sheriff to continue providing critical security services and measures including metal detection screening on a daily basis at the Criminal Court building, due to a lack of funding. The Home Rule Charter provides a means by which these Ordinances may be adopted immediately due to the existence of this emergency.

The Motion reflects the Council's belief that the Criminal Court is a major component of the City's criminal justice system and requires a high level of security in order to protect the lives and safety of the City's workers, citizens and visitors.

### ***Addressed Request from District Attorney Regarding Case Transfers***



***District Attorney  
Leon Cannizzaro***

District Attorney (DA) Leon Cannizzaro appeared before the Council to request that the Council pass an Ordinance allowing for the transfer of simple possession of marijuana cases from Criminal District Court to Municipal Court. Cannizzaro also requested that the Ordinance allow police officers to issue a ticket to, rather than make an arrest of, individuals charged with simple possession of marijuana.

Cannizzaro informed the Council that his office is currently dealing with 2,100 open cases, a third of which involve simple possession of marijuana. By current law, simple possession of marijuana offenders must be arrested and taken to Central Lockup and the case must go to Criminal Court.

The DA stated that the Ordinance will allow the Criminal Court and the DA to focus on dealing with more serious charges, use resources more efficiently, relieve crowded conditions in jail, and cut costs, while still ensuring that offenders are held accountable. Cannizzaro ensured the Council these measures would not apply to those cases dealing with offenders charged with possession of large amounts of marijuana or dealing marijuana.



Councilmember Carter

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "We appreciate the District Attorney making us aware of this issue. The DA's proposal will affect the entire criminal justice system and must be considered carefully. We will bring representatives from all the relevant criminal justice agencies to the table for a full and complete discussion of the proposal."

At the request of several Councilmembers, Criminal Justice Committee Chair Councilmember Carter stated that this matter would be placed as the first item on the agenda for the Criminal Justice Committee meeting to be held Wednesday, August 12 at 10 a.m. in the Council Chamber.

### *Established Criteria for Assignment of Take Home Vehicles*



The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,574, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, to establish criteria for the assignment of take home vehicles and to exempt public safety and service departments from the restrictions on assignments of take home vehicles.

Specifically, the Ordinance provides that within the executive branch of government vehicles will be assigned to employees providing that the vehicle is used to perform a critical function that contributes to the overall operations and recovery of the City and maintenance of its infrastructure, and the vehicle is used to respond to critical needs on a 24-hour basis.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "Our City is still recovering and we need to ensure that all departments contributing to the rebuilding of this City have the tools and resources necessary to do their jobs. Ensuring that these departments and staff have access to vehicles when necessary will help them to perform their duties in an efficient and timely manner."

## *Approved Hurricane Emergency Preparedness Plan*



The Council passed Motion M-09-387, approving the City Council's Hurricane Emergency Preparedness Plan and stating that such plan be implemented under the circumstances delineated in the plan and in accordance with its terms.

Rule 47 of the Council's Rules and Regulations requires that the Council establish an Emergency Preparedness Plan. The plan was developed in coordination with the Office of Emergency Preparedness of the City's Office of Homeland Security.

The plan provides mechanisms to ensure that the City Council can sustain operational capacity under emergency conditions.

## *Received Report on Progress of 100-Year Storm Protection*



*Col. Greg Gunter & Col. Bob Sinkler of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers & Tim Doody of Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East*

Col. Greg Gunter and Col. Bob Sinkler of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Tim Doody, Executive Director of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East, appeared before the Council to present status reports on the progress of meeting the June 2011 deadline to provide a quality system of protection for a 100-year storm.

The representatives expressed their commitment to meeting the June 2011 deadline and to providing the citizens of New Orleans with the storm protection they deserve. They also gave an overview of the planned flood protection system, the programmatic schedule to meet their deadlines, the various contracts projected past June 1, 2011, and the status of current projects related to achieving 100-year storm protection.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "We thank you for keeping us up to date on the progress of reaching this important deadline for 100-year storm protection. This is a vital piece of our hurricane preparedness plan,

and we must do everything we can to expedite the completion of this project."

### ***Established Moratorium to Preserve Quality of District "D" Neighborhoods***



*Councilmember Hedge-Morrell*

The Council approved Ordinance Calendar No. 27,594, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, that established a temporary moratorium in Council District "D" on the opening of new tattoo parlors, as well as bars, cocktail lounges, package liquor stores, grocery stores, and restaurants. The Ordinance also extends the moratorium on the issuance or renewal of alcoholic beverage permits to anyone who doesn't already have an active alcoholic beverage outlet.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said "There are two reasons for this Ordinance. One is an incident in my district where the Department of Safety and Permits issued an alcoholic beverage permit in error; the other is to prevent businesses like tattoo parlors from opening in inappropriate locations. This Ordinance protects the residents from these types of businesses opening in their neighborhood without a public hearing."

The Ordinance includes a provision that allows anyone interested in opening one of the prohibited establishments to appeal to the City Council for a waiver of the moratorium.

Hedge-Morrell continued, "This is something my constituents have asked for - this legislation allows the Council to have a more active role in deciding what types of businesses will be allowed in our neighborhoods in District "D"."

### ***Supported Expansion of Streetcar System***



*RTA representatives  
Mark Major & Justin Augustine*

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"E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.

## City Council Announces Nominations For the Public-Private Partnership Board

News Release

August 6, 2009

**Contact:**

Jaime Guillet

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Councilmember-at-  
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**New Orleans, LA - August 6, 2009**

- At today's regular City Council meeting, Councilmembers will vote on Motion M-09-406, a measure finalizing the nomination of six local community leaders for the New Orleans Economic Development Council (NOEDC) Board of Directors.

At its June 2 meeting, the City Council voted unanimously on an Ordinance, authored by Council President Arnie Fielkow and co-authored by District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, which established a public-private partnership dedicated to overseeing economic development in New Orleans. The Ordinance dedicated \$2 million from the 2008 Economic Development Fund millage. A 17-member board consisting of individuals with diverse public, private and non-profit backgrounds will lead the NOEDC and will guide the organization's mission, goals and strategic objectives.

"This is going to create a long-term vision for New Orleans," said Council President Fielkow. "It will change the landscape of economic development in our city and will establish a development strategy that benefits everyone."

The City Council submitted six NOEDC board nominations, with each Councilmember proposing one name for consideration, barring Council President Fielkow who abstained from submitting a nomination in favor of allowing all other Councilmembers a candidate. In addition, other names will be submitted by Mayor C. Ray Nagin, the Mayor's Executive Assistant for Development, the Chairman of the City Planning Commission, the Chairman of the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, and representatives from the private and non-governmental sectors. An Advisory Committee consisting of local university presidents will review the nominations and make the final selections. Of the nominations submitted by the City Council, two will be selected by the Committee.

The following are the names of the nominees submitted by the Councilmembers:

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*(Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson)*
  
- **Sheila Burns**, President, Burns Management Group; Vice President Quick Courier Services; and Vice President Global Parking Systems  
*(District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis)*
  
- **Vaughn Fauria**, President of NewCorp, Inc.  
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- **Gaye Anderson Frederic**, Chief Operating Officer of Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission  
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Statement

August 6, 2009



**Council President Fielkow  
Responds to Mayor's Suspension  
Of Public-Private Partnership**

New Orleans, LA - August 6, 2009 - "The Mayor's decision today to indefinitely suspend the city's first public-private partnership (PPP) is highly detrimental to the citizens of New Orleans and reflects a thinly camouflaged retaliation for the outcome of the Council's vote on the Chevron building. It is an incredibly irresponsible and retaliatory reaction that only hurts the economic development efforts of the city, which have been woefully lacking for a number of years. Development of the PPP has been a studied, collaborative two-year effort with a nominating process that was recommended by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and adopted by the Administration. It is my understanding the IEDC's referenced July letter was intended to help guide the PPP board selection process - not to shut it down - and the IEDC has been working closely with the private-sector nominating organizations to clarify that process.

"The PPP was an effort to incorporate the "best practices" of economic development entities which have proven to be successful in many other cities. It is harmful that the Mayor is unwilling, despite his former support, to bring New Orleans into the 21st century in this area.

"The Mayor's action today is also disrespectful of the Council's past vote in support of funding for the PPP and the nomination of PPP board members by the Council, an item on the Council's agenda today. I and many others stand willing and ready to perfect and complete the process of establishing the city's first dedicated economic development organization and to ensure an inclusive membership on the PPP board. New Orleans deserves better than governance by retaliation. Real leadership is needed to fulfill our commitment to the future success of the city."

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Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
Leads Council to Establish Moratorium  
To Preserve Quality of District "D" Neighborhoods  
At Today's Regular Council Meeting

News Release

August 6, 2009

Contact:  
Joshua Barnett  
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Media Advisory

August 6, 2009



**Council President Fielkow  
Leads Delegation to Texas**

*Group will Tour Big League Dreams Park  
And Hawaiian Falls Water Park*

**What:** City Council President Arnie Fielkow will travel with a number of local elected officials, including Congressman Anh "Joseph" Cao, and business leaders to visit the Big League Dreams Park and Hawaiian Falls Water Park Complex in Mansfield, Texas to explore the possibility of bringing a similar complex to the Six Flags site in eastern New Orleans. Pat Kight and Steve Meyers of Big League and Hawaiian Falls, respectively, will lead the tour. Following the tour, the group will participate in a questions and answers session with executives of the corporations. The visit is a follow-up to a meeting convened by Council President Fielkow, held earlier this summer in New Orleans.

Big League Dreams is best known for its youth sports parks with softball and baseball fields that are designed and built as replicas of famous, historic major league stadiums. Hawaiian Falls is a chain composed of three water parks and one golf venue. Both representatives of the corporations and community leaders believe that this endeavor could be a major boost to eastern New Orleans.

"I am excited to tour the Big League Dreams Park and Hawaiian Falls Water Park Complex this weekend with other city, state and community leaders," said Fielkow. "As Chairman of the Special Development Projects and Economic Development and Youth and Recreation committees, I feel it is important to explore all potential opportunities for redevelopment of the former Six Flags site and revitalization of eastern New Orleans. I have visited previously with both of these nationally respected companies and am excited about the positive effect a combined world class youth sports complex and water park could have for the entire New Orleans region."

*NOTE: Members of the media are invited to join the tour.*

- Who:**
- Council President Arnie Fielkow
  - State Senator Ann Duplessis, LA, District 2
  - State Senator Ed Murray, LA, District 4
  - State Representative Austin Badon, LA, District 100
  - State Representative Cedric Richmond, LA, District 101
  - Congressman Anh "Joseph" Cao, LA, District 2
  - Pat Kight, Big League Dreams Park
  - Steven Mayer, Hawaiian Falls Water Park
  - Members of the Eastern New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission

Invited Guests

- Mayor C. Ray Nagin Administration officials
- Members of the New Orleans City Council

**When:** Saturday, August 8, 2009  
11 a.m.

**Where:** Mansfield City Hall  
1200 East Broad Street  
Mansfield, Texas  
(Click [here](#) for a map)

**Contact:** Jaime Guillet  
Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow  
Ph: (504) 658-1063  
Email: [jlguillet@cityofno.com](mailto:jlguillet@cityofno.com)

**New Orleans City Council**

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New Orleans City Council

District E  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Willard-Lewis

Media Advisory

August 28, 2009

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**Councilmember Willard-Lewis  
To Host 4th Annual Historic Lower Ninth Ward Anniversary  
& Lower Ninth Ward Council Memorial Tribute  
This Weekend**

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis will host the 4th Annual Historic Lower Ninth Ward Anniversary and the Lower Ninth Ward Council Memorial Tribute this weekend.

Both events will be held at the intersection of North Claiborne Avenue and Tennessee Street at the Lower Ninth Ward Monument located at the foot of the Claiborne Bridge. Click [here](#) for a map of the location.

## 4th Annual Historic Lower Ninth Ward Anniversary

**What:** Annual Anniversary event in honor of the many families that lost loved ones due to the destruction and devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

**Who:**

- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
- The Historic Lower Ninth Ward Senior Council
- Community members

**When:** Saturday, August 29th  
9 a.m.

## Lower Ninth Ward Council Memorial Tribute

**What:** A tribute remembering the many lives lost in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

**Who:**

- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
- Lower 9th Ward Neighborhood Council Inc.
- Community members

**When:** Sunday, August 30th  
1 p.m.

**Contact:** Clarence Bickham  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
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Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee  
To Address Updates on DBE Enforcement and TIF Policy  
In Joint Session with Budget Committee Tomorrow Morning

**What:** Tomorrow's joint meeting of the New Orleans City Council's Special Development Projects and Economic Development (SDPED) Committee and Budget Committee will include important updates from Administration officials on two critical new city policies involving business: enforcement of increased city contracts to companies certified as Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) and/or locally-owned companies, and a presentation on Mayor Ray Nagin's new Tax Increment Finance (TIF) policy, established by executive order July 17.

Council President Arnie Fielkow has emphasized the need for greater enforcement of the city's existing DBE/local contracting policy, particularly following the council's unanimous passage of new DBE/local contracting requirements. The legislation, authored by Councilman Fielkow, guarantees small, local and disadvantaged businesses obtain greater access to city contracts and any business that includes the use of city funds by codifying and extending the DBE goals set forth by the mayor's executive order. The second half of increasing the frequency of DBE contracts is enforcement, which is why Councilman Fielkow has asked the administration to review and improve its enforcement procedures over this last month. Alvin Porter, the city's DBE compliance officer, will be on hand for testimony as will representatives of the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) and Intergovernmental Relations.

Another update will come from Intergovernmental Relations in the form of a full report on the mayor's new Tax Increment Finance policy, established by executive order July 17.

To view the Committee meeting agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Tuesday, August 11, 2009  
10 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests

- City Administrator Alvin Porter
- CAO representative
- Intergovernmental Relations representative

SDPED Committee Members

- Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
- Alternate: District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head

Budget Committee Members

- Chair: District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
- District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
- Alternate: Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

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**Council President Arnie Fielkow  
Leads Successful Site Visit to Dallas**

News Release

August 11, 2009

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New Orleans, LA - August 11, 2009 - Council President Arnie Fielkow says his and other New Orleans delegates' Saturday site visit to Big League Dreams Park and Hawaiian Falls Water Park Complex near Dallas returned great opportunities and inspiration for a similar development in New Orleans. Council President Fielkow, a cadre of Louisiana elected officials and eastern New Orleans economic development leaders traveled to the sports complex and water park in Mansfield, Texas as a proactive effort to explore viable opportunities to return the

currently-defunct Six Flags property in eastern New Orleans back to commerce.

Council President Fielkow led a delegation of approximately 25 elected officials and local economic development leaders on a five-hour tour of the two facilities with the hope of garnering interest in a similar potential development for the East. After visiting the facility first hand and witnessing both the direct and indirect economic impact the development provides for the area in Mansfield, Council President Fielkow feels confident it would be a good investment for the city of New Orleans to make, particularly for the Six Flags site in the East, though he remains open-minded to other viable proposals.

"I have always been open-minded to a sports complex, water park, theme park or other comparable development for the old Six Flags site and I don't believe we should lock ourselves into any single



project," said Fielkow. "My primary concerns for any facility that would replace Six Flags are that the proposal be a catalyst for the area's growth, that it be successful and sustainable for the long term, that it be affordable and that it contributes to a first-rate quality of life for the surrounding community. After seeing the Big League Dreams Park for myself, and witnessing the real economic impact synergies that exist of both a direct and indirect nature, I have real optimism for a similar investment in New Orleans. These are very family-friendly, professionally-run and safe facilities."

Louisiana legislators joining Council President Fielkow for the site tour included U.S. Congressman Anh "Joseph" Cao, State Senators Ann Duplessis and Edwin Murray, State Representatives Austin Badon and Cedric Richmond and members of the Eastern New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission (ENONAC).

Big League Dreams maintains nine facilities around the nation and the business model for Big League Dreams is an intriguing and viable one for New Orleans. Municipalities pay for the cost of building the sports complex. City government and Big League Dreams then execute a 30-year lease and revenue-sharing agreement. Once construction is complete, the Big League Dreams company is 100-percent responsible for maintaining, operating and booking all sports events. During the day, Monday through Thursday, the entire complex is open free of charge to the public. In the evening Monday through Thursday, the facility is available for local sports leagues and school teams. During the weekend, the complex is used for regional tournament play, which brings in significant economic impact to the community. Given New Orleans' popularity, it is expected that such tournaments would draw from a regional and perhaps national base.

Several attendees had these words about the visit:

ENONAC Executive Board Member Tangee Wall--

"The trip to Big League Dreams and Hawaiian Falls was fabulous," said Wall. "This proposed project represents true economic development for eastern New Orleans, as well as the city. This project has unlimited potential to create an environment that presents a unique facet of tourism for the city. Big League Dreams and Hawaiian Falls is just what the city needs. It brings a safe family atmosphere, first-class sports entertainment and a fun tropical theme water park. A combination Big League Dreams and Hawaiian Falls development is a major anchor and a viable catalyst for economic development in the city."

U.S. Congressman Anh "Joseph" Cao, District 2--

"I was pleased to join Councilman Fielkow and the other leaders of

our district in opening up dialogue on this issue," said Congressman Cao. "The commerce, jobs and opportunity that can potentially develop from this project are enormous and I look forward to receiving more details about how we can move forward for the best benefit to our district."

State Senator Ann Duplessis, District 2--

"It was a very enlightening trip", said Duplessis. "I am excited and encouraged about the opportunity to develop a park in eastern New Orleans. This will not only have a positive impact for the city of New Orleans but to the citizens of this entire region."

Councilman Fielkow coordinated the trip as a fact-finding mission for bringing a similar development to New Orleans. The Dallas trip also provided invaluable discussions with two top executives for the companies including Pat Kight, a park development consultant for Big League Dreams and Steve Mayers, Vice President Special Projects for Hawaiian Falls Water Park.

"I want to personally thank our delegation of local elected officials and the numerous community and business leaders of eastern New Orleans who joined us on this valuable discovery of potential options for the Six Flags site," said Council President Fielkow. "The exploration of potentially viable developments for the now defunct park demonstrates great leadership for the ultimate goals of returning that extensive piece of property back into commerce and revitalizing eastern New Orleans."

The Eastern New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission will hold a presentation on the trip on Tuesday, August 25 at 6 p.m., at St. Maria Goretti Church Center (click [here](#) for a map).

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**Council President Arnie Fielkow  
Requests Administration Formulate Specific Enforcement Plan  
For Council Ordinance on DBEs and Local Businesses**

News Release

August 11, 2009

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New Orleans  
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New Orleans, LA - August 11, 2009 - At today's joint meeting of the New Orleans City Council's Special Development Projects and Economic Development and Budget committees, City Council President Arnie Fielkow called for the administration, within 30 days, to provide a specific plan for dedicated enforcement of the city's recently-codified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) and local business utilization ordinance.

After receiving details of the administration's current DBE/local enforcement efforts from Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Julie Schwam Harris and Compliance Director Alvin Porter, Fielkow emphasized the city's need for a comprehensive, specific enforcement plan.

"We've had a compliance program since 2006 but there has been a lot of objection from minority business groups regarding not having an appropriate execution team in place," said Fielkow. "As chairman of the economic development committee, I want to see a specific plan of execution and enforcement for the law put in place in June.

"Trying to ensure compliance with a one-person office has not been successful and we can't wait for another year," Fielkow said.

Fielkow asked the administration to bring back, in no more than 30

days, a specific plan as to:

- how the current city enforcement office can be beefed up;
- the potential for outsourcing compliance as many cities have done;
- or
- the potential combination of the two

The ordinance, unanimously approved by the council in June, codifies and extends the provisions set forth by Mayor Ray Nagin's executive order establishing goals for DBE and local small business recovery. It institutes a goal that 50 percent of any project funded by the city must be controlled by local businesses. It also establishes an overall goal that 35 percent of any project funded by the city must be controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged businesses, particularly those located in damaged areas. Individual project goals shall be established on a project-by-project basis and based on availability of locally owned and disadvantaged businesses.

The legislation was overwhelmingly endorsed by the New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce, the New Orleans Business Council, the Black Economic Development Council and the Urban League of Greater New Orleans because it guarantees equity in the contracting process.

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New Orleans City Council

District D  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

Budget Committee Chair Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Addresses TIF Financing for Shopping Center in New Orleans East  
And Responsible Employer Policy  
In Joint Committee Meeting

News Release

August 11, 2009

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*Robert "Tiger" Hammond of  
AFL-CIO union and Lance J. Albin  
of Plumbers & Steamfitters union*

New Orleans, LA - August 11, 2009 -

The City Council Budget, Audit and BOR Committee and the Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee met in a joint session today to discuss issues relating to development and construction.

The Committees received a report on the status of the New Orleans East Marketplace, which the Council will consider for Tax Increment Financing at their next meeting. The developers propose to build a major shopping center around the current Lowe's in New Orleans East at I-10 and Read. The plan presented at today's meeting anticipates construction on a Wal-Mart beginning in July of 2010, with completion in May 2011. The developers also hope to include various large and small shops built in an open air "lifestyle center".

The Committees also heard a presentation from Robert "Tiger" Hammond of the AFL-CIO union and Lance J. Albin of the Plumbers & Steamfitters union. The unions are requesting the Council pass an Ordinance establishing a Responsible Employer Policy. The policy would require that contractors bidding on public projects provide health insurance, apprenticeship training, workers compensation and other benefits to

their workers. An Ordinance on this proposal is expected to come before the City Council.

Budget Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "I look forward to working with my colleagues on both of these pieces of legislation. Moving forward on this development project in New Orleans East is a big priority, the residents in the East have waited a long time for these shopping opportunities."

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Statement

August 11, 2009



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell Statement  
Re: Shooting Near St. Bernard Community Center

New Orleans, LA - August 11, 2009 - "My thoughts and prayers go out to the victims of last night's shooting near the St. Bernard Community Center. I wish those injured a speedy recovery. Fortunately, none of the injuries were life threatening, and all victims have been released from the hospital.

"Such acts of violence have no place in our city. The City Council recently allocated additional funds to increase NOPD presence throughout the city. I have been assured by Superintendent Riley of the NOPD that additional patrols will be provided in the affected area. We will continue to work to improve the safety of our residents and reduce senseless crimes such as this."

*Anyone with information is asked to call Crimestoppers at (504) 822-1111 or toll-free at 1-877-903-7867. Callers do not have to give their names or testify and can earn as much as \$2,500 for tips that lead to an indictment.*

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New Orleans  
City Council

Media Advisory

August 11, 2009

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## Recovery Committee to Receive Update On the City's Five Design-Build Regional Libraries In Session Tomorrow Afternoon

**What:** The Recovery Committee will receive a report on the City's five design-build regional libraries tomorrow, at the request of Council Vice President and Recovery Committee Co-Chair Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson. Randy Richardson, representing the City's Recovery Projects Manager, MWH, will appear before the committee.

To view the Committee meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Wednesday, August 12, 2009  
2 p.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests  
- Randy Richardson, MWH representative

Committee Members

- Co-Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
- Co-Chair: District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
- District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
- District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
- District "C" Councilmember James Carter

- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

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District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
Celebrates Freret Neighborhood Economic Development  
With Grand Opening of Village Coffee Yesterday Morning

News Release

August 12, 2009

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New Orleans  
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*Councilmember Head cuts the ribbon at Village Coffee with owners Donna and Marty Scoggins*

New Orleans, LA - August 12, 2009 - District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony yesterday morning to celebrate the grand opening of Village Coffee, another new business on the burgeoning commercial corridor on Freret Street between Jefferson Avenue and Napoleon Avenue.

Donna and Marty Scoggins, owners of the new Village Coffee location, Peter Waring, architect of the Village Coffee site and Principal of Waring Architects, L.L.C., neighborhood leaders and local residents were present for the ribbon cutting.



*Architect Peter Waring and Councilmember Head talk with a local resident in Village Coffee*

Village Coffee is located on the corner of Freret Street and Jefferson Avenue, in a former bank building (click [here](#) for map). Freret Street is designated by the City and state as an arts and culture district, therefore providing for tax breaks for historic building renovations. Village Coffee is open Monday - Friday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday - Sunday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more information about Village Coffee click [here](#).

Councilmember Head stated, "This traditional commercial corridor is seeing new life with improved code enforcement, residential development and small business development. I have worked closely with the property owners, existing and new businesses, as well as non-profit home-ownership developers to keep focus on and support for the Freret rebirth."

Head continued, "Roughly two years ago, this effort began with making zoning laws more accommodating for development along the corridor and the establishment of the Freret Saturday Market. Since then, we have seen the re-investment by Ochsner in the Baptist Campus, investment of the Village Coffee House, renovation and expansion of Freret Hardware, Sarita's Grill, Beacoup NOLA Snowballs, and the Freret Market open from Noon - 5 p.m. the first Saturday of every month.

"Soon, we will have a dentist's office on the corridor as well as Brottworx, a "green" glass art studio, Crescent City Comics, The Box Office Bar, featuring live music in the early evening, and Freret St. Po-Boys."

For more information on investing in the Freret area, please contact:

- Neighborhood Housing Services

4700 Freret St.

(504) 899-5900

<http://www.freretstreet.com/mainstreet.htm>

- Freret Business & Property Owners Association

4700 Freret St.

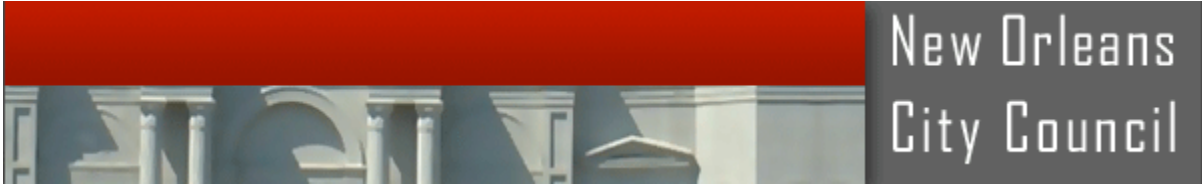
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Media Advisory

August 12, 2009

## Council President Arnie Fielkow and Councilmember Stacy Head Sponsor Free Baseball Clinic for Local Children

*New Orleans Zephyrs and Sports for a Cause to Present Donated Equipment to Kids*



Councilmember-at-Large  
Fielkow

**What:** Council President Arnie Fielkow and District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head will sponsor a free baseball clinic for local area kids on Saturday August 15 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The clinic will be held in Central City at A.L. Davis Playground, located in District "B", and is open to the public.

Joining Council President Fielkow and Councilmember Head will be New Orleans Zephyrs Chief Operating Officer, Ron Maestri and Sports for a Cause Founder and Executive Director, Brandon Totsi, who will present donated baseball gloves and bats to the kids. As chairman of the City Council's Youth and Recreation Committee, Council President Fielkow has been working with community leaders to bring programs like the baseball clinic as well as other athletic activities to the playgrounds in New Orleans. The baseball clinic is one of Councilmember Head's many ongoing efforts to encourage neighborhood involvement among residents in the Central City community.



Councilmember Head

As a fitting end to the day, Council President Fielkow is inviting the kids to attend the Zephyrs baseball game for free. The home game against the Colorado Springs Sky Sox is scheduled for 6 p.m.

**When:** Saturday, August 15, 2009  
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

**Where:** A.L. Davis Playground  
2700 LaSalle Street  
(Click [here](#) for a map)

**Who:** Council President Arnie Fielkow  
District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
Ron Maestri, New Orleans Zephyrs Chief Operating Officer  
Brandon Totsi, Sports For A Cause Founder and Executive Director

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### New Orleans City Council

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New Orleans  
City Council

Media Advisory

August 14, 2009

**Council President Arnie Fielkow and Councilmember Stacy Head  
Sponsor Free Baseball Clinic for Local Children**

*New Orleans Zephyrs and Sports for a Cause to Present Donated Equipment to Kids*



Councilmember-at-Large  
Fielkow

**What:** Council President Arnie Fielkow and District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head will sponsor a free baseball clinic for local area kids, including 20 kids from the Dryades YMCA, on Saturday, August 15th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The clinic will be held in Central City at A.L. Davis Playground, located in District "B", and is open to the public.

Joining Council President Fielkow and Councilmember Head will be New Orleans Zephyrs Chief Operating Officer, Ron Maestri and Sports For A Cause Founder and Executive Director, Brandon Totsi, who will present donated baseball gloves and bats to the kids. As Chairman of the City Council's Youth and Recreation Committee, Council President Fielkow has been working with community leaders to bring programs like the baseball clinic as well as other athletic activities to

the playgrounds in New Orleans. The baseball clinic is one of Councilmember Head's many ongoing efforts to encourage neighborhood involvement among residents in the Central City community.

As a fitting end to the day, Council President Fielkow is inviting the kids to attend the Zephyrs baseball game for free. The home game against the Colorado Springs Sky Sox is scheduled for 6 p.m.



Councilmember Head

**When:** Saturday, August 15, 2009  
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.



**Where:** A.L. Davis Playground  
2700 LaSalle Street  
(Click [here](#) for a map)

**Who:** Council President Arnie Fielkow  
District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head  
Ron Maestri, New Orleans Zephyrs Chief Operating Officer  
Brandon Totsi, Sports For A Cause Founder and Executive Director  
Dryades YMCA

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New Orleans City Council

District D  
Councilmember  
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
Focuses on Need for Transparency in RFQ Process  
In Utility Committee Meeting Today

News Release

August 17, 2009

Contact:  
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New Orleans, LA - August 17, 2009 - During the Utility Committee meeting today, District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell offered a Motion to authorize the drafting of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a new contract for the Council Utility Advisor. The current contract expires at the end of 2009. The Motion allows members of the Utility Committee to have input on the draft RFQ, and vote on the document before it is sent to the full Council for authorization.

The Motion by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell came after a Motion, by Utility Committee Chair Councilmember Shelley Midura, was withdrawn when it was amended to include the provision that the draft RFQ come back before the Utility Committee.

"I'm not going to vote to authorize that an RFQ be issued without the members of this Committee and the public having a chance to weigh in on the document," Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said. "This is about transparency, the Utility Committee should have a say on the content of the RFQ before it is released."

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Statement

August 18, 2009



**Council President Fielkow Statement:  
Responds to Nickelodeon Water and Theme Park Announcement**

New Orleans, LA - August 18, 2009 - "Today's announcement regarding the proposed new Nickelodeon water and theme park in eastern New Orleans is potentially good news for not only eastern New Orleans but also the entire metropolitan New Orleans area. Projects such as these are important to the revitalization and recovery effort of the city. As chairman of the City Council's Economic Development Committee, I have always been, and remain, committed to pursuing successful and sustainable economic development for our city.

"However, it is important that the appropriate financial due diligence be performed to ensure this proposed project is viable and can be successful for the long term. This due diligence is especially critical given the Six Flags bankruptcy and the history of other projects at the site.

"As it relates to the proposed world-class sports complex for the city of New Orleans, I believe this prospective initiative should continue to be pursued by the New Orleans leadership and citizenry. Those who attended the exploratory site visit last weekend to the Big League Dreams sports complex outside Dallas found it to be a tremendous facility, which spurred significant economic development around the project.

"Ultimately it will be up to the community to determine whether they wish to pursue this project, which I believe would bring enhanced quality of life, serve as an economic catalyst and present a recreational facility which neither exists in New Orleans nor within the Gulf Coast region.

"It is important to note this proposed sports complex and the planned Nickelodeon water and theme park are not mutually exclusive and could together present a very beneficial asset to our community."

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Media Advisory

August 18, 2009

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Youth & Recreation Committee  
To Receive Update on Security at Parks  
At Tomorrow's Meeting

**What:** Youth and Recreation Committee will receive an update from New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) officials on 2009 NORD Fall programming, as well as the security and regulations at parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities at tomorrow's meeting.

Also, on the agenda is a status report on the restoration of NORD playgrounds and the former FEMA trailer sites.

To view the Committee meeting agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Wednesday, August 19, 2009  
1 p.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** Special Guests

- Keith Wright, New Orleans Recreation Department
- Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- Julie Schwam Harris, Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations
- William Chrisman, Director of Capital Projects
- Office of Community Development
- New Orleans City Attorney's Office

Committee Members

- Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
- Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
- District "C" Councilmember James Carter
- Alternate: District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head

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**Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson  
Lobbies Louisiana Recovery Authority  
For Funding for the National World War II Museum in New Orleans**

**News Release**

**August 19, 2009**

Contact:

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**New Orleans, LA - August 19, 2009**

- Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will travel to Baton Rouge today with leaders from around the state to lobby the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) for funds for the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.

"The Museum has proved to be one of our region's greatest economic development engines," Councilmember Clarkson said. "We need the LRA to give the Museum the full funds it is requesting for its shovel-ready projects."

The Museum is undergoing a \$300 million expansion that will quadruple the size of the existing facility, including exhibit pavilions, a theater, a themed restaurant, a public parade ground, and much more.

Once this expansion is completed, the Museum will spur a \$102 million annual economic impact, bring in \$12 million each year in annual net tax revenue to Louisiana, draw 650,000 visitors annually, and create 430 permanent Louisiana jobs.

Today the Museum is requesting \$10 million from the LRA to fund the construction of its "Campaigns Pavilion." The LRA is responsible for awarding federal stimulus funds in the form of Community Development



Block Grants to shovel-ready projects around the state. The Museum has already raised millions in private funds toward this project. Once it begins, it will lead to the creation of 554 jobs and have an economic impact of \$69 million.

"I have a twenty-year affiliation with the World War II Museum - as a Museum Trustee, a State Legislator, a New Orleans District City Councilmember, and now as a Councilmember-at-Large," Councilmember Clarkson said. "From these varied perspectives, I have witnessed firsthand the economic benefit the Museum has continued to bring to our city, region, and state."

She continued, "The Museum is a vital component of the Greater New Orleans region's continued recovery. In addition to its significant economic impact, it has put the region on an international stage in a manner unparalleled by any other project in the region."

The National World War II Museum has had more than two million visitors, 80 percent of whom travel from out state. The Museum has 130,000 members nationwide.

To view a copy of the LRA meeting agenda, click [here](#).

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New Orleans City Council

Councilmember-at-Large  
Arnie Fielkow

**Council President Arnie Fielkow  
Proposes Legislation Banning Weapons  
From City Parks and Recreational Facilities**

News Release

August 19, 2009

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New Orleans, LA - August 19, 2009 - Council President Arnie Fielkow will introduce legislation Thursday, which aims to ban illegal possession of firearms or weapons in public buildings and within 1,000 feet of recreational facilities, as a response to the near-tragic, Aug. 10 shooting at the New Orleans Recreation Department's (NORD) St. Bernard Community Center.

Council President Fielkow, in an effort to make the city's parks and recreational facilities safer, will introduce an ordinance for first reading that would make it illegal for anyone to possess "any weapon or firearm, ammunition or components of firearms or ammunition, while in a public building," other than a law enforcement officer or any other persons duly authorized to carry weapons. Any person who is convicted of a violation of this section shall be fined a penalty of \$500 and imprisoned for six months, the maximum allowed under municipal law. The ordinance also would make it illegal for any person, other than law enforcement or other authorized persons, to possess or utilize weaponry within 1,000 feet of a recreational facility.

Recreational facilities are defined as any "public or privately owned and/or operated facility which is authorized, permitted or licensed for the conduct of picnics, athletic or similar leisure activities, including but not

limited to: parks, playgrounds, swimming facilities, gymnasiums, stadiums and community and neighborhood centers."

"The drive-by shooting at NORD's St. Bernard Community Center last week is a disturbing example of how far criminals have descended in their utter lack of compassion and concern for their fellow humans," said Fielkow.

"Three people were shot - thankfully not fatally - while coaches were gathered in the NORD center. We are extremely fortunate we are not, this week, burying dozens of our city's children."

"We as leaders must maximize the penalties for any callous person willing to employ a weapon in the vicinity of a public building, park or recreational facility," Fielkow said.

As a matter of procedure, once introduced, the earliest this legislation could be up for passage by a full vote of the council would be at the Sept. 3 council meeting.

In conjunction with the ordinance, Council President Fielkow is additionally filing a resolution urging the Louisiana Legislature to allow all municipalities to pass more stringent laws to address the violent crime and the abhorrent threat of violent crime against New Orleans youth.

"The city is largely pre-empted by state law when it comes to enacting legislation involving weapons use, which contributes to violent crime," said Fielkow. "For that reason, I am proposing the City Council pass the maximum penalty we are allowed to impose and, by resolution, ask that the Legislature pass additional laws next spring in an effort to deter violence against our city's most precious asset - our youth."

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Media Advisory

August 19, 2009



**Council President Fielkow  
Sponsors ACORN Housing and Community Fair  
This Saturday**

**What:** Today, New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow joined with the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) in sponsoring a community and housing fair.

"ACORN continues to service our community by championing the issues and needs of our citizens and I am honored to join them in supporting this weekend's event," said Council President Fielkow.

The fair is scheduled for Saturday, August 22 at St. Maria Goretti Church from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Representatives from financial institutions, building contractors and social service agencies will be on-hand to provide low- and moderate-income families with information on homeownership, credit counseling, rehabilitation programs, banking and health care.

**When:** Saturday, August 22, 2009  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Where:** St. Maria Goretti Church  
7300 Crowder Blvd.  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Who:**

- Council President Arnie Fielkow
- ACORN
- Representatives from financial institutions
- Building contractors
- Social service agencies

**Contact:** Jaime Guillet  
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Media Advisory

August 19, 2009

**New Orleans City Council Meets in Regular Session  
Thursday, August 20th at 10 a.m.  
Agenda Highlights Listed Below**

**What:** Among the items to be addressed at tomorrow's New Orleans City Council Meeting:

- Resolution supporting the application of the Port of New Orleans to use an Alternative Site Plan to more rapidly respond to International business needs
- Resolution expressing support for the Louisiana Dept. of Health and Hospitals, the Louisiana Public Health Initiative, and numerous public and private not-for-profit organizations for the work to provide affordable health care to the uninsured and underinsured in the Greater New Orleans region through the Primary Care Access and Stabilization Grant, and supporting efforts to create sustainable financing for high-quality community-based healthcare
- Ordinance to permit the expansion of an existing fire station (Engine House 36) and the relocation and expansion of a police station (7th District)
- Ordinances to establish penalties for collection costs relative to outstanding liens, and establishing, as part of the City's process for collection of liens, that any payment submitted for property taxes will first be applied to any outstanding liens
- Resolution expressing support for the Coastal Restoration Enhancement Science Technology (CREST) Program and urging the state's Congressional Delegation to work to ensure continued funding of this program
- Resolution and Presentation honoring and celebrating the life of Mr. John M. Glapion

- Resolution recognizing all those who have been instrumental in the formation of the Batiste Family International School of Fine and Performing Arts at Live Oak Elementary
- Presentation from ERACE Executive Board Members, updating the Council on the ERACE program initiative

To view the Meeting Agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Thursday, August 20, 2009  
10 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Contact:** Ronald J. Pursell  
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City Council August 20, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

August 20, 2009

Contact:

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**New Orleans, LA - August 20, 2009** - Today, the New Orleans City Council adopted Resolutions supporting affordable community-based health care, the Port of New Orleans' Alternative Site Plan, coastal restoration and enhancement, and the new International School of Fine and Performing Arts at Live Oak Elementary.

The Council also passed Ordinances approving the expansion of fire and police stations in District "E", and establishing a process for proper collection of property liens.

Additionally, the Council addressed a presentation from the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority on its expropriation process, and a presentation from ERACE Executive Board Members updating the Council on the organization's recent activities.

The Council addressed a Subdivision Appeal involving the subdivision of property owned by Old Morrison Partners, LP & VOB Development, LLC, after holding an Executive Session to address pending litigation related to the matter.



## *Addressed Subdivision Appeal by Lake Carmel Subdivision / Homeowners Association*



The Council held an Executive Session to address pending litigation relative to the subdivision of property owned by Old Morrison Partners, LP & VOB Development, LLC. Due to the confidentiality of the issues, they were taken up in Executive Session closed to the public.

Following the Executive Session, the Council addressed Subdivision Docket #29/09, a Subdivision Appeal by Brenda Jackson, President of the Lake Carmel Subdivision / Homeowners Association, requesting to appeal the decision of the City Planning Commission approving the Subdivision of property owned by Old Morrison Partners, LP & VOB Development, LLC Old Morrison Homes.

The Council voted to approve the Subdivision Appeal, therefore overruling the City Planning Commission's approval of Subdivision Docket #29/09.

## *Supported Affordable Community-Based Health Care*



*Clayton Williams,  
Director of Health Systems  
Development for LPHI*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-432, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, expressing support for the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI), and numerous public and private not-for-profit organizations for their work to provide affordable health care to the uninsured and underinsured in the Greater New Orleans region through the Primary Care Access and Stabilization Grant (PCASG), which expires September 30, 2010.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded \$100 million to the State of Louisiana in July 2007 through the three-year PCASG to stabilize, expand and improve community-based primary and mental health care services in the Greater New Orleans region in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Clayton Williams, Director of Health Systems Development for LPHI, appeared before the Council to offer his support for the Resolution.

The Resolution also supports continuing efforts at the local, state and federal levels to create sustainable financing for high-quality community-based health care in the Greater New Orleans region when the PCASG expires in September 2010.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "Failure to identify replacement funding will result in the closure of clinics and a significant decrease of services available to those patients who need them most. We must put a plan in place to ensure that our many uninsured and underinsured residents do not experience a lapse in health care services at the expiration of this grant."

### ***Supported Port of New Orleans Alternative Site Plan***



Councilmember-at-Large  
Clarkson

The Council passed Resolution R-09-433, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, supporting the application of the Port of New Orleans to use an Alternative Site Plan to more rapidly respond to international business needs.

The Port of New Orleans has submitted an application to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board to restructure the Port's Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) #2 so as to technologically advance the management of the FTZ and best serve both the current FTZ users and potential business start-ups, all contributing to Parish economic development.

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "This Alternative Site Plan will ensure that our Port is equipped to handle the diverse needs of international businesses. It is vital that we do all we can to support the Port of New Orleans, a catalyst for economic development in the City."

### ***Established Process for Proper Collection of Property Liens***



Councilmember Head

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar Nos. 27,603 and 27,604, authored by Councilmember Head, to establish processes to ensure proper payment of property liens.

Ordinance Calendar No. 27,603 establishes penalties for collection costs relative to outstanding liens. Ordinance Calendar No. 27,604 establishes, as part of the City's process for collection of liens, that any payment collected for property taxes will first satisfy all outstanding liens, and only when all outstanding liens are satisfied in full will payment be applied towards property taxes.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "These Ordinances will provide

the City with funds to defray the cost of legal and other services related to the collection of delinquent liens by a private attorney, as well as directly link the payment of property taxes with the payment of outstanding liens, ensuring that property owners are held responsible for liens."

### ***Supported Coastal Restoration and Enhancement Program***



Councilmember-at-Large  
Fielkow

The Council passed Resolution R-09-404, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, expressing support for the Coastal Restoration and Enhancement through Science and Technology (CREST) Program and urging the state's Congressional Delegation to work with their colleagues in the U.S. Congress and with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to ensure continued funding of this program.

CREST was established in 2003 as a cooperative effort to supply the latest research and techniques in coastal restoration for state and local managers, officials and policymakers.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "As a coastal city, we have a direct interest in the restoration of Louisiana's coast. CREST utilizes the exceptional concentration of coastal scientists and researchers found in Louisiana and provides training for the next generation of scientists by supporting graduate and post-graduate students. We encourage the continued funding of this very important program."

### ***Approved Expansion of Fire and Police Stations in District "E"***



The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,600, authored by Councilmember Willard-Lewis, to permit the expansion of an existing fire station (Engine House 36) and the relocation and expansion of a police station (7th District).

Engine House 36 is located at 5403 Read Blvd. and the 7th District police station is now located at 10555 Lake Forest Blvd.

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis said, "This Ordinance allows our first responders the ability to improve and enhance their stations and headquarters. We are so grateful to both our fire and police first responders for their dedication to this City, and we as a Council will continue to do all we can to provide them with the resources they need."

## *Addressed NORA's Expropriation Process*



*Herschel Abbott, Chair of  
NORA Board of Directors*

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This issue will be discussed in a more detailed and comprehensive hearing during an upcoming joint meeting of the Budget and Recovery Committees.

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Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "Thank you for dedicating yourselves to such an important issue. We recognize the importance of giving citizens the opportunity to speak honestly about issues that people are many times afraid to speak about, and to promote a safe and open atmosphere in which to do this."

The representatives invited the public to attend their weekly meetings, held on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - this week's meeting will take place at 618 City Park Avenue (click [here](#) for map). Visit [www.eracismneworleans.org](http://www.eracismneworleans.org) for information on future meetings and the ERACE organization.

### ***Recognized Representatives Responsible for Formation of International School of Fine & Performing Arts at Live Oak Elementary***



***L to R: Damon Batiste, Leslie Williams and a RSD representative***

The Council passed Resolution R-09-434, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, recognizing all those who have been instrumental in the formation of the Batiste Family International School of Fine & Performing Arts at Live Oak Elementary, for their extraordinary contribution to the children of New Orleans and the future of arts education in the City.

The Batiste family, the Recovery School District, Greater New Orleans Afterschool Partnerships, and New Orleans South African Connection teamed up to found and administer the Arts in Education Initiative at the new arts school at Live Oak Elementary, which is expected to serve as a feeder school for the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA). Students in the program will be taught by acclaimed artists from around the city, the country and the world.

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City Council August 20, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

August 20, 2009

Contact:

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

[rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - August 20, 2009 - Today, the New Orleans City Council adopted Resolutions supporting affordable community-based health care, the Port of New Orleans' Alternative Site Plan, coastal restoration and enhancement, and the new International School of Fine and Performing Arts at Live Oak Elementary.

The Council also passed Ordinances approving the expansion of fire and police stations in District "E", and establishing a process for proper collection of property liens.

Additionally, the Council addressed a presentation from the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority on its expropriation process, and a presentation from ERACE Executive Board Members updating the Council on the organization's recent activities.

The Council addressed a Subdivision Appeal involving the subdivision of property owned by Old Morrison Partners, LP & VOB Development, LLC, after holding an Executive Session to address pending litigation related to the matter.

## *Addressed Subdivision Appeal by Lake Carmel Subdivision / Homeowners Association*



The Council held an Executive Session to address pending litigation relative to the subdivision of property owned by Old Morrison Partners, LP & VOB Development, LLC. Due to the confidentiality of the issues, they were taken up in Executive Session closed to the public.

Following the Executive Session, the Council addressed Subdivision Docket #29/09, a Subdivision Appeal by Brenda Jackson, President of the Lake Carmel Subdivision / Homeowners Association, requesting to appeal the decision of the City Planning Commission approving the Subdivision of property owned by Old Morrison Partners, LP & VOB Development, LLC Old Morrison Homes.

The Council voted to approve the Subdivision Appeal, therefore overruling the City Planning Commission's approval of Subdivision Docket #29/09.

## *Supported Affordable Community-Based Health Care*



*Clayton Williams,  
Director of Health Systems  
Development for LPHI*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-432, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, expressing support for the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI), and numerous public and private not-for-profit organizations for their work to provide affordable health care to the uninsured and underinsured in the Greater New Orleans region through the Primary Care Access and Stabilization Grant (PCASG), which expires September 30, 2010.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded \$100 million to the State of Louisiana in July 2007 through the three-year PCASG to stabilize, expand and improve community-based primary and mental health care services in the Greater New Orleans region in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Clayton Williams, Director of Health Systems Development for LPHI, appeared before the Council to offer his support for the Resolution.



The Resolution also supports continuing efforts at the local, state and federal levels to create sustainable financing for high-quality community-based health care in the Greater New Orleans region when the PCASG expires in September 2010.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "Failure to identify replacement funding will result in the closure of clinics and a significant decrease of services available to those patients who need them most. We must put a plan in place to ensure that our many uninsured and underinsured residents do not experience a lapse in health care services at the expiration of this grant."

### ***Supported Port of New Orleans Alternative Site Plan***



Councilmember-at-Large  
Clarkson

The Council passed Resolution R-09-433, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, supporting the application of the Port of New Orleans to use an Alternative Site Plan to more rapidly respond to international business needs.

The Port of New Orleans has submitted an application to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board to restructure the Port's Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) #2 so as to technologically advance the management of the FTZ and best serve both the current FTZ users and potential business start-ups, all contributing to Parish economic development.

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "This Alternative Site Plan will ensure that our Port is equipped to handle the diverse needs of international businesses. It is vital that we do all we can to support the Port of New Orleans, a catalyst for economic development in the City."

### ***Established Process for Proper Collection of Property Liens***



Councilmember Head

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar Nos. 27,603 and 27,604, authored by Councilmember Head, to establish processes to ensure proper payment of property liens.

Ordinance Calendar No. 27,603 establishes penalties for collection costs relative to outstanding liens. Ordinance Calendar No. 27,604 establishes, as part of the City's process for collection of liens, that any payment collected for property taxes will first satisfy all outstanding liens, and only when all outstanding liens are satisfied in full will payment be applied towards property taxes.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "These Ordinances will provide

the City with funds to defray the cost of legal and other services related to the collection of delinquent liens by a private attorney, as well as directly link the payment of property taxes with the payment of outstanding liens, ensuring that property owners are held responsible for liens."

### ***Supported Coastal Restoration and Enhancement Program***



Councilmember-at-Large  
Fielkow

The Council passed Resolution R-09-404, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, expressing support for the Coastal Restoration and Enhancement through Science and Technology (CREST) Program and urging the state's Congressional Delegation to work with their colleagues in the U.S. Congress and with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to ensure continued funding of this program.

CREST was established in 2003 as a cooperative effort to supply the latest research and techniques in coastal restoration for state and local managers, officials and policymakers.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "As a coastal city, we have a direct interest in the restoration of Louisiana's coast. CREST utilizes the exceptional concentration of coastal scientists and researchers found in Louisiana and provides training for the next generation of scientists by supporting graduate and post-graduate students. We encourage the continued funding of this very important program."

### ***Approved Expansion of Fire and Police Stations in District "E"***



The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,600, authored by Councilmember Willard-Lewis, to permit the expansion of an existing fire station (Engine House 36) and the relocation and expansion of a police station (7th District).

Engine House 36 is located at 5403 Read Blvd. and the 7th District police station is now located at 10555 Lake Forest Blvd.

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis said, "This Ordinance allows our first responders the ability to improve and enhance their stations and headquarters. We are so grateful to both our fire and police first responders for their dedication to this City, and we as a Council will continue to do all we can to provide them with the resources they need."

## *Addressed NORA's Expropriation Process*



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Media Advisory

August 25, 2009



**Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Announces Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
Celebrating Completion of Robert E. Lee Blvd.  
Reconstruction Project Tomorrow in District "D"**

**What:** District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, along with the City of New Orleans Department of Public Works, announces a ribbon cutting ceremony to be held tomorrow afternoon, to celebrate the completion of the Robert E. Lee Boulevard Reconstruction Project from Wickfield Drive to Elysian Fields Avenue in District "D".

As part of the reconstruction project, approximately one-half mile of the roadway was replaced with new asphalt, including construction of a new concrete curb and gutter bottom, rehabilitation of water and drain lines, and construction of driveways, sidewalks and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramps at associated intersections.

For more information on recovery projects, visit [www.cityofno.com](http://www.cityofno.com).

**When:** Wednesday, August 26th  
1 p.m.

**Where:** Robert E. Lee Boulevard at Vermillion Boulevard  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Who:** District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
City of New Orleans Department of Public Works  
New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board  
Community members

**Contact:** Joshua Barnett  
Director of Communications  
Office of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Office: (504) 658-1040  
Cell: (504) 292-5529  
Email: [jbarnett@cityofno.com](mailto:jbarnett@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory

August 25, 2009



Councilmember Willard-Lewis  
To Host 4th Annual Candlelight Vigil on Saturday Evening  
In Honor of the Residents of New Orleans East

**What:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis will host the 4th Annual Candlelight Vigil in New Orleans East this coming Saturday, in honor of the residents who have chosen to come back to New Orleans East and help rebuild after Hurricane Katrina, and in memory of those who are unable to return. The event is open to the public.

Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "We understand the many obstacles the residents of New Orleans East have gone through the past four years, and on Saturday we would like to have a vigil in hopes to leave the past behind us, and look toward a better and brighter future. We want to give a very special thanks to Mary Queen of Vietnam and their Youth Department who will supply music for the event."

**Who:**

- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
- Residents of Nazareth Inn Senior Center
- District "D" and "E" community members and leaders
- New Orleans Fire Department
- New Orleans Police Department
- Mary Queen of Vietnam representatives

**When:** Saturday, August 29th  
7:15 pm



**Where:** Across from Nazareth Inn Senior Center  
9630 Hayne Boulevard, on the Levee  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Contact:** Clarence Bickham  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
Phone: (504) 658-1055  
Cell: (504) 485-1979  
Email: [cbickham@cityofno.com](mailto:cbickham@cityofno.com)

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Media Advisory

August 25, 2009



**CORRECTION:**  
Councilmember Willard-Lewis  
To Moderate Discussion Panel on Women's Equality  
For Newcomb College Center for Research on Women  
Tomorrow Evening

**What:** Coinciding with Women's Equality Day on August 26th, District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis will moderate a panel discussion tomorrow evening for the Women's Equality Day Forum, sponsored by the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women. This event is open to the public, and all community members and citizens are invited to attend.

The forum will bring together elected officials, community leaders, organizers and academics for a discussion on issues that affect women in Louisiana, including the failure of the Louisiana Equal Pay for Women Act, access to healthcare and workforce issues.

As August 26th coincides with the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the forum will examine the ongoing problems that women face with the knowledge that such issues are amplified in the wake of natural disasters. Research conducted by the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women shows that the 2005 storm has had a legacy impact on women's wages in New Orleans.

The Women's Equality Day Forum is in honor of the 19th Amendment, which gave women full voting rights in 1920, and the Fair Pay Restoration Act passed earlier this year.

**Who:** Moderator  
- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

Panelist  
- State Representative Barbara Norton  
- Dr. Beth Willinger, Executive Director Emeritus, Newcomb  
College Center for Research on Women

- Gwen Adams, Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now
- Julie Cherry, Louisiana Secretary Treasurer, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
- Brenda Robichaux, Principal Chief United Houma Nation

**When:** Wednesday, August 26th  
6:30 pm

**Where:** Newcomb College Center for Research on Women  
62 Newcomb Place, Tulane University  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Contact:** Clarence Bickham  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
Phone: (504) 658-1055  
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Media Advisory

August 26, 2009



**Councilmember Willard-Lewis  
To Host 4th Annual Historic Lower Ninth Ward Anniversary  
& Lower Ninth Ward Council Memorial Tribute  
This Weekend**

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis will host the 4th Annual Historic Lower Ninth Ward Anniversary and the Lower Ninth Ward Council Memorial Tribute this weekend.

Both events will be held at the intersection of North Claiborne Avenue and Tennessee Street at the Lower Ninth Ward Monument located at the foot of the Claiborne Bridge. Click [here](#) for a map of the location.

4th Annual Historic Lower Ninth Ward Anniversary

**What:** Annual Anniversary event in honor of the many families that lost loved ones due to the destruction and devastation of Hurricane's Katrina and Rita

**Who:**

- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
- The Historic Lower Ninth Ward Senior Council
- Community members

**When:** Saturday, August 29th  
9 a.m.

Lower Ninth Ward Council Memorial Tribute

**What:** A tribute remembering the many lives lost in Hurricane's Katrina and Rita

**Who:**

- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
- Lower 9th Ward Neighborhood Council Inc.
- Community members

**When:** Sunday, August 30th  
1 p.m.

**Contact:** Clarence Bickham  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
Phone: (504) 658-1055  
Cell: (504) 485-1979  
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Media Advisory

August 26, 2009



**Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
To Commemorate 4th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina  
With Bell Ringing and Wreath Laying Ceremonies  
On Saturday Morning**

**What:** Join District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell to commemorate the 4th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina with a bell ringing ceremony at the London Avenue Canal near the spot of the levee breach. Councilmember Hedge-Morrell will lay a wreath in memory of the tragedy that impacted all New Orleanians four years ago.

**When:** Saturday, August 29th  
Ceremony will begin at 9:15 a.m.  
Bell ringing will be promptly at 9:38 a.m., the time of the levee breach.

**Where:** Mirabeau Avenue at Pratt Drive  
Foot of the bridge over the London Avenue Canal  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Who:** District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
Community members

**Contact:** Joshua Barnett  
Director of Communications

Office of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

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Statement

August 26, 2009



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell Statement  
Re: Senator Ted Kennedy

New Orleans, LA - August 26, 2009 - "I am deeply saddened by the passing of United States Senator Ted Kennedy, a true friend of New Orleans. As a high school student, I watched President John F. Kennedy and the entire Kennedy family inspire a generation of young people to public service. The Kennedys had a profound influence on my decision to serve the public, first in education as a teacher and principal, and now as a City Councilmember.

"I spent time with Senator Kennedy in New Orleans in the early months after Hurricane Katrina. I'll always remember his promise to help our citizens, which he followed through on.

"My heart goes out to the entire Kennedy family including Victoria Reggie Kennedy and her parents."

**Contact:**

Joshua Barnett

Office of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

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Cell: 504-292-5529

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Media Advisory

August 26, 2009

**Correction:**

**Councilmember Willard-Lewis & Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
To Co-Host 4th Annual Candlelight Vigil on Saturday Evening  
In Honor of the Residents of New Orleans East**



**What:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis and District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell will co-host the 4th Annual Candlelight Vigil in New Orleans East this coming Saturday, in honor of the residents who have chosen to come back to New Orleans East and help rebuild after Hurricane Katrina, and in memory of those who are unable to return. The event is open to the public.

Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "We understand the many obstacles the residents of New Orleans East have gone through the past four years, and on Saturday we would like to have a vigil in hopes to leave the past behind us, and look toward a better and brighter future. We want to give a very special thanks to Mary Queen of Vietnam and their Youth Department who will supply music for the event."



"The residents of New Orleans East have shown incredible resilience and determination over the last four years," said Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell. "This vigil will celebrate the ongoing recovery of New Orleans East, as well as acknowledge the struggles of those who are back, and those who are still trying to come home."

**Who:**

- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- Residents of Nazareth Inn Senior Center
- District "D" and "E" community members and leaders
- New Orleans Fire Department
- New Orleans Police Department
- Mary Queen of Vietnam representatives

**When:** Saturday, August 29th  
7:15 pm

**Where:** Across from Nazareth Inn Senior Center  
9630 Hayne Boulevard, on the Levee  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Contact:**

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Chief of Staff  
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
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**New Orleans City Council**

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New Orleans  
City Council

Media Advisory

August 26, 2009

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## Youth & Recreation Committee

To Receive Report on Revitalization of New Orleans Recreation Dept.  
In Session Friday Morning

**What:** The Youth and Recreation Committee will receive a report from Rod West, Roy Glapion Jr. and Bobby Garon, co-chairmen of the New Orleans Recreation Citizens Advisory Panel, on the panel's vision for revitalizing the New Orleans Recreation Department.

To view the Committee meeting agenda click [here](#).

**When:** Friday, August 28, 2009  
10 a.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** New Orleans Recreation Citizens Advisory Panel

- Rod West, Co-Chair
- Roy Glapion Jr., Co-Chair
- Bobby Garon, Co-Chair

Committee Members

- Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
- Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
- District "C" Councilmember James Carter
- Alternate: District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head

**Contact:** Jaime Guillet

Office of Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow

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New Orleans  
City Council

Media Advisory

August 28, 2009

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In Session this Morning

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**When:** Friday, August 28, 2009  
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**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** New Orleans Recreation Citizens Advisory Panel

- Rod West, Co-Chair
- Roy Glapion Jr., Co-Chair
- Bobby Garon, Co-Chair

Committee Members

- Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
- Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
- District "C" Councilmember James Carter
- Alternate: District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head

**Contact:** Jaime Guillet

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City Council Youth & Recreation Committee  
Receives Citizens Advisory Panel's NORD Reform Proposal

News Release

August 28, 2009

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*New Orleans Recreation Citizens Advisory Panel  
Co-Chairs Roy Glapion Jr., Rod West, and  
Bobby Garon*

New Orleans, LA - August 28, 2009 - The New Orleans City Council's Youth and Recreation Committee today received a presentation from the New Orleans Recreation Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP), regarding its proposals for revitalizing New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) facilities, including the creation of a new, independent recreation and playground commission governing entity and increased funding through a property tax millage. Click [here](#) to view the CAP presentation.

Entergy New Orleans President and CEO Rod West, who co-chairs CAP with Roy Glapion and Bobby Garon, provided the committee with a 42-page summary of the revitalization, the result of more than a year of discussions, research and public input.



"NORD is extremely important to this panel and we said from the beginning that if we were going to take this issue on, nothing would be off limits," said West. "This discussion would be an intellectually honest discussion and we would be disregarding turf battles."

CAP's proposal consists of restoring NORD's parks and playgrounds - which 30 years ago served as an exceptional and activity-filled outlet for New Orleans youth - by increasing funding, both public and private, and creating an independent commission composed of a cross section of the community. CAP's proposed commission would be a 12-member board, for which the mayor and City Council would make nominations. Area university presidents select the ultimate members. The mayor's office would have five appointees, the City Council five appointees, the New Orleans Hornets one appointee and the New Orleans Saints one appointee.

West and the other CAP members emphasized these reform proposals do not represent a "privatizing" of the city's recreational facilities, pointing out that this new entity would be an independent public body subject to all public record and meetings laws. This independence renders NORD less prone to the pitfalls of political turnover as the commission would be tasked with the freedom to hire a superintendent, who would be the single point of accountability, West said. That frequent turnover -12 directors in 31 years - results in poor continuity and instability of programs, said West. All of these reforms would be completed through a public referendum and Home Rule Charter amendment.

"We can do nothing by accepting the status quo or we can hold ourselves to a higher standard for our children," he said.

West elaborated to the committee CAP's determined "must-have" principles for success, which were adopted from many of the recreational department best practices around the country, including Philadelphia, Cincinnati and East Baton Rouge Parish. He emphasized the need for "bundling" both the reformed governance structure and the dedicated financial component, saying doing one without the other would set the proposal up for failure. West told committee members the timeline for a voter referendum is fluid and up for debate, which he would leave in the City Council's hands.

CAP members proposed a voter-approved property tax millage that acknowledges the current economic climate across the country by phasing it over 15 years but ultimately would increase the annual budget to \$20 million, vastly improving the average \$5 million NORD receives annually, said West. Currently, NORD receives its budget from a 1.09 millage and annual general fund revenues for the total \$5 million. The new property tax millage would add an extra 2.5 mills in the first three years for a total \$10 million budget. In years four through eight, another 2.5 mills would be added for a total 5 mills and a \$15 million annual budget. In years nine through 15, it would increase by another 2.5 mills for a total 7.5 mills and \$20 million annual budget.

Councilmembers in attendance, including Council President Arnie Fielkow,

Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, District "C" Councilmember James Carter and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, thanked attending CAP members for presenting their findings and conducting this yearlong study for NORD improvements.

"I am honored to hear this presentation, knowing of your wonderful reputation and experience in public playgrounds and that you have been very concerned about this particular issue for more than 20 years," said Carter. "I want to thank you all for your thoughtfulness and you have done a tremendous job bringing this to us."

Council President Arnie Fielkow, who chairs the committee, said the council consistently has looked at fact-based evidence of what has worked and appreciated the due diligence performed by West and other CAP members. Fielkow said he has long been disturbed by the inequity within NORD facilities and advocated that now is the time for change.

"The reason I ran for office more than any other topic was for the children of this community," said Fielkow. "We have an opportunity to change the lives of our kids for years to come, to change the status quo. My hope is the council has the courage to put this issue up during its term, either this fall or after the first of the year. CAP members have done an incredible job. Hopefully we can repay you with an incredible NORD system in the future. I look forward to continuing that dialogue."

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Councilmember Head Tours Local Charter School's "Edible Schoolyard"  
And Discusses New Orleans Schools with Deputy Secretary of Education  
And Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding

News Release

August 28, 2009

Contact:  
Jason Abate  
Office of  
Councilmember  
Stacy Head  
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*Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding Janet Woodka, Dr. Tony Recasner of FirstLine Schools, Deputy Secretary of Education Tony Miller and Councilmember Head tour the "Edible Schoolyard" with a school representative*

New Orleans, LA - August 28, 2009 - Earlier this week, District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head met with U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education Tony Miller, Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast

Rebuilding Janet Woodka, and other local officials to tour Samuel J. Green Charter School and the school's innovative "Edible Schoolyard."



*The "Edible Schoolyard"*

[Samuel J. Green Charter School](#) is an open admissions, public charter school operated by [FirstLine Schools](#), a local

nonprofit that directly operates non-selective public schools and develops training programs for teachers and school leaders across New Orleans.

Dr. Tony Recasner, Co-Founder and President of FirstLine Schools and Jay Altman, Co-Founder and CEO of FirstLine Schools and CEO of Samuel J. Green Charter School, led the tour along with other school representatives.



*Councilmember Head, Deputy Secretary of Education Tony Miller, CEO of Samuel J. Green Charter School Jay Altman, and Dr. Tony Recasner tour the library and reading center*

The tour consisted of visits to classrooms, the library and reading center, and the "Edible Schoolyard", kitchen and outdoor classroom. The group also discussed the school's organizational model, funding, teaching practices, and comprehensive approach to the professional development of its teachers, including collaborative lesson planning.



*Deputy Secretary of Education Tony Miller, Dr. Tony Recasner of FirstLine Schools and Councilmember Stacy Head view before and after photos of Samuel J. Green Charter School*

After Hurricane Katrina, the school raised its expectations of food service with a focus on fresh and healthy foods, while still maintaining the local "food culture" - including the traditional red beans and rice on Mondays.

School representatives explained both the history and functionality of the ["Edible Schoolyard"](#) as a hands-on life sciences teaching and learning tool, and a community garden with everything from fresh

basil to ripe strawberries. The creation of the "Edible Schoolyard" was a post-Katrina project of Alice Waters' [Chez Pansse Foundation](#).

Through the "Edible Schoolyard" gardening and cooking classes, students learn the basics of gardening and the importance of the incorporation of fresh fruits and vegetables into a healthy diet.



*Students participate in gardening class in the "Edible Schoolyard"*



*Councilmember Head discusses New Orleans public schools with Deputy Secretary of Education Tony Miller*

students an opportunity to learn about science in a unique and exciting way."

Councilmember Head said, "Currently New Orleans' public schools face many challenges and significant barriers to success. Samuel J. Green Charter School is an excellent example of the lasting effect that charter schools are having on the City's education system. By integrating a concept like the "Edible Schoolyard" into the curriculum, the school offers

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**Councilmember Willard-Lewis & Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
To Co-Host 4th Annual Candlelight Vigil Tomorrow  
In Honor of the Residents of New Orleans East**



**What:** District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis and District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell will co-host the 4th Annual Candlelight Vigil in New Orleans East tomorrow, in honor of the residents who have chosen to come back to New Orleans East and help rebuild after Hurricane Katrina, and in memory of those who are unable to return. The event is open to the public.

Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "We understand the many obstacles the residents of New Orleans East have gone through the past four years, and on Saturday we would like to have a vigil in hopes to leave the past behind us, and look toward a better and brighter future. We want to

give a very special thanks to Mary Queen of Vietnam and their Youth Department who will supply music for the event."

"The residents of New Orleans East have shown incredible resilience and determination over the last four years," said Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell. "This vigil will celebrate the ongoing recovery of New Orleans East, as well as acknowledge the struggles of those who are back, and those who are still trying to come home."



**Who:**

- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis
- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- Residents of Nazareth Inn Senior Center
- District "D" and "E" community members and leaders
- New Orleans Fire Department

- New Orleans Police Department
- Mary Queen of Vietnam representatives

**When:** Saturday, August 29th  
7:15 pm

**Where:** Across from Nazareth Inn Senior Center  
9630 Hayne Boulevard, on the Levee  
(Click [here](#) for map)

**Contact:** Clarence Bickham  
Chief of Staff  
Office of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
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## NOLA CITY COUNCIL

The legislative branch of New Orleans city government

[www.nolacitycouncil.com](http://www.nolacitycouncil.com)

Media Advisory

August 31, 2009

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### NOLA City Council to Launch Redesigned Website and Live & Archived Streaming Video of City Council Meetings

**What:** The New Orleans City Council will hold a **news conference and demonstration** to launch the Council's redesigned website, NOLACityCouncil.com and NOLA GOV. Online, live and archived streaming video of City Council meetings.

**When:** Wednesday, September 2, 2009  
1:30 p.m.

**Where:** City Council Chamber

**Who:** New Orleans City Council Members  
- Council President Arnie Fielkow  
- Cable and Telecommunications Committee Chair and District "C" Councilmember James Carter  
- District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura  
- District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head



- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

**Background:** NOLACityCouncil.com

The redesigned "user friendly" NOLACityCouncil.com website features the latest streaming video technology as well as expanded constituent resources, including Multilingual Functionality; "What Citizens Need to Know" and Emergency Preparedness Information pages; Meetings and Events Calendars; Enhanced News and Resources Sections; Site-wide Search Function; and a Citizen Comment Form, among other features.

NOLA GOV. Online

The streaming video technology raises the public's expectation of the order and reliability of government and immediate access to legislative instruments and public policy information. Unquestionably, the technology provides exceptional access and transparency, raising the bar for government to administer and legislate the people's business more effectively and efficiently. Specifically, the technology provides, live streaming video; scheduled archiving of meetings and programming; automatic publishing of streaming video to the web; automatic indexing of meetings by agenda item; web-based search of audio/video records by keyword; linked documents to audio/video record by agenda item; internal and hosted distribution of streaming video content; user/group access control and administration; and an integrated minutes annotation tool for the Clerk's Office.

**Contact:** Denise Estopinal / Emily Rogers

The Estopinal Group

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**NOLA CITY COUNCIL**

The legislative branch of city government

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**Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, Councilmember District D**

**Budget Committee Chair Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
Addresses the 2010 Budget Preparation Status Report  
During Joint Committee Meeting Today**

**News Release**

**August 31, 2009**

Contact:

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Director of Communications

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Councilmember

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*(L to R) Budget Administrator, Brian Firstley;  
Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Cary  
Grant & Senior Managing Consultant of Public  
Financial Management, Chris Pencikowski*

**New Orleans, LA - August 31, 2009** - Today in a joint session the City Council Budget, Audit and Board of Review Committee and the Special Disaster and Recovery Committee heard presentations on the status of the 2010 budget preparation.

The Committee heard presentations from Budget Administrator, Brian Firstley; Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Cary Grant; and Senior Managing Consultant of Public Financial Management, Chris Pencikowski regarding the budget process timeline for the months of September, October and November leading up to the City Charter mandated December deadline to approve the 2010 budget.

Among the goals of the 2010 budget preparation process outlined in the presentation included, determining how much money is available; establishing prioritized results; allocating revenues to results; conducting analyses; ranking budget programs; identifying measures and monitoring performance.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us to develop a sound budget this year," said Budget Committee Chair Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell. "Just like families across the country have, we will need to make tough choices in order to find

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places to save money this year."

The Mayor is expected to present his budget to the Council before November 1, 2009. The City Council will hold its budget hearings during the month of November and is expected to approve the budget prior to December 1, 2009.

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City Council July 23, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

July 23, 2009

Contact:  
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**New Orleans, LA - July 23, 2009** - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed Ordinances ensuring proper collection of property liens and establishing spacing restrictions for the sale of tobacco products near children, and Resolutions honoring Edwin Hampton, band Director and Founder of the St. Augustine Marching 100, and supporting New Orleans Adolescent Hospital.

The Council also passed a Resolution and addressed a presentation congratulating Tulane University on the forthcoming opening of its new Disaster Management Leadership Academy.

Additionally, the Council deferred the Ordinance providing for the acquisition of the Chevron building as a potential new site for City Hall, and the hearing of the Lake Carmel subdivision appeal.

The Council also addressed a presentation on prohibiting floating vessels in canals in advance of a storm, thanked the New Orleans Metropolitan Realtors Association for its assistance to the City on legislative issues throughout the years, and received a status report from the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority.

## *Deferred Vote on Acquisition of Chevron Building*



*Cynthia Sylvain-Lear,  
Deputy Chief  
Administrative Officer*

The Council, at the request of Budget Chair Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, voted to defer until next week Ordinance Calendar No. 27,563 regarding the acquisition of the Chevron building as a possible site for a new City Hall.

Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, gave a presentation to the Council on the need for a new City Hall, the improvements needed at the current City Hall, and a comparative analysis of the current City Hall and the Chevron building.

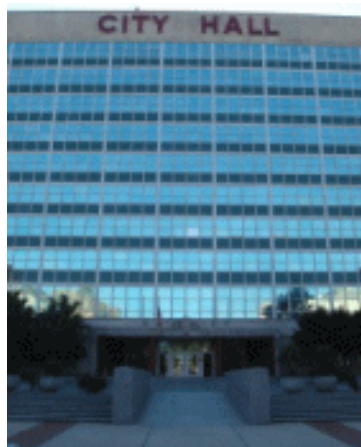


*Qi Wiggins,  
Chevron Spokesperson*

Qi Wiggins, a Chevron spokesperson, informed the Council that Chevron was unwilling to extend the July 31st purchase agreement deadline and therefore recommended that the Council defer their vote to next week rather than the August 6th regular Council meeting.

The Councilmembers will collectively decide which day next week the majority of the Council can convene for a special Council meeting to address this matter.

## *Addressed Process for Collection of Property Liens*



The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,571, authored by Councilmember Head, to ensure that collection of property liens and ad valorem taxes occurs as required by law.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "This legislation directly links the payment of property liens to the payment of property taxes, therefore preventing property owners from taking advantage of any loopholes which might allow them to pay one without paying the other. We are working to make certain that any and all property liens are paid in a timely and appropriate manner."

## *Honored Legendary Founder of St. Augustine Marching 100*



*St. Augustine High School  
Marching 100*

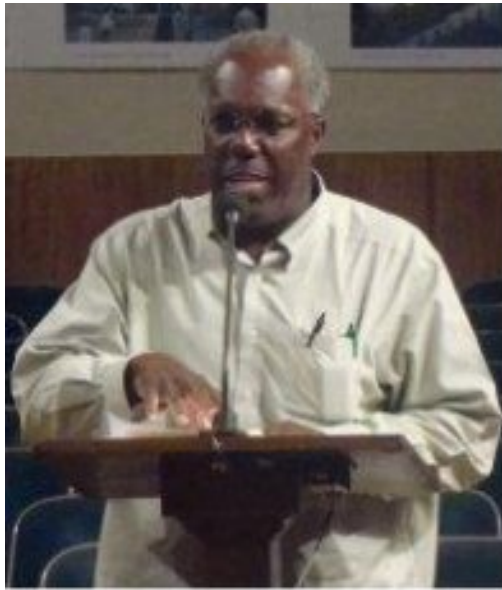
The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-09-374, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, honoring Edwin Hampton, legendary band Director and Founder of the iconic St. Augustine High School Marching 100.

The Resolution also recognizes Hampton for his many contributions to the City throughout his lifetime. Hampton passed away on Monday, July 20th at home in his sleep, at the age of 81.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "St. Augustine High School's quintessential Band Master, Mr. Edwin Hampton, will forever be remembered for the look and sound of the Marching 100 Purple Knights. Mr. Hampton took over the band in 1952, the second year after the school's founding, and honed his vision to instill a 'different style of marching' in his students resulting in the complicated formation known as 'patterns in motion'."

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell continued, "'Hamp', as he was fondly called, was a mentor to thousands of musicians and young men who passed through the ranks of the Marching 100. He was a disciplinarian but a gentle man who taught teamwork through practice and hard work, first appealing to the integrity of the young men and requiring that they reciprocate with honesty."

*Supported New Orleans Adolescent Hospital*



*Derrick Morrison*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-376, co-authored by Council President Fielkow and Council Vice President Clarkson, requesting that the City Attorney consider filing amicus curiae briefs to support the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital (NOAH) in any and all litigation involving the closing of NOAH.

Amicus curiae, Latin for "friend of the court", briefs are filed by an individual who is not a party in the litigation being addressed, but who would like to submit their opinion on the matter for consideration of the court.

Derrick Morrison, Co-Founder of the Committee to Reopen Charity Hospital and Moderator for community forums sponsored by the Council to keep NOAH open, appeared before the Council to show his support for the Resolution.

Governor Bobby Jindal recently used a line-item veto to deny \$14.2 million for NOAH, causing the closing of NOAH and leaving no mental health beds for the uninsured in Orleans Parish.

Council Vice President Fielkow said, "NOAH is the only remaining institution in New Orleans that provides a continuum of care from inpatient beds to evaluations to daily group and family support. Relocating NOAH patients to Mandeville disproportionately impacts low and moderate income families who routinely use public transportation, which is not available between New Orleans and Mandeville. With this Resolution, the Council encourages our City Attorney to officially declare the City's support of any legal efforts to keep NOAH's doors open."

### ***Established Spacing Restrictions for the Sale of Tobacco Products near Children***



*Councilmember Head*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,550, authored by Councilmember Head, to establish spacing restrictions relative to the sale of tobacco products near playgrounds, schools, churches, and any entities providing structured, organized care for youth.

Specifically, the Ordinance requires that no tobacco retailer shall be permitted to sell, donate, distribute, or deliver to any person(s) tobacco products within 1,000 feet of any playground, church, public library, school, or any childcare



facility or similar entity providing structured, organized care for youth. The Ordinance also mandates that no tobacco retailer shall be permitted to establish or open in any residential district or park and recreation district of the City.

District "B" Councilmember Head said, "It is vital that we instill in our children the importance of a healthy lifestyle. By restricting the proximity of tobacco products to children, not only can we ensure that they are not exposed to second-hand smoke, but we can also encourage them to make healthy choices."

### ***Addressed Lake Carmel Subdivision Appeal***



The Council did not hear the appeal on the Lake Carmel subdivision, located in District "E", as a result of a stay of 30 days, granted by the Civil District Court this morning.

District "E" Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "This morning there was a hearing on the Lake Carmel subdivision appeal at the Civil District Court in front of Judge Piper Griffin. The developer, VOB, was requesting that the court issue a mandamus ordering that this matter be removed from the Council's agenda - challenging the right of the Lake Carmel Subdivision Improvement District to file its appeal to the Council."

She continued, "After consideration of the arguments, Judge Griffin ruled in favor of the City and of the homeowners, denied the mandamus and then granted a stay of 30 days to allow the developer to appeal the ruling to the Fourth Circuit. This matter was on deadline before the City Council, but the court's granting of a stay suspends that deadline. The deadline for the Council to act will not begin to run again as long as this stay is in effect."

The Council deferred the hearing of this appeal to the next Council meeting on August 6th.

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*Captain Edwin Stanton,  
U.S. Coast Guard and  
Port of New Orleans*

At the request of Council Vice President Clarkson, Captain Edwin Stanton of the U.S. Coast Guard and Port of New Orleans appeared before the Council to give a report on prohibiting floating vessels in the Inner Harbor Navigational Canal and the Harvey Canal in advance of a storm.

Captain Stanton discussed:

- The plan to mandate that all floating vessels be out of the two canals at least 24 hours before the impact of storm force winds
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- The potential economic impact of this prohibition on businesses along these waterways

Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Floating vessels in canals were one of the most prominent threats during Hurricane Gustav last year. We must learn from our previous experiences with hurricanes, and this is one step towards making our City as safe as possible in the face of both natural and man-made disasters."

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Dr. Charles Figley, Paul Henry Kurzweg Distinguished Chair in Disaster Mental Health at Tulane University School of Social Work, appeared before the Council

for a presentation congratulating the university on the formation of its new Disaster Management Leadership Academy (DMLA).

A three-year \$2.1 million federal grant will allow Tulane to begin the DMLA, which will grant certifications to high-level government officials and masters and doctoral degrees to students in research programs. Figley provided details on the formation and curriculum of DMLA, as well identified the DMLA staff and others who were integral in the formation of the academy. For more information on the DMLA, visit [www.dmlatulane.org](http://www.dmlatulane.org).

The Council passed Resolution R-09-325, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, applauding Tulane University for the forthcoming opening of the DMLA and anticipating a strong group of graduates who will be able to lead the City in the case of a natural or manmade disaster.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "Tulane has firsthand experience with disasters and their effect on the community - we are grateful that Tulane University is taking this proactive stance on disaster and emergency training. The academy's rigorous interdisciplinary curriculum will introduce students to the wide range of issues and the varied skills associated with disaster management."

### *Addressed NORA Report on New Headquarters*



*L to R: Jim Singleton, Rob Couhig, Richard Monteilh, Ommeed Sathe*

Representatives from the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) appeared before the Council, at the request of Councilmember Clarkson, to give a progress report and to detail the funding for its new headquarters, currently being built on Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard.

The representatives - Jim Singleton, NORA Board of Directors Vice Chair, Rob Couhig, NORA Board of Directors Secretary, Richard Monteilh, NORA Executive Director, and NORA Director of Real Estate Strategy Ommeed Sathe - provided detailed information on their funding sources and their ongoing efforts to supplement NORA's resources, as well as offered updates on the Lot Next Door program and their involvement with other projects throughout the City.



*Austin Penny,  
Director of ORDA*

Austin Penny, Director of the Office of Recovery and Development Administration (ORDA), appeared before the Council to give additional information on NORA's funding sources.

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "We need to make sure NORA is aggressively fighting blight - an issue that affects nearly every neighborhood in New Orleans."

*Recognized Metropolitan Association of Realtors for their Assistance to the City*



*Diana LeBlanc,  
Director of Intergovernmental  
Affairs for NOMAR*

Diana LeBlanc, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors (NOMAR), along with other NOMAR representatives, was recognized by the Council for their assistance to the City on legislative issues throughout the years.

"I want to thank NOMAR for their tireless efforts lobbying our state and federal government for New Orleans' needs. NOMAR was instrumental in the City's effort to defeat Senate Bill 75, which would have derailed the City's master planning process," said Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson.

## New Orleans City Council

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### ***Celebrates Canseco's Grand Opening***

On Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell celebrated the Grand Opening of Canseco's Elysian Fields Market, located at 5217 Elysian Fields Ave. in Gentilly. Gentilly area residents now have a new place to buy groceries. The celebration was free and open to the public, and began with a ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by a barbecue with raffles and giveaways.

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said "It's great for our residents to have another local option for groceries and other necessities. This is a wonderful sign of the recovery and revitalization of Gentilly, and New Orleans."



## City Council September 3, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

September 3, 2009

Contact:  
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Join Our Mailing List!

New Orleans, LA - September 3, 2009 - Today the New Orleans City Council passed an Ordinance establishing a temporary moratorium on the issuance or renewal of permits relative to trailers / mobile homes in District "D".

The Council also received a report on the Healthy Start program and addressed presentations honoring the life of John M. Glapion and recognizing the 125th Anniversary of the Young Men Olympian Benevolent Society.

### *Established Temporary Moratorium on Issuance of Permits for Trailers in District "D"*



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,632, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, to establish a temporary moratorium on the issuance or renewal of permits relative to double wide trailers / mobile homes on premises located in District "D".

The provisions of the Ordinance shall remain in effect for one year or until the implementation of land use measures by the City Planning Commission to effectuate the intent of the temporary moratorium.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "District D is full of beautiful historic neighborhoods. We need to protect the character of these neighborhoods. New Orleans architecture is unique; it shouldn't be replaced by generic doublewides or mobile homes."

## Received Report from Healthy Start New Orleans



*Charlotte Parent, Program Director of  
Healthy Start New Orleans*

Charlotte Parent, Program Director of Healthy Start New Orleans, gave a presentation on the Healthy Start program, detailing the program's mission, history, and overall goal to reduce infant mortality.

The Healthy Start Program provides a holistic and comprehensive program of maternal care including healthcare and life skills education, prenatal and parenting classes, emotional wellness care, and a recently launched web-based education program for those parents unable to attend classes.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "Healthy Start's dedication to provide educational programs for parents and families is an invaluable resource to our citizens. We are very grateful for the work you do to ensure that new parents have the resources and tools they need to raise their children in a safe and healthy way."

For more information on Healthy Start New Orleans click [here](#).

*Honored and Celebrated the Life of John M. Glapion*



*Councilmember Hedge-Morrell,  
Gail Glapion and*

The Council addressed a presentation honoring and celebrating the life of John M. Glapion. Gail Glapion, Mr. Glapion's widow, was present to hear a Resolution in his honor.

Mr. Glapion was the City's first African American director of the New Orleans Recreation Department and dedicated his life to the enrichment of the lives of youth around the City. As such, he focused on the development and improvement of recreational facilities, community centers and summer

*Councilmember Hedge-Morrell,  
Gail Glapion and  
Councilmember Willard-Lewis*

programs.

The Council passed Resolution R-09-416, introduced by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, honoring Mr. Glapion, A Renaissance Man, and acknowledging him as a self-taught artist (painter, macramé, carpenter), nutritionist, horticulturist, botanist, and a student of limnology (the scientific study of bodies of freshwater), who freely gave of himself and who was truly a gift to all who knew and loved him dearly.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "Mr. Glapion dedicated his life to making a difference in our city. He had a sincere and genuine love of all people and worked tirelessly to enhance recreational opportunities for the City's children - for this we will always remember him, and we thank his family for sharing him with the City of New Orleans."

*Addressed Presentation Honoring the Young Men Olympian Benevolent Society*



*Councilmember Willard-Lewis, Councilmember Head,  
Councilmember Hedge-Morrell and Councilmember Fielkow  
with District "B" staff member Barbara Lacen-Keller and  
Members of the Young Men Olympian Benevolent Society*

At the request of Councilmember Head, Norman Dixon Jr., President of the Young Men Olympian Benevolent Society appeared before the Council along with other society members to be honored for the society's 125th Anniversary.

Begun in 1884, the Young Men Olympian Benevolent Society promotes and cultivates morality and the practice of charity among its members. The society is made up of members with diverse backgrounds and the desire to give back to their community.

Councilmember Head read Proclamations honoring the society as a whole; the society's youngest member, Norman Dixon III, a third generation member who joined when he was only six months old; and the society's oldest living



member, Alfred Carter who is 75 years old and has been a member for 70 years.

The members thanked the Council for recognizing them, and specifically Councilmember Head for her ongoing support of the society.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "We are honored to recognize the rich history of the Young Men Olympian Benevolent Society. The members of this dedicated and service-oriented society serve as strong positive role models in their communities."

## NOLA City Council

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City Council July 23, 2009  
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

July 23, 2009

Contact:  
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City Council](#)

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Join Our Mailing List!

**New Orleans, LA - July 23, 2009** - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed Ordinances ensuring proper collection of property liens and establishing spacing restrictions for the sale of tobacco products near children, and Resolutions honoring Edwin Hampton, band Director and Founder of the St. Augustine Marching 100, and supporting New Orleans Adolescent Hospital.

The Council also passed a Resolution and addressed a presentation congratulating Tulane University on the forthcoming opening of its new Disaster Management Leadership Academy.

Additionally, the Council deferred the Ordinance providing for the acquisition of the Chevron building as a potential new site for City Hall, and the hearing of the Lake Carmel subdivision appeal.

The Council also addressed a presentation on prohibiting floating vessels in canals in advance of a storm, thanked the New Orleans Metropolitan Realtors Association for its assistance to the City on legislative issues throughout the years, and received a status report from the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority.

## *Deferred Vote on Acquisition of Chevron Building*



*Cynthia Sylvain-Lear,  
Deputy Chief  
Administrative Officer*

The Council, at the request of Budget Chair Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, voted to defer until next week Ordinance Calendar No. 27,563 regarding the acquisition of the Chevron building as a possible site for a new City Hall.

Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, gave a presentation to the Council on the need for a new City Hall, the improvements needed at the current City Hall, and a comparative analysis of the current City Hall and the Chevron building.

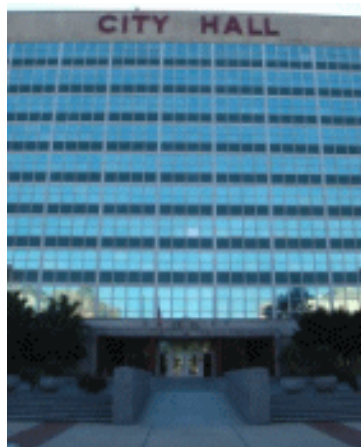


*Qi Wiggins,  
Chevron Spokesperson*

Qi Wiggins, a Chevron spokesperson, informed the Council that Chevron was unwilling to extend the July 31st purchase agreement deadline and therefore recommended that the Council defer their vote to next week rather than the August 6th regular Council meeting.

The Councilmembers will collectively decide which day next week the majority of the Council can convene for a special Council meeting to address this matter.

## *Addressed Process for Collection of Property Liens*



The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,571, authored by Councilmember Head, to ensure that collection of property liens and ad valorem taxes occurs as required by law.

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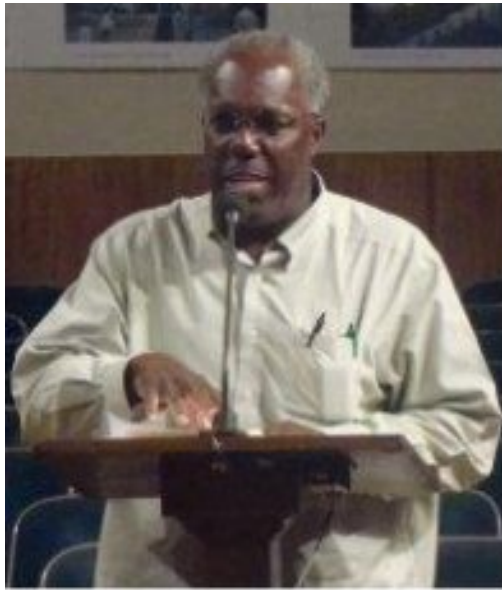
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## City Council September 17, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

September 17, 2009

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell  
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New Orleans, LA - September 17, 2009 - Today the New Orleans City Council passed a Resolution urging the United States Congress to consider amending Federal Medicaid rules, a Resolution supporting City-Initiated Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts, and deferred an Ordinance authorizing the usage of TIF for the redevelopment of Lake Forest Plaza in New Orleans East.

The Council approved a Zoning Docket supporting renovations for a Senior Citizen Center and introduced an Ordinance requiring that dogs in Orleans Parish be spayed or neutered unless the owner has a breeder's permit.

The Council also addressed a report on drainage issues affecting the Monticello Canal and passed a Resolution supporting the widening of one of the Canal's culverts, received a status update on repairs at Cut-Off Community Center, and honored Herbert Simpson, the last living member of the Negro Baseball League.

The Council passed Motions M-09-498, retaining Scope Services, Inc. to perform recruitment services to fill the vacant position of Council Utilities Regulatory Officer and M-09-496, appointing Evelyn F. Pugh Interim Chief of Staff of the City Council, after holding an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the professional competence of applicants for both the recruitment services and Interim Chief of Staff position.

## *Addressed Redevelopment of Lake Forest Plaza in New Orleans East*



*Cesar Burgos*

The Council deferred action on Ordinance Calendar No. 27,631, co-authored by Councilmember Willard-Lewis and Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, regarding the redevelopment of Lake Forest Plaza.

Cesar Burgos, Co-Owner of the Lake Forest Plaza property and Regional Transit Authority Chairman appeared before the Council to thank Councilmembers for their dedication to the rebuilding of the City and asked them to review the project in a timely fashion so that the redevelopment can move forward.

The Ordinance, if passed, would authorize the execution of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Lake Forest Plaza District and the City of New Orleans, and would authorize the Lake Forest Plaza District to receive undedicated City Sales and Use Tax of two percent, generated within the District and designating those funds to reimburse economic development costs.

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis said, "The redevelopment of this site is not negotiable - it is a requirement for the City's recovery. We want to take this extra time to thoroughly review the financial structure of this redevelopment and ensure that a deal is constructed that will both benefit the citizens of New Orleans and fulfill the specific vision of the New Orleans East community."

### *Supported Senior Citizen Center in District "C"*



*Councilmember Carter*

The Council approved Zoning Docket No. 80/09 to permit the renovation of an existing building at 2201 Barracks St. into the Harmony House Senior Citizen Center.

The Council received public comment from Harmony House senior citizens, as well as community members, whose main concern centered on the necessity for adequate parking at the senior center.

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "Our seniors are an invaluable asset to our City. We will be judged by how we treat both the youth and the elderly in our City and we are grateful to the Harmony House senior center for providing our seniors with a loving and caring community of people to call their own."

## *Addressed Drainage Issues Affecting Monticello Canal*



*(L to R): Dr. Norma Jean Mattei, Joseph Sherman and Sarah M. Stack*

The Council received a report on the drainage issues affecting the Monticello Canal, located in District "A", and nearby areas in Orleans Parish.

Sarah Stack of the UNO Center for Hazards Assessment, Response and Technology (CHART), Norma Jean Mattei, Chair of the UNO Civil and Environmental Engineering Dept., and Joseph Sherman, a Hollygrove resident, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the drainage issues and necessary improvements to the canal.

The UNO representatives cited two undersized culverts, one located under Airline Highway, that cause blockages in the canal and cause flooding.

The Council passed Resolution R-09-470, authored by Councilmember Midura, calling upon the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board to work with Jefferson Parish and the State of Louisiana to replace the undersized culvert under Airline Highway in the Monticello Canal with appropriately sized bridges that will not cause constrictions in the canal.

The Resolution also notes the importance of identifying the cost of the replacement and determining appropriate proportions of funding responsibility among New Orleans, Jefferson Parish and the State of Louisiana.



*Jefferson Parish*

John Young, Jefferson Parish Councilman-at-Large, Division A appeared before the Council to offer his support of the expansion of the culverts.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "It is vital that these culverts be widened to prevent flooding of the Monticello Canal. In order to make this happen, it will require effective coordination between the Sewerage and Water Board, Jefferson Parish, the City of New Orleans, the state and the Federal government - we are prepared to do whatever we can to make sure this happens."

*Jefferson Parish  
Councilmember John Young*

***Supported Amendments to Federal Medicaid Rules***



*Councilmember-at-Large  
Fielkow*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-490, introduced by Councilmember Fielkow, urging the United States Congress to consider amending Federal Medicaid rules to account for the aberration in personal income statistics that is directly linked to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The amount of money the State is expected to match for the Federal Medicaid program is based upon per-capita income statistics. Under current Federal Medicaid rules, insurance settlements and Road Home grants are considered personal income, therefore inflating the state's per-capita income statistics.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "This is a critical issue at both the local and regional level. As a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the large amount of funds that have come into our state and the Gulf Coast region to provide for recovery, it appears that our income level is higher, meaning that our Medicaid cost share owed to the government would be higher. This is not an accurate reflection of the state's income level, as many of these funds are one-time reimbursement payments for the costs of rebuilding."

***Addressed Status of Repairs at Cut-Off Community Center***



*(L to R): Pamela Sims-Smith, Cynthia Sylvain-Lear  
and Bill Chrisman*

Cynthia Sylvain-Lear, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Pamela Sims-Smith, Property Management Director and Bill Chrisman, Capital Projects Director, appeared before the Council to present a status update on repairs to the air conditioning and lighting at Cut-Off Community Center.

Sims-Smith informed Councilmembers that the air conditioning repairs at the Center would be completed today and that she has staff on-site to facilitate these repairs.

Mr. Chrisman provided an update on the lighting repairs, notifying Councilmembers that the contract for the repairs has been signed by the Mayor and work will begin next week. Sylvain-Lear committed to give

Councilmembers a precise timeline for the completion of the repairs

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "These repairs need to be done immediately - the community has been patiently waiting for the necessary improvements at their community center. Status reports and accurate timelines on projects of this nature are vital to ensuring that progress is made in a timely fashion and we look forward to hearing of the completion of all repairs at Cut-Off Community Center."

#### ***Introduced Dog Breeding Controls Ordinance***



*Councilmember Hedge-Morrell*

The Council introduced Ordinance Calendar No. 27,687, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, to establish a mandatory spay and neuter program for dogs, a breeding permit for dogs, and fees and requirements for such permit and penalties for violations.

Specifically, the ordinance would require that owners spay or neuter all dogs over 6 months old, and that owners may obtain a breeders permit if the owner does not intend to spay/neuter their dog.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "The cost of animal control services for the City is tremendous. Every time the SPCA gets called out to deal with an animal, it costs money. At present the euthanasia rate exceeds 50%, which is unacceptable. In light of the City's projected budget deficit, the citizens of New Orleans can no longer pay for individual pet owner's decisions, nor can we appropriate additional funds to the LA/SPCA.

"This permit requirement for dogs that aren't spayed or neutered will encourage pet owners to be responsible, while helping to fund animal control operations. The ordinance gives pet owners the option to keep their animals intact, but if they choose to do so, it requires them to pay a fee for the extra burden placed on our City by the overpopulation of animals."

#### ***Increased the Rates for Airport Shuttle Fare***



*Councilmember  
Willard-Lewis*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,623, introduced by Councilmember Willard-Lewis, increasing rates for Airport shuttle fare from \$13.00 to \$20.00, including federal tax and airport tolls.

The Ordinance also changes the designation of vehicles from "Airport limousine" to "Airport shuttle", providing for a more accurate description of the vehicles.

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis said, "It has been at least 7 years since there was a rate increase for the airport shuttle fair. This new rate will place our drivers at a nationally competitive level. We have an industry

leader who has made significant investments in green technology, acquiring 18 new propane hybrid vehicles as well as promoting best practices in employee hospitality training."

### *Honored Herbert Simpson*



*Herbert Simpson*

At the request of Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson, Herbert Simpson appeared before the Council today to be honored as the last surviving member of the Negro Baseball League. Mr. Simpson, an Algiers resident, was accompanied by two of his nieces and an active Algiers community member.

Mr. Simpson spoke to the Council about his experiences playing baseball in the league, and the importance of hard work in the face of diversity and dedication to reaching your goals.

Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "We are in awe of Mr. Simpson and his dedication and love of baseball. He is a role model for the youth of our city and a true example of the accomplishment that comes with hard work. We are very lucky to have him as a member of the New Orleans community."

### *Supported City-Initiated TIF Districts*



The Council passed Resolution R-09-429, which resolves that the Council will endeavor to support City-Initiated TIF Districts and will take all necessary steps to approve Tax Increment Financing in geographically defined Tax Increment Districts (TID) that are dormant, blighted, and in which revitalization would not occur but for the use of TIF.

Resolution R-09-429 reflects the Council's belief that Tax Increment Financing will further strengthen the citizens' confidence in the City's recovery by enhancing economic development.

The Resolution also acknowledges Mayor Nagin's Executive Order 09-02 which establishes the policies and procedures for the establishment, administration, and monitoring of City-Initiated Tax Increment Districts that utilize TIF in Orleans Parish.

*Appointed Interim Chief of Staff and Retained Firm for Utilities  
Regulatory Officer Recruitment Services*



The Council passed Motions M-09-498, retaining Scope Services, Inc. to perform recruitment services to fill the vacant position of Council Utilities Regulatory Officer and M-09-496, appointing Chief Deputy City Attorney Evelyn F. Pugh as Interim Chief of Staff of the City Council, due to the impending retirement of City Council Chief of Staff Ronald J. Pursell.

The Council passed these Motions after holding an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the professional competence of applicants for both the recruitment services and Interim Chief of Staff position.

### **NOLA City Council**

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## City Council October 30, 2009 Special Meeting Summary

**News Release**

**October 30, 2009**

**Contact:**

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New Orleans, LA - October 30, 2009 - Today at a Special Council meeting, the Council received Mayor Ray Nagin's 2010 Budget presentation, and passed a Resolution supporting the National World War II Museum.

*Received Mayor Nagin's 2010 Budget Presentation*



*Mayor C. Ray Nagin*

Mayor C. Ray Nagin appeared before the Council today to present his proposed 2010 budget. The presentation included a PowerPoint presentation detailing the budget, which was narrated by the Mayor.

The Mayor provided information on the following items, including illustrative maps and comparative charts where appropriate:

- City growth rates
- Status of current construction, street repair and city facility

projects

- Status of the use of the State Revolver Fund
- Operational budget challenges
- Comparison of New Orleans' measures to cut spending and those of other cities facing deficits
- Reductions in city departments
- Impacts on outside agencies and city employees

Click on the links below to view the corresponding documents:

[Mayor's 2010 Budget Overview](#)

[Mayor's 2010 Budget PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "We want to thank you Mayor Nagin for including the Council in some of the budget discussions with you and your staff over the last 30 days. This spirit of cooperation and coordination will help us to balance this budget in the most fiscally responsible and citizen-conscious way. Our City has great potential and we must do what is necessary to take advantage of the many opportunities for economic development before us. Over the next days and weeks, this council will work diligently to deliver a balanced budget most beneficial to our citizens and staff."



Councilmember-at-Large  
Fielkow

Councilmembers and Council staff are preparing for the Council's month-long review of the proposed budget.



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

Budget Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "Thank you Mayor Nagin for giving us a clear picture of where we stand and where we need to go with this budget. Most importantly, I want to invite the public to come out and participate in meetings in their communities, as well as the upcoming budget hearings. We need to hear your voices and we need you to share your perspective with us during this budget process."

Budget Hearings will begin on Friday November 6th and are scheduled throughout the month. Click [here](#) to view the Budget Hearing schedule.

The Council must adopt the 2010 budget by December 1st.

## *Supported National World War II Museum*



*Nick Mueller*

The Council passed Resolution R-09-583, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson and Head, extending the Council's sincere congratulations to The National World War II Museum on the opening and dedication of The Solomon Theater, The Stage Door Canteen, The American Sector Restaurant and hereby declaring the week of November 2-8, 2009 "Experience the Victory at The National World War II Museum week".

Nick Mueller, President & CEO of The National World War II Museum, appeared before the Council to thank the Councilmembers for their ongoing support of the museum and its many events and programs.

Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "This grand opening will truly be a world class event, with World War II veterans attending from around the world, as well as Hollywood celebrities. We thank you for being a ray of hope in our community and a catalyst for economic development and tourism."



*Councilmember at-Large  
Clarkson*



*Councilmember Head*

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "The World War II museum is yet another valuable cultural and historical attraction in our City, and in District "B" specifically. The opening of the new theater and other facilities are a testament to the economic development occurring in the City, and we encourage all our citizens to go and experience these great new facilities once they are open."

## **NOLA City Council**

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## City Council October 20, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

October 20, 2009

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[NOLA City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - October 20, 2009 - Today the New Orleans City Council passed Motions establishing the Office of Inspector General Third-Party Advisory Committee, and re-issuing the Request for Qualifications for utility consultants.

Additionally, the Council addressed presentations and passed Resolutions on the implementation of Option 2a for New Orleans outfall canals, and the naming the New Orleans Trauma Center as "The Spirit of Charity Trauma Center".

Councilmember Carter presented a Proclamation on behalf of the full City Council, recognizing Total Community Action, Inc. for their Head Start October Awareness month.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell was not present for today's meeting as she is currently in Cuba with the City's delegation to meet with experts in the field of disaster management. The trip was originally planned to coincide with the 1st Congress on Health and Disasters in Havana last week, but the itinerary was adjusted to accommodate President Obama's visit to New Orleans. The trip is focusing on medical and health issues relating to disasters. Given the current budget situation, Councilmember Hedge-Morrell has reimbursed the City for her travel and expenses.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Council, sitting as the Board of Review, approved recommendations presented by Frilot, LLC in connection with the 2010 tax appeal hearings for Orleans Parish.

## *Supported Implementation of Option 2a for Outfall Canals*



*Marcia St. Martin, Tom Capella, John Young,  
Lisa Ludwig, Joseph Rault, and Tim Doody*

John Young, Jefferson Parish Councilman-at-Large, Division A; Tom Capella, Jefferson Parish Councilman-at-Large, Division B; Marcia St. Martin, Executive Director of the Sewerage and Water Board; Lisa Ludwig, Executive Director of Pump to the River; Joseph Rault of Pump to the River; and Tim Doody President of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East, appeared before the Council to discuss recent progress in the U.S. Congress regarding Options 1, 2, and 2/2a and Pump to the River for New Orleans outfall canals.

Option 2a is Option 2, which provides for the deepening and repaving of canal walls and construction of new all-purpose pumping stations at the Orleans Ave., London Ave., and 17th St. canals, with the inclusion of Pump to the River - a mechanism by which water in the 17th St. Canal will be pumped directly to the Mississippi River.

The Council passed Resolution R-09-574, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, reaffirming the Council's request of April 2, 2009 to have Option 2a implemented.

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "We cannot afford to choose the cheapest option, we must choose the best option - this is not about the cost of dollars, this is about the cost of lives. We will continue this fight on the local, regional and national levels to ensure that our City has the most complete storm protection possible."

### ***Established Office of Inspector General Third-Party Advisory Committee***

The Council passed Motion M-09-570, authored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Carter, establishing the Office of Inspector General (OIG) Third-Party Advisory Committee for a period of time not to exceed one year commencing December 1, 2009.

The committee will perform annual quality assurance reviews of audits, investigations, inspections and performance reviews. Membership of the committee includes one representative named by the City Council, one from the office of the Mayor, one named by the Louisiana Supreme Court, one named by the Association of Inspectors General, and one named by the Ethics Review Board.



Councilmember-at-Large  
Fielkow

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "The current law mandates that certain requirements must be met for the OIG, and today we are simply naming the appointee of the City Council for this committee. We want to be clear that the establishment of this committee is not in response to any recent developments with regard to the management and leadership of the OIG. With this new entity, we are simply fulfilling a procedural requirement written into the law."

The Council appointed as its representative to the committee District "C"

Councilmember James Carter, who will serve as Chair until the committee elects a Chair from among its membership. The Council will by motion annually renew the OIG Third-Party Advisory Committee.

Councilmember Carter said, "I am honored to be selected as the Council's appointment for this committee. We recognize the importance of the OIG and this committee will help to ensure efficient and transparent operations of the office."



Councilmember Carter

### *Re-issued RFQ for Utility Consultants*



Councilmember Midura

The Council passed Motion M-09-577, authored by Councilmember Midura, to re-issue the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to initiate the competitive selection of qualified professionals to advise and represent the Council on electric and gas utility matters.

The Council passed the Motion as a result of the few responses to the September 3, 2009 RFQ, referencing that significantly more responses were received from qualified utility consulting firms in 2004, and that the Utility Committee has rejected responses to RFQs for consultants due to a lack of competition within the pool of responses as recently as May 2009.

The Council requested that the City Attorney issue an opinion with regard to the Motion, to verify that the Council does not put those responses to the RFQ already received at a disadvantage by re-issuing the RFQ

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "Re-issuing the RFQ will ensure robust competition and guarantee that we can select the highest quality service at the best price. In doing this, we will also ensure that we

meet the deadline of December 31st to select an applicant before our current contracts expire."

### *Supported Naming of the New Orleans Trauma Center*



*Dr. Larry Hollier, Dr. Ben Sachs,  
and Dr. Norman McSwain*

Dr. Larry Hollier, Dr. Peter Deblieux, Dr. Ben Sachs and Dr. Norman McSwain appeared before the Council to give a presentation on the naming of the New Orleans Trauma Center.

The doctors discussed the functions of the trauma center as a place to care for patients, as well as a teaching center where medical student, residents, and younger staff

including nurses, can come to train and learn.

The Council passed Resolution R-09-573, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson and Head, commending the LSU Board of Supervisors for naming the trauma center as "The Spirit of Charity Trauma Center".

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "This trauma center is a prime example of how two nationally-renowned medical schools can join together in an effort to bring high quality medical care to our community."

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "We are so grateful for all of your hard work and collaboration to make this trauma center one of the best in the country. We know that it will continue to serve as a center for medical care for our citizens and a training facility for those in the medical profession."

### *Recognized Total Community Action, Inc.*



District "C" Councilmember James Carter presented a proclamation on behalf of the full City Council, recognizing Total Community Action, Inc. for their Head Start October Awareness month.

Total Community Action, Inc.'s Head Start Program is a child and family development program that provides services and experiences to promote the growth and development of the family, including health, nutrition, social and mental health services, as well as early childhood education. Total Community Action, Inc. operates eight Head Start Centers throughout the New Orleans area.

Councilmember Carter said, "Total Community Action, Inc.'s Head Start



program encourages parents' full participation in the early development of their children and assists them in the development of enhanced parenting skills. This is a valued community program and we want to recognize this organization for the high quality work that they do."

### *Approved 2010 Tax Appeal Recommendations*



*Kyle Spaulding*

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Council convened as the Board of Review to receive a presentation from Kyle Spaulding, Associate Attorney of Frilot, LLC, of recommendations in connection with the 2010 tax appeal hearings for Orleans Parish.

The presentation specifically provided information on the number of appeals with a break down by type and district, and a summary of the aggregate recommendations to the Board of Review (BOR).

Additionally, Spaulding reported an unprecedented level of participation during the hearings from both assessors and taxpayers, which led to an increased number of settlements at tax appeal hearings.

After the presentation, the Council, acting as the Board of Review, passed Resolution R-09-1, adopting the recommendations concerning disposition of abatement appeals in the First through Seventh Municipal Districts, with the exception of Appeal #610-1.

The Council, acting as Board of Review, also passed Resolution R-09-2, certifying to the Louisiana Tax Commission by the Secretary of the Board of Review, the 2010 assessment rolls of the First through Seventh Municipal Districts, as adjusted by the Board of Review, with the exception of Appeal #610-1.

Decision letters will be mailed to all appellants by October 25th and will contain information about taking further appeals to the Louisiana Tax Commission.

Frilot has handled approximately 6,000 tax appeals over the last three years for the BOR - approximately 5,400 appeals for tax year 2008, 450 appeals for tax year 2009 and 200 for tax year 2010.

## NOLA City Council

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## City Council October 1, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

October 1, 2009

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New Orleans, LA - October 1, 2009 - Today the New Orleans City Council passed Ordinances supporting the redevelopment of Lake Forest Plaza in New Orleans East, providing for pay increases for City Council members and the Mayor, and supporting economic development in underserved areas.

Additionally, the Council, addressed a presentation on the foreclosure outlook in Orleans Parish, honored 2009 Heinz Award recipient Dillard University's Dr. Beverly Wright, received a report on local job board WorkNOLA, and recognized international guests.

The Council also held an Executive Session to address pending litigation.  
***Supported Redevelopment of Lake Forest Plaza in New Orleans East***



Cesar Burgos

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,631 supporting the redevelopment of Lake Forest Plaza. The Council voted after several hours of comment by the public, community members, neighborhood organizations, business owners/developers, Councilmembers and others.

Specifically, the Ordinance authorizes the execution of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Lake Forest Plaza District and the City of New Orleans, and authorizes the Lake Forest Plaza District to receive undedicated City Sales and Use Tax of two percent, generated within the District.

Those funds are to be designated for reimbursement of economic development costs. The Ordinance also specifies that no portion of the funds will be used to satisfy any pre-existing debt.

Cesar Burgos, Co-Owner of the Lake Forest Plaza property, appeared before the Council along with additional representatives of the Lake Forest Plaza redevelopment project to give a brief presentation on the New Orleans East Marketplace Development Plan.

The presentation included data from an economic impact study of the project, including project costs, investments and jobs created; as well as maps and diagrams of the proposed redevelopment - outlining the uses of the space including a police substation, premium outlet mall/retail center, movie theater, restaurants, commercial office space, hotel and big box retailer.

Councilmembers highlighted the necessity of ensuring that the timelines and commitments set forth by the developers are met, in order to ensure that the project is completed and will serve the community and the City in the best way possible. The Council also emphasized the importance of transparency and community input throughout the project's development.

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, although in support of the redevelopment of Lake Forest Plaza, voted against the Ordinance, suggesting that a new version of the Ordinance be adopted in two weeks, after several questions that she raised could have been answered.

#### ***Addressed Salary Increase for Councilmembers and Mayor***

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,692, co-authored by Councilmember Midura and Councilmember Carter, to provide for an increase in and future adjustments for the salaries of both Councilmembers and the Mayor.

The vote was 4 to 3, with Councilmembers Fielkow, Midura, Head and Carter voting for the Ordinance, and Councilmembers Clarkson, Hedge-Morrell and Willard-Lewis voting against.



*Greg Rusovich*

Greg Rusovich, Chairman of the Business Council of New Orleans, and Bob Brown, Managing Director of the Business Council of New Orleans, appeared before the Council to offer their support for the pay raise. The Business Council is one of the groups that originally brought the idea of a salary increase to the Council.

The salary adjustments will not apply to the current Council term, but rather to the next Council elected by the voters.

Councilmembers acknowledged that the salary for the position of Councilmember has not been raised since 1986, and according to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics the inflation adjusted amount for 2009 would be



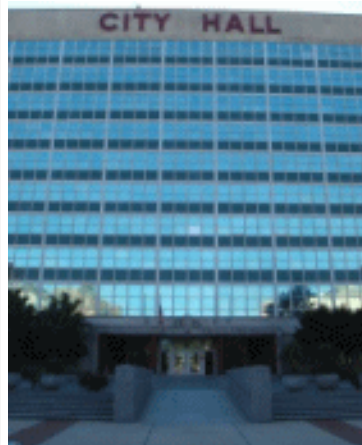
*Bob Brown*

approximately \$83,000. Councilmembers also discussed the salary adjustment relative to the current economy, as well as the ongoing recovery of the City and the City's anticipated budget deficit.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "The short view is focused on the benefits and consequences for the person, while the long view is concerned with the benefits and consequences of the office. The salary itself is not the goal; it is merely a tactic for building a better democracy."

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "The City of New Orleans deserves - indeed, it needs - the most qualified leadership possible. And if you want a truly representative government, you must attract the best and the brightest from all walks of life. At the current pay level, it is not possible for most people to devote four years to this job; the personal cost in terms of lost income is just too great. This ordinance is a cost of living adjustment and will bring Council salaries on par with similar elected officials in other parishes and cities. It is an important step in the professionalization of the office, and I believe it will benefit the City greatly over the long term."

### ***Supported Economic Development in Underserved Areas***



The Council passed Ordinance Calendar Nos. 27,667, 27,668, 27,669, 27,770, co-authored by Councilmember Fielkow and Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, authorizing the Mayor to enter into individual Cooperative Endeavor Agreements with Canseco's Holdings, LLC, Mrs. Wheat's Fabulous Foods, Inc., CJC Resources LLC, and Advanced Steel Homes, LLC to approve the use of Urban Development Action Grants (UDAG) in order to stimulate economic development in underserved areas.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "We must encourage economic development in all areas of the City, but especially in the underserved areas of the City where it is needed most. This will benefit our citizens and will serve as a sign of encouragement for old businesses to return and new businesses to invest in our communities."

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "Many of our neighborhoods are still struggling due to the fact that they lack grocery stores, restaurants and retail centers nearby. It is our duty to do whatever we can to promote economic growth in these areas and to encourage our local businesses to return and prosper."

*Addressed Foreclosure Outlook in Orleans Parish*



*Nancy Montoya*

Nancy Montoya, Sr. Regional Community Affairs Manager, Gulf Coast Supervision and Regulation, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (New Orleans Branch), and Orleans Parish Civil Sheriff Paul R. Valteau, Jr. appeared before the Council, at the request of Council President Fielkow, to give a presentation on the outlook for foreclosures in Orleans Parish and foreclosure prevention strategies.

Montoya and Valteau presented information,

through a series of charts and graphs, focusing on national, regional and local foreclosure rates and trends, foreclosure and homeowner preservation cost comparisons, foreclosure prevention counseling and strategies, and community outreach efforts. The presentation included data and information compiled through research begun in October 2008.



*Civil Sheriff Paul R. Valteau, Jr.*

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "As our City continues its recovery, it is vital that we encourage homeowner preservation and that we give our citizens the necessary information and tools to avoid foreclosures. We are grateful for your ongoing commitment and dedication to researching this issue and its impacts on our community and for your work to stem the tide of foreclosures both locally and nationally."

*Honored Heinz Award Recipient Dillard University's Dr. Beverly Wright*



*Dr. Beverly Wright*

At the request of District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, Dr. Beverly Wright of Dillard University's Deep South Center for Environmental Justice appeared before the Council today, along with colleagues and family members, to be honored as a 2009 Heinz Award recipient.

The Heinz Awards recognize outstanding individuals for their contributions in the areas of: Arts and Humanities, the Environment, the Human Condition, Public Policy, and Technology, the Economy and Employment.

Through her work with the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Dr. Wright brings attention to environmental issues affecting communities through grass roots initiatives, citizen engagement activities and community outreach efforts.



*Councilmember Clarkson, Councilmember Hedge-Morrell and Councilmember Willard-Lewis present a Proclamation to Dr. Wright with members of her family*

Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "Dr. Wright's dedication to our City and her love for all of our citizens is astounding. We are so thankful for her ongoing work and dedication to protecting the environment and addressing environmental issues directly impacting the health and welfare of the people of this city."

## *Supported Local Job Board WorkNOLA*



*Austin Lavin*

At the request of Councilmember Fielkow, Austin Lavin, Managing Director of WorkNOLA.com, appeared before the Council to give a report on the local job board's success in the City.

WorkNOLA.com is sponsored by MakeNewOrleansHome.com and is a collaboration of likeminded organizations including, 504forward, NOLA YURP and the Human Resource Management Association of New Orleans. The site currently hosts 3,200 members, has listed more than 250 jobs since launching May 4 and has had 40,000

visits.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "We have an exceptional opportunity to both retain and attract a younger demographic to the rebuilding of New Orleans. We are proud to support this organization which is dedicated to connecting New Orleanians who are looking for good employees with trained young people who want to work," said Fielkow.

## *Recognized International Visitors*



*International visitors from India, Jamaica, Nigeria, Oman and Serbia*

Five international guests of the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program were recognized by the Council today. The guests are in the United States observing non-governmental organizations and local governments through the State Department program.

The New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council arranged the visit to New Orleans as a professional and cultural exchange for the international guests from India, Jamaica, Nigeria, Oman and Serbia.

The International Visitor Leadership Program annually brings to the United States approximately 5,000 foreign nationals from all over the world to meet



and confer with their professional counterparts and to experience America firsthand. The visitors are current or potential leaders in government, politics, the media, education, the arts, business and other fields.

The international visitors expressed their interest in observing the democratic process and freedom of speech during the Council's proceedings.

Councilmembers thanked the guests for coming and gave each of them a gift bag - providing a "taste" of New Orleans, including Mardi Gras beads, to take home with them.

### *Executive Session*



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

The City Attorney's Office informed the City Council as to the current status of the following pending litigation:

- Civil District Court Case No. 81-11108 - New Orleans Firefighters Local 632 et al. v. City of New Orleans, et al.  
Council

## **NOLA 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 Head; District "C" Councilmember James Carter; District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.

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