

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

News Release

May 1, 2008

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

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

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



Supports NOPD Community Policing Initiatives

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

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

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

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



NOPD and ORDA Representatives

Addresses NOPD Blight Prevention Efforts

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

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

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

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



Sybil Morial

Honors First African American Mayor of New Orleans

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

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

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

New Orleans City Council

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

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