



ALL GOVERNMENT, OF RIGHT, ORIGINATES WITH THE PEOPLE, IS FOUNDED ON THEIR WILL ALONE, AND IS INSTITUTED TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE. THE PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO A GOVERNMENT RESPONSIVE TO THEIR WILL AND THE RIGHT TO TAKE PART IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH FREELY CHOSEN REPRESENTATIVES. – CITY CHARTER



## NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL







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**2008 POLICY AGENDA –**  
A CONTRACT WITH THE PEOPLE



## THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT – THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE AND THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES ACROSS THE METROPOLITAN AREA – HAVE LED THE RECOVERY OF NEW ORLEANS.

Never is that fact more evident than when we consider the work of the New Orleans City Council. The Council has steadfastly guided a complex, arduous, costly and emotionally painful recovery process – as advocate, representative and champion of the people - and as an astute government technician, public policy analyst and a trusted body of elected public servants. The New Orleans City Council is the single most important instrument that will continue to do the necessary work to achieve a full and complete recovery of a great and historically important American City.



*George Long Photography*

The City Council's **2008 POLICY AGENDA – A CONTRACT WITH THE PEOPLE** sets forth a policy agenda that will continue the advancement and reform-driven progress of the recovery of New Orleans.

**THE 2008 POLICY AGENDA – A CONTRACT WITH THE PEOPLE** outlines four key policy areas: Responsive and Ethical Government; Accountable, Efficient and Effective Criminal Justice System and Intensified Public Safety Efforts; Growth of Sustainable Neighborhoods and Communities; Participation in Regional Government Collaborations.

Public policy will be advanced to impact economic development, ethics reform, responsive City Government, public image and constituent services, insurance reform, utility regulation, promotion of energy conservation and “green” building, health care, flood protection, code enforcement, housing, crime prevention, education and regional government solutions.

## 🌸 Transparent & Responsive Government



*New Orleans City Council*

### ETHICS REFORM

**Increase public confidence through continued ethics reform.** Action items reflective of this policy priority include: financially supporting the Office of Inspector General (OIG); establishing OIG oversight of the Office of Municipal Investigation (OMI); and enacting legislation that ensures transparent and equitable contract procurement.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Redesign and clarify New Orleans' economic development strategy, policies and organizational structure to encourage business growth and initiative.** Action items reflective of this policy priority include: supporting small business grant programs and simplifying and streamlining City permitting processes; retaining and expanding current New Orleans businesses through relationship building and support systems;

recruiting new businesses; investing in local start-up and entrepreneurial efforts; and standardizing and developing clear, user-friendly guidelines for incentive programs.

### RESPONSIVE CITY GOVERNMENT

**Create a culture of responsive and comprehensive customer service.** Action items reflective of this policy priority include: creating the Customer Service Task Force; developing a 311 system that ensures tracking, follow-up, oversight and quality control; supplying a Customer Service Representative in every department and/or agency of City Government; providing recognizable and easy access to customer service and information about public services through neighborhood satellite centers; and evaluating City service staffing needs and focusing resources and providing an online customer service system.



## PUBLIC IMAGE AND CONSTITUENT SERVICES

**Develop a public relations plan for conveying a positive image of the City and recovery efforts and improve communication with constituents.** Action items reflective of this policy priority include: launching re-designed Council website; improving communications technology with streaming Council Meeting video; developing relationships with regional public access channels; improving connections with displaced New Orleanians by organizing

satellite meetings in the diaspora; supporting Fleur de Lis Ambassadors Program; and formalizing local ambassadors program.

## INSURANCE REFORM

**Publicly advocate and lobby for insurance reform.** Action items reflective of this policy priority include: enhancing flood insurance coverage; adding insurance company options; offering supplementary comprehensive wind and flood coverage protection; reforming citizens plan; and reducing deductibles.

# Public Safety & Criminal Justice System



*George Long Photography*

## FLOOD PROTECTION

**Implement a 100-year fully integrated system of flood protection.** Action items reflective of this policy priority include: lobbying federal and state officials regarding need for and importance

of effective flood protection for New Orleans and Gulf Coast; educating the public regarding federal failure to develop and maintain effective flood protection; and monitoring and evaluating flood protection improvements

## SAFER CITY

**Support the New Orleans Safe City Initiative and the efforts of the Criminal Justice Leadership Alliance to implement criminal justice system best practices and make New Orleans a safer city.** Action items reflective of this policy priority include: implementing the Vera Institute of Justice proposals; developing an Office of the Independent Monitor; continuing the stabilization of the Orleans District Attorney’s Office; examining system-wide criminal justice reform; developing short-term responses to violent crime; and assisting in developing an effective witness protection program.

## CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE

**Build a civic infrastructure that provides viable alternatives to criminal behavior.** Action items reflective of this policy priority include: assisting in implementing an Education Master Plan; continuing the revitalization of the New Orleans Recreation Department – expanding programming, adopting national recreation best practices and restructuring financing to guarantee a stable revenue stream; and beginning to implement the Million Dollar Neighborhood – Central City Initiative to identify, coordinate and enhance civic and social services.

# ✻ Sustainable Neighborhoods & Communities



*New Orleans City Council*

## RECOVERY

**Monitor the Office of Recovery and Development Administration to ensure that a comprehensive recovery strategy is implemented coordinating policy across all agencies.** Action items reflective of this policy priority include: implementing and funding

identified initiatives in the 18 target Planning Zones; facilitating the creation and adoption of a new comprehensive zoning ordinance that promotes the goals and ideals of the City’s Master Plan; regulating and directing public works, energy and utility providers to guarantee long-term infrastructure improvements and





responsiveness to local needs; and fostering residents' access to comprehensive, quality health care, including preventive services.

### CODE ENFORCEMENT

**Respect the integrity and identity of neighborhoods and communities to support the development and building of mixed income and mixed commercial and residential use neighborhoods.** Action items reflective of this policy priority include: continuing the development and enforcement of legislation that eliminates blight and efficiently and effectively manages Katrina-related housing issues; and vigilantly monitoring demolitions and code enforcement,

the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority and the Lot Next Door Program.

### HOUSING

**Grow and sustain neighborhoods and communities by providing access to safe, affordable housing at all income levels.**

Action items reflective of this policy priority include: monitoring the Office of Recovery and Development Administration to ensure that a comprehensive housing strategy is implemented; monitoring progress of the Road Home Program; comprehensive public housing redevelopment; and encouraging and fostering first-time homeownership and "green" building.

## Regional Government Collaborations



*New Orleans City Council*

### REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

**Participate in and encourage the processes and structures for enhanced regional cooperation.** Topics of mutual interest that may offer opportunities for collaboration include:

criminal justice; flood protection; economic development; transportation; physical and mental health services; solid waste disposal, including recycling; and the Louis Armstrong International Airport.





# NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL



## 2007 LEGISLATIVE ACTION – A REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

“ *This is the third year of a project unprecedented in modern American history - the rebuilding of a city devastated by the worst man-made disaster ever seen on this continent.*

*As the legislative body of the City of New Orleans, our responsibility is to protect citizens and visitors and to provide an economic environment that is stable and thriving which complements the rich culture and heritage of one of the world's great historically important cities. ”*

– Arnie Fielkow  
Councilmember-at-Large

**THE CITY COUNCIL'S 2007 LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS REFLECT AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO A CONTINUALLY ACTIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE RECOVERY OF NEW ORLEANS.**

**The 2007 Legislative Actions** track the vital areas of economic growth; ethics and good governance; public safety and crime prevention; recovery efforts; infrastructure rebuilding and commercial revival; neighborhood and housing revitalization; and youth and recreation development.

Councilmembers offered expertise as Chairs of Council Committees or as representatives of the people and businesses in each Council District. Michael C. Darnell, serving from mid-August through late November as Interim Councilmember-at-Large, unselfishly committed his time and energy to the Council's legislative efforts and the people of New Orleans. He provided his insights and experience in legal, community and civic arenas – adding an important perspective to the Council's legislative process.

On November 17, 2007, Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson was elected in a special election to her third non-consecutive term (1990, 2002, and 2007) on the Council. Clarkson requested that her oath be administered at the earliest possible time allowed under state law. She was sworn in on Tuesday, November 27, 2007, immediately preceding a City Council Budget Hearing.

 **Economic Growth**

The City Council, led by Council President Arnie Fielkow, sent a message to the people of New Orleans that the **Council was mindful of the economic costs of Hurricane Katrina** recovery on our citizens. After receiving preliminary estimates indicating that the value of assessed property within the City had substantially increased, the **COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY PASSED A RESOLUTION TO MAINTAIN MILLAGE RATES AT DOWNWARD ADJUSTED LEVELS**, making certain that additional financial burden was not placed on taxpayers. [R-07-398] The Council went a step further when Councilmember Fielkow requested the Council, as the Board of Review for appeals for 2008 property assessments, authorize the hiring of a private firm to better ensure a fair and equitable hearing process for citizens appealing their property assessments.

Working towards the establishment of a **NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MODEL**, Councilmember Fielkow authored a motion supporting the recommendations of a “best practices” assessment of economic development, which led to an agreement between the local business community, the administration, and the Council, to establish a **public-private partnership model for economic development** in Orleans Parish. [R-07-381]



*George Long Photography*

**A REDUCTION IN CITIZEN UTILITY BILLS**, the result of persistent negotiations with Entergy New Orleans by the Council’s Utility Committee, chaired by District “A” Councilmember Shelley Midura, and Council Utility Advisors was realized. The Council approved **a voluntary credit which will lower most customer electric bills** – more than offsetting rate increases scheduled to become effective in early 2008. *[R-07-629]*

The Council, led by Councilmember Midura, **made its strongest commitment in its history** to **ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN** when it passed a resolution to develop energy efficiency practices; integrate energy efficiency practices into energy resource plans at the utility and regulatory level; and provide funding to deliver energy efficiency where cost-effective. *[R-07-600]*

**A CUSTOMER COMPLAINT PROCESS AND A CUSTOMER BILL OF RIGHTS** was established by Council ordinance also led by Councilmember Midura. This ordinance **provides a detailed procedure which addresses the manner by which electric and gas utilities must handle customer complaints** arising from the application of the Council approved service regulations. The ordinance also provides for a formal, independent review of eligible complaints by a third party in the event the utility is unable to resolve issues raised by the customer. *[O-22814 M.C.S.]* To **reinforce and strengthen the Customer Complaint Process and Customer Bill of Rights**, the Council approved a resolution revising the Customer Service Regulations. *[R-07-428]*

The Council also approved rules for the implementation of a **NEW ORLEANS NET ENERGY METERING PROGRAM** for electric utility customers in the City. The program **allows customers with electric generation capability, such as solar panels, to interconnect with the utility and receive a bill which reflects a credit for the electric energy the customer supplies to the utility’s distribution system.** Thus the customer’s usage from the utility is “netted” against the energy the customer supplies to the utility for billing purposes. *[R-07-132]*

**TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF)** is an **important tool in the continued economic recovery and growth** of the City of New Orleans. The City Council knows of the paramount importance of this issue in our community – especially as our neighborhoods rebuild. Council President Fielkow, working with the business community, sponsored a resolution to ensure that a standard policy and set of criteria for which projects are eligible for tax increment financing would be established.

“ *Preserving the traditions and rich history of New Orleans is a centerpiece of our agenda. As a City Council, we work extremely hard to maintain the balance between cutting-edge economic growth and retaining the character of our neighborhoods - which make us the interesting and vibrant city the world loves and cherishes.* ”

– Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
Councilmember-at-Large



**INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT** received attention on the Council's economic agenda. During the Council's budget process Councilmember Fielkow requested an **addition of \$125,000 to the budget of the City's Office of International Economic Development**. In cooperation with the World Trade Center, Councilmembers traveled to Washington, D.C. to reach out to foreign embassies to foster a stronger international trade presence in New Orleans. The Council also supported the Port of New Orleans' increased cargo activity and creation of additional professional-level jobs; establishing New Orleans as the host location for the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement Institutional Activity and an Economic Forum with participants from Greater New Orleans, Inc., the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce and the World Trade Center of Miami. *[R-07-438]*

**THE REVITALIZATION OF THE DOWNTOWN MEDICAL CORRIDOR** as an economic development tool and a critical quality of life issue for New Orleans garnered discussion and action by the Council. The Council passed a resolution, at the urging of Councilmember Stacy Head, **supporting the retention of the LSU School of Medicine** and construction of a **new LSU/Veterans Administration teaching hospital** in the downtown medical district. *[R-07-86] [R-07-258]* In the interim, the Council adopted a motion, authored by Councilmember Shelley Midura, requesting an independent evaluation to explore the feasibility of re-opening the mental health unit of the existing Charity Hospital. *[M-07-237]*

**IDEA VILLAGE BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER** in the Upper Ninth Ward received the City Council's full support under the leadership of District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell. The Center, located in an Upper Ninth Ward landmark, is a pilot project expected to open early in 2008. The partnership of Idea Village and New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity is designed to **spur sustainable economic development**. Idea Village is developing community "Innovation Centers" to revitalize key commercial corridors in New Orleans.

A planned theatre district along Canal Street in the Central Business District, **BROADWAY SOUTH**, established by state legislation, was fully supported and promoted by the City Council and spearheaded by District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head. The district will provide state **tax incentives for productions and related infrastructure in Orleans Parish**. *[R-07-155]*

The City's comprehensive zoning ordinance was amended to encourage and promote the new **HOLLYWOOD SOUTH**, an initiative that targets business growth in the film industry. District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head led the action to amend the zoning law to allow the location of additional film studios and support services in the City. Councilmember Head also led zoning legislation to create an **Urban Corridor Overlay District** and **Re-zoning for the South Claiborne area** to encourage retail development and an **Arts and Culture Overlay District for Freret Street**. *[M-07-312] [M-07-500]* Business and jobs growth was the focus at a Central City Job Fair with 400 participants and 25 participating vendors that resulted in the hiring of 100 people.

“ *The Council as a whole acts as the watch dog of the citizens’ tax dollars, a responsibility that we take very seriously. The City Council monitors the budget processes of city departments and agencies and ensures that government spending is conducted in a fiscally sound and responsible manner.* ”

– Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
District “D” Councilmember

Recognizing the Economic Development Contributions of the **NEW ORLEANS HORNETS NBA TEAM**, the Council passed a resolution urging Cox and Charter Cable Communications to continue working on an agreement that would allow the New Orleans Hornets **games to be broadcast to Charter customers in St. Tammany Parish** and other regional markets. *[R-07-453]*

**THE FLEUR DE LIS AMBASSADORS**, created by Council President Fielkow with Scott Cowen, President of Tulane University, is a program that markets New Orleans by taking its **message of economic viability and long-range recovery and progress** to national business and philanthropic organizations. The goal is to stop the national media's proliferation of misperceptions about the City's recovery. In 2007 the Ambassadors conducted successful trips to Atlanta, Jacksonville, Birmingham, Boston, New York, and Washington D.C.

## Ethics & Good Governance

The Council, under the leadership of Governmental Affairs Chair Shelley Midura, Budget Chair Cynthia Hedge-Morrell and Criminal Justice Chair James Carter allocated \$3.4 million to fully fund the **OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL** and the **ETHICS REVIEW BOARD** to **detect and guard against government waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement**. *[O-22888 M.C.S.]*

The Council, at the urging of Councilmembers Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, James Carter and Shelley Midura, with technical expertise provided by the Police Assessment Resource Center, established and allocated \$200,000 to create the **OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITOR** that will provide **independent oversight of the New Orleans Police Department**. *[M-07-48]*

The Council allocated up to \$125,000 to hire **COUNCIL SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL** to provide **assistance in legal and policy matters** in situations in which the advice and guidance of special counsel serve the Council's best interests and/or there exist or are potential conflicts between the City Council and the executive branch. *[M-07-586]*

The Council passed a resolution to **MONITOR AND SUPPORT THE ORLEANS DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE** to **determine a regular schedule of all anticipated revenues and expenditures** so the Council could adequately support the District Attorney. *[R-07-507]*

The Council extended its **strong position on transparency** in government by amending its rules to **REQUIRE THAT CITY CONTRACTORS GIVE FULL DISCLOSURE** of their sub-contractors and potential sub-contractors in their work on behalf of the City of New Orleans. *[M-07-413]*

“ *Ethics reform and good governance are the foundation of a government that works for its citizens. We intend to continue our efforts to secure transparent and responsive administrative controls to ensure that New Orleans City Government functions efficiently and ethically for all citizens.* ”

– Shelley Midura  
District “A” Councilmember

Council President Fielkow spearheaded a series of other amendments to the Council's Rules to ensure **MORE EFFICIENT MEETINGS** and **fair and equitable presentation** by all participants. Among the changes added are time stamped speaker cards to ensure fairness and improved time monitoring of presentations being made before the Council. *[M-07-277]*

The Council, upon suggestion of Council President Fielkow, made significant procedural changes in the administration of the Economic Development Fund requiring **MORE TRANSPARENCY IN THE GRANT GIVING PROCESS** and requiring pre- and post-auditing of grantees to **ensure fiscal accountability**. *[O-22856 M.C.S.]*

The establishment of a **CUSTOMER SERVICE TASK FORCE** was spearheaded by Councilmember Fielkow. *[R-07-426]* The effort is in partnership with the Administration and its focus is to **improve City Hall and City Government customer service** as well as the operation of the 311 Reporting System.

District "C" Councilmember James Carter, as Chairman of the Cable and Telecommunications Committee, offered a motion to authorize the issuance of a request for proposals to implement a **COMPUTERIZED WEB VIDEO STREAMING AND MEETING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM** to **improve the Council's technology in providing information to the general public**. *[M-07-450]*

Addressing the critical medical needs and related issues surrounding the lack of health care in New Orleans, the City Council established the **MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**. The new standing committee is **dedicated exclusively to taking up mental health issues**. The Council also established the **FOOD POLICY ADVISORY PANEL AND TASK FORCE** that will study and provide recommendations for **greater access to food stores and fresh produce**. *[R-07-203]*

Newly elected Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will chair the **ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE** which will address the **revitalization of the arts and entertainment industry** in post-Katrina New Orleans. *[M-07-625]*

The Council embraced the **REGIONAL GOVERNMENT MODEL TO SOLVE EXPENSIVE AND CHALLENGING SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL ISSUES**. The Council, upon the suggestion of Councilmember Fielkow, requested the Regional Planning Commission conduct a **feasibility study on regional recycling** and passed a resolution urging the City Administration to examine instituting a regional recycling program with neighboring parishes. *[R-07-547]* Councilmember Fielkow also led an effort, with regional counterparts, **urging FEMA to re-institute the pick-up of storm debris in the region**.

“ *New Orleanians deserve a safe city in which to live, work, play and raise their families. Only a criminal justice system that is fair, efficient and accountable will accomplish this goal. To that end, we are committed to comprehensive criminal justice system change based on best practices.* ”

– James Carter  
District “C” Councilmember

## Public Safety & Crime Prevention

The City Council, through the leadership of its Budget Committee Chair Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, authorized **PAY RAISES FOR ALL NOPD OFFICERS**, raising salary levels to the southern regional average. [M-07-288] **New recruits entering the New Orleans Police Department’s Municipal Training Academy will now receive a 12.5 percent annual salary increase.** The Council, under the leadership of Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, supported a **SPECIAL CRIME REDUCTION PLAN** by allocating an additional \$4 million for police officer overtime. [O-22841 M.C.S.] [O-22842 M.C.S.] The Council’s Budget Committee was also instrumental in **RELOCATING THE NOPD FIFTH DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS OUT OF TRAILERS** and into new offices in the old Universal Furniture Building on St. Claude Avenue.

Under the leadership of Councilmember James Carter, Chair of the Council Criminal Justice Committee, and Shelley Midura, Criminal Justice Committee member, the Council launched the **SAFE CITY INITIATIVE**. Under this broad initiative, the Council provided funding for the **TULANE TOWER LEARNING CENTER**, which serves students sixteen years and older who have come into contact with the criminal justice system; the **JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE (JDAI)**, which focuses on the **juvenile detention component** of the juvenile justice system; and a **DAY REPORTING CENTER** planning process. **The Day Reporting Center pilot program will commence in Fall 2008, providing effective programming as an alternative to incarceration for technical probation violators.**

Also under the Safe City Initiative, Criminal Justice Committee Chairman and District “C” Councilmember James Carter, and Committee member and District “A” Councilmember Shelley Midura, along with the entire Council, provided financial support for the **VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE’S** 2007 study of the New Orleans criminal justice system. Vera’s “Proposals for New Orleans’ Criminal Justice System: Best Practices to Advance Public Safety and Justice” **outlined recommendations for a comprehensive, empirically-based criminal justice system change based on best practices.** In September 2007 Councilmember Carter convened the **CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE (CJLA)**, in which the leaders of Orleans Parish’s criminal justice agencies signed an unprecedented collective statement of commitment. In this historic document, **criminal justice agency heads pledged to work cooperatively to implement Vera’s recommendations.**

Crime Prevention and Public Safety were top priorities of the Criminal Justice Committee led by Councilmember James Carter at the **CRIME PREVENTION ROUNDTABLE II – the first follow-up to a Crime Summit in the City’s history.** Criminal justice system leaders provided



*George Long Photography*



updates about ongoing and future reforms. New Orleans Police Department Superintendent Warren Riley, former District Attorney Eddie Jordan, F.B.I. Special Agent in Charge James Bernazzani and U.S. Attorney Jim Letten were in attendance, along with representatives from Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman’s office, DEA, ATF, U.S. Marshal Service and community service providers.

The City Council dealt directly with crime issues in eastern New Orleans by holding the **NEW ORLEANS EAST CRIME SUMMIT**, led by District “E” Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis. The **summit secured the stepped-up assistance of State Troopers, a Federal Task Force and Police Chief Warren Riley**, all committing to targeting and reducing crime. A commitment was also received to install “crime cameras” in the hot spot areas of eastern New Orleans.

Throughout 2007, City Councilmembers reached out to citizens and business owners in their districts and citywide by holding **TOWN HALL MEETINGS** and **NEIGHBORHOOD WALKS** in every neighborhood in New Orleans from the east bank to the west bank – Uptown, Downtown, Gentilly, Algiers, New Orleans East, Carrollton, Lakeview, Marigny, Treme, Ninth Ward, the Warehouse District, the Central Business District and the French Quarter.

The Council also introduced legislation to allow **RED LIGHT CAMERA ENFORCEMENT**. [O-22526 M.C.S.] District “B” Councilmember Stacy Head identified the need for, introduced and championed the concept of **implementing the new system designed to save lives**.

## Recovery Efforts

The City Council continued its relentless **FOCUS ON FLOOD PROTECTION**. The Council advocated for an **independent investigation of levee failures**, urged Congress to **fully fund flood protection** [R-07-140], supported the federal **Water Resources Development Act of 2007** [R-07-491], and supported the **Pump to the River**, a regional government flood protection initiative. [R-07-623]

The Council kept up the heat on congressional and state leadership, requesting **FAIR FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR HURRICANE RECOVERY**. It passed a resolution, authored by Councilmember Stacy Head, urging Congress to appropriate funds for **permanent supportive housing subsidies** for hurricane-devastated areas of Louisiana and to help **address our homelessness crisis**. [R-07-530] The Council formally requested the Louisiana Recovery Authority authorize expedited reallocation and **disbursement of Disaster Recovery matching funds** to address housing and economic development in blighted areas. [R-07-582]

City Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell as a member of the Special Disaster and Recovery Committee led the Council’s efforts to **engage neighborhoods in the recovery and rebuilding**

“ *Rebuilding and growing a city takes smart planning. As a Council, we have utilized our legislative power to the fullest extent to strengthen, enforce and improve city codes and support a new comprehensive zoning ordinance to provide the foundation for a smart and ordered recovery plan for neighborhoods, businesses and individuals.* ”

– Stacy Head  
District “B” Councilmember

**process** for New Orleans under the Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP). The **UNOP COMPONENT COMMUNITY SUPPORT ORGANIZATION (CSO)** oversaw meetings and received input from the public.

The Council passed a resolution that recommended a **ROAD HOME PROGRAM BILL OF RIGHTS**, and **urged federal government and state legislators to fully fund the Road Home Program.** [R-07-91]

To ensure Orleans Parish receives an equitable share of **GO ZONE BONDS** to **fund local recovery and economic development plans**, the Council urged the Governor and State Bond Commission to take steps on behalf of the City of New Orleans. [R-07-339]

The Council continues to actively coordinate with the Louisiana Economic Development Office in Baton Rouge to ensure that the **BUSINESS RECOVERY GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM** is **implemented effectively, and reaches those business owners** most in need.

## Infrastructure Rebuilding & Commercial Revival

The Council, by ordinance allocated \$75 million of a \$260 million bond issue to support the **FIRST PHASE OF THE REBUILDING OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS.** [O-22904 M.C.S.]

District “A” Councilmember Shelley Midura has focused much of her efforts on the **REVIVAL OF** commercial properties and major roadways throughout **LAKEVIEW, MID-CITY AND CARROLLTON.** Among the **commercial developments** are Walgreens and Robert Fresh Markets on Carrollton and Claiborne Ave. and on West End and Robert E. Lee Blvd.; the Mid City Shopping Center; the Preserve, a **residential development** on the site of the old Baumer Foods Plant; and Chase Bank. The **public works projects** include major road work initiated on Robert E. Lee Blvd. and Marconi Drive and support for the location of a designated dog park in City Park.

District “B” Councilmember Stacy Head worked to secure funding for the **REBUILDING OF LYONS PLAYGROUND** on Delachaise St. and to **PURCHASE A THIRD POT HOLE KILLER** for use throughout the City.



*Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative*

District “C” Councilmember James Carter worked to move plans forward to **REVITALIZE ARMSTRONG PARK** and **RENOVATE, RESTORE AND REOPEN THE MAHALIA JACKSON THEATRE** for the Performing Arts in Louis Armstrong Park.

District “D” Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell spearheaded a variety of high-profile projects that are **transforming some of the City’s neighborhoods hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina**. **SUGARHILL WALKING PATH** will extend from Gentilly Blvd. to Humanity St. with plans to expand to Florida Avenue. **HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL HAS BEGUN CONSTRUCTION** of a permanent structure on its new Gentilly campus. Construction of a new Walgreens Drug Store at the corner of Gentilly and Elysian Fields Ave. is underway. **The New Orleans Public Library**, with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has located a temporary **MODULAR STRUCTURE TO HOUSE A LIBRARY** branch in the 6100 block of St. Roch Ave. at the corner of Robert E. Lee Blvd. in the Milneburg Neighborhood. The Recovery School District selected the **Lake Area Middle School to be rebuilt** as a **NEW TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL** in one of the seventeen target planning zones.

District “E” Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis worked tirelessly with her council colleagues, business leaders and the community to assist in **BRINGING BACK EASTERN NEW ORLEANS AND THE LOWER NINTH WARD**. The City Council allocated **\$600,000 IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS (CDBG)** toward **Phase One of the Restoration of Joe Brown Park**. [M-07-511] Ground was broken on a 150,000 square foot **Lowe’s Home Improvement Store** located at the **Plaza Shopping Mall / Renaissance Town Center**. The **Winn Dixie Grocery Store in New Orleans East** began operations with an unprecedented NASDAQ grand reopening on September 27, 2007. The 50,000 square foot concept store is a one of a kind in the Winn Dixie chain of stores. The **FIRST REPLACEMENT STREET SIGN IN THE LOWER NINTH WARD** was erected at the center of the levee breach at Galvez and Jordan Avenue in October. The **OFF STREET BRIDGE PROJECT** at the Maxent Canal Bridge in eastern New Orleans began in November with construction to take about ten months. The total construction cost is \$3.8 million with \$3.1 million in Federal Highway Administration and \$750,000 in New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board funds.

## Neighborhood & Housing Revitalization

Maintaining its vigilance in **eradicating blighted and abandoned properties**, the City Council passed legislation allowing the city to **EXPROPRIATE BLIGHTED PROPERTIES** in a timely, fair, and transparent manner; **ensure the demolition of unsafe and inadequate public housing** developments and replace them with **AFFORDABLE MIXED-INCOME UNITS**; and **continue oversight and enforcement of federal, state and local regulations by the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) and the U.S. Department of Housing Urban Development (HUD)**. [M-07-628] [M-07-630]

“ *A fair, well-planned and well-administered recovery process that considers every individual and neighborhood is vital to the restoration of the cultural soul of New Orleans. Together, we are tackling this issue so that all citizens can return to a city with jobs and educational opportunities, restored commercial areas and neighborhoods with affordable housing.* ”

– Cynthia Willard-Lewis  
District “E” Councilmember

Complementing those efforts to eradicate blight, the Council, led by District “E” Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis and District “B” Councilmember Stacy Head, **RECOMMENDED A REVAMPED HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM** that more directly addresses our post-Katrina housing and quality-of-life issues. [R-07-446]

The New Orleans City Council, led by District “D” Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, adopted and approved the historic Pontilly Neighborhood Community Improvement Plan as contained in the **CITYWIDE STRATEGIC RECOVERY AND REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**. [R-07-604] The historic Pontilly Neighborhood, located in District “D,” is comprised of Pontchartrain Park and Gentilly Woods. The Council, by ordinance, approved the development of both **MUSICIANS’ VILLAGE** and the **ELLIS MARSALIS CENTER FOR MUSIC**. Musicians’ Village, a cornerstone of the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity (NOAHH) post-Katrina rebuilding effort, is designed to both construct a community and preserve a culture.

The City Council, led by District “E” Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, **supported several important non-profit foundation projects** this year. **THE GLOBAL GREEN FOUNDATION COMMUNITY AND HOUSING CENTER** in the Lower Ninth Ward began construction. Actor and Philanthropist Brad Pitt and the **MAKE IT RIGHT FOUNDATION** began a \$12 million project to build 150 houses in the Lower Ninth Ward. Both entities are working closely with all neighborhood and community stakeholders in the area. The return of the **WALNUT SQUARE APARTMENTS** to the eastern New Orleans community was made possible through a joint project of the National Housing Partnership Foundation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The 209 unit project will have a community center, day care, full-time security, and full-time management.

The City Council, through the leadership of District “A” Councilmember Shelley Midura and District “B” Councilmember Stacy Head supported the **REDEVELOPMENT OF THE LAFITTE HOUSING COMPLEX** [M-07-630] and the **designation and implementation of the Lafitte Greenway Corridor**. [R-07-309]

Continuing its strong commitment to neighborhood recovery, the Council, at the suggestion of District “A” Councilmember Shelley Midura, supported creation of the **LAKE AREA ZONING DISTRICT (LAZD)** located in District “A.” [M-07-171]

To **enhance the City’s possibility of receiving future grant funding** for neighborhood revitalization efforts, the Council passed a resolution, introduced by District “B” Councilmember Stacy Head, **RECOGNIZING NEW ORLEANS AS A PRESERVE AMERICA CITY**. [R-07-626]



*George Long Photography*



## Youth & Recreation

The Council, led by Youth and Recreation Committee Chair Arnie Fielkow, authorized a professional “Best Practices” **STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF RECREATION PROGRAMS** within New Orleans be conducted to begin a process for **building and improving youth and recreation programs.** *[M-07-183]*

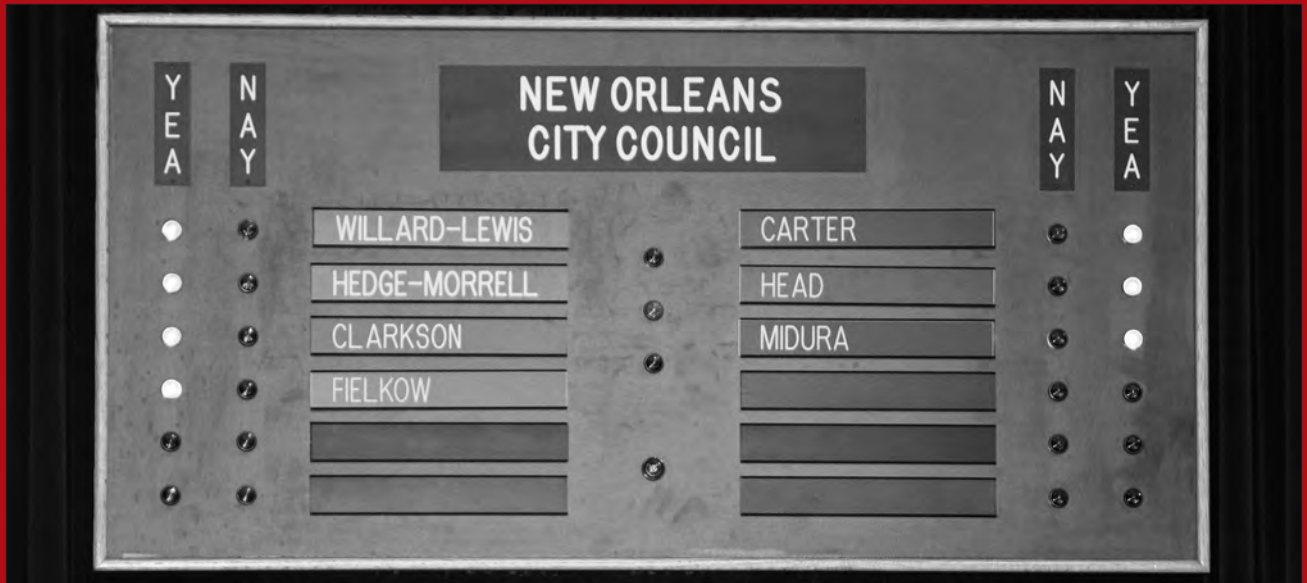
The **NCAA NEW ORLEANS YOUTH FOOTBALL ALLIANCE**, spearheaded by Councilmember Fielkow, was established. The initiative included a series of **events designed to expose our City’s youth to all aspects of football**, and resulted in a total contribution of over \$750,000 in equipment, apparel and services, representing by seven-fold the largest sponsorship ever received by the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD).

The **PLAYGROUND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM** was also initiated by Councilmember Fielkow. To date, the partnership has **cleaned up five City playgrounds**, secured donations of \$75,000, and found local sponsors to organize and finance a NORD youth baseball trip to Houston for an Astros baseball game.

The NBA, in partnership with the New Orleans City Council, the Hornets and Louisiana state officials, announced a season-long, league-wide effort to **SUPPORT THE ONGOING REBUILDING OF NEW ORLEANS** and the Gulf Coast region. The NBA, its teams and partners committed to **assist over 30,000 children and build 40 places in the Crescent City where families can live, learn or play.** NBA teams traveling to New Orleans to play the Hornets hosted activities such as playground builds and military base visits, in addition to inviting thousands of individuals from local organizations and schools to the games. Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade and **HORNETS ALL-STAR CHRIS PAUL FUNDED A FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER**, while Philadelphia 76ers rookie Thad Young made a donation to the Dryades YMCA, where he grew up playing basketball.

The Council continued its **unwavering support of recreation facilities** as safe places for the youth and families of New Orleans. The Council supported efforts to **INCREASE COMMUNITY ACCESS TO SCHOOL PLAYGROUND AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES** after school hours and allocated an additional \$100,000 for the placement of automated **EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS IN CITY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.** *[R-07-465]*

Under the leadership of New Orleans City Council Education Committee Chair Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, the Cowen Institute of Tulane University, in partnership with the Greater New Orleans Education Foundation, released the findings of **THE STATE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN NEW ORLEANS**, a 12-week long assessment of the progress and challenges facing public schools in New Orleans. The assessment was an **extensive community-based effort** that gathered input from more than 3,000 parents, teachers and students from all 58 public schools in New Orleans.



*New Orleans City Council*

# THE 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 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 Council is 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 the 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 public access television in Orleans Parish. Annually, the Council establishes its policy priorities for the upcoming year at a councilmember legislative retreat, usually held in the month of October. The City Council is comprised of five district councilmembers and two councilmembers-at-large.



(L-R) Council President and Councilmember-at-Large **Arnie Fielkow** and Council Vice-President and Councilmember-at-Large **Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson**



(L-R) 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**.

*Council photos by George Long Photography*

## COUNCIL STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Budget, Audit, and Board of Review Committee  
Cable and Telecommunications Committee  
Competitive Selection Committee  
Criminal Justice Committee  
Education Committee  
Election Code and Reapportionment Committee  
Governmental Affairs Committee  
Ground Transportation and Parking Committee  
Housing and Human Needs Committee  
Public Works Committee  
Sanitation and Environmental Enforcement Committee  
Special Arts and Culture Committee  
Special Committee on Mental Health  
Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee  
Special Disaster and Recovery Committee  
Special Joint Airport Committee  
Special Official Journal and New Orleans Register Ordinances Committee  
Special Remote and Evening Meeting Feasibility Study Committee  
Utility Committee  
Youth and Recreation Committee

## COUNCIL EXECUTIVE STAFF

**Ronald J. Pursell**, *Council Chief of Staff*  
**Peggy Lewis**, *Clerk of Council*  
**Lydia Glapion-Days**, *Council Research Director*  
**Calvin Aguillard**, *Council Fiscal Officer*  
**Kelley Meehan**, *Council Utilities Regulatory Officer*



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