

Office of Inspector General Operations Logistics Being Addressed

News Release

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New Orleans
City Council

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

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

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

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

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.