

**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

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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."

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 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.

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