

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."

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 Head; District "C" Councilmember James Carter; District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.