

New Orleans City Council

District D
Councilmember
Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell
Focuses on Need for Transparency in RFQ Process
In Utility Committee Meeting Today

News Release

August 17, 2009

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New Orleans, LA - August 17, 2009 - During the Utility Committee meeting today, District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell offered a Motion to authorize the drafting of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a new contract for the Council Utility Advisor. The current contract expires at the end of 2009. The Motion allows members of the Utility Committee to have input on the draft RFQ, and vote on the document before it is sent to the full Council for authorization.

The Motion by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell came after a Motion, by Utility Committee Chair Councilmember Shelley Midura, was withdrawn when it was amended to include the provision that the draft RFQ come back before the Utility Committee.

"I'm not going to vote to authorize that an RFQ be issued without the members of this Committee and the public having a chance to weigh in on the document," Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said. "This is about transparency, the Utility Committee should have a say on the content of the RFQ before it is released."

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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.