

**Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson
Lobbies Louisiana Recovery Authority
For Funding for the National World War II Museum in New Orleans**

News Release

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New Orleans
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - August 19, 2009

- Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will travel to Baton Rouge today with leaders from around the state to lobby the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) for funds for the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.

"The Museum has proved to be one of our region's greatest economic development engines," Councilmember Clarkson said. "We need the LRA to give the Museum the full funds it is requesting for its shovel-ready projects."

The Museum is undergoing a \$300 million expansion that will quadruple the size of the existing facility, including exhibit pavilions, a theater, a themed restaurant, a public parade ground, and much more.

Once this expansion is completed, the Museum will spur a \$102 million annual economic impact, bring in \$12 million each year in annual net tax revenue to Louisiana, draw 650,000 visitors annually, and create 430 permanent Louisiana jobs.

Today the Museum is requesting \$10 million from the LRA to fund the construction of its "Campaigns Pavilion." The LRA is responsible for awarding federal stimulus funds in the form of Community Development

Block Grants to shovel-ready projects around the state. The Museum has already raised millions in private funds toward this project. Once it begins, it will lead to the creation of 554 jobs and have an economic impact of \$69 million.

"I have a twenty-year affiliation with the World War II Museum - as a Museum Trustee, a State Legislator, a New Orleans District City Councilmember, and now as a Councilmember-at-Large," Councilmember Clarkson said. "From these varied perspectives, I have witnessed firsthand the economic benefit the Museum has continued to bring to our city, region, and state."

She continued, "The Museum is a vital component of the Greater New Orleans region's continued recovery. In addition to its significant economic impact, it has put the region on an international stage in a manner unparalleled by any other project in the region."

The National World War II Museum has had more than two million visitors, 80 percent of whom travel from out state. The Museum has 130,000 members nationwide.

To view a copy of the LRA meeting agenda, click [here](#).

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.