



NOLA CITY COUNCIL

The legislative branch of city government

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Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, Councilmember District D

**Budget Committee Chair Councilmember Hedge-Morrell
Addresses the 2010 Budget Preparation Status Report
During Joint Committee Meeting Today**

News Release

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Contact:

Joshua Barnett

Director of Communications

Office of

Councilmember

Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

Ph: 504-658-1040

Cell: 504-292-5529

jbarnett@cityofno.com



(L to R) Budget Administrator, Brian Firstley; Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Cary Grant & Senior Managing Consultant of Public Financial Management, Chris Pencikowski

New Orleans, LA - August 31, 2009 - Today in a joint session the City Council Budget, Audit and Board of Review Committee and the Special Disaster and Recovery Committee heard presentations on the status of the 2010 budget preparation.

The Committee heard presentations from Budget Administrator, Brian Firstley; Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Cary Grant; and Senior Managing Consultant of Public Financial Management, Chris Pencikowski regarding the budget process timeline for the months of September, October and November leading up to the City Charter mandated December deadline to approve the 2010 budget.

Among the goals of the 2010 budget preparation process outlined in the presentation included, determining how much money is available; establishing prioritized results; allocating revenues to results; conducting analyses; ranking budget programs; identifying measures and monitoring performance.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us to develop a sound budget this year," said Budget Committee Chair Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell. "Just like families across the country have, we will need to make tough choices in order to find

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City Council

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places to save money this year."

The Mayor is expected to present his budget to the Council before November 1, 2009. The City Council will hold its budget hearings during the month of November and is expected to approve the budget prior to December 1, 2009.

NOLA 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.