

Council President Arnie Fielkow Honors CREST  
And Intl. School of Fine & Performing Arts at Live Oak Elementary  
During Tomorrow's Council Meeting

News Release

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New Orleans  
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - August 5, 2009 - Tomorrow at the regular City Council meeting, members will vote on Resolution R-09-404 in support of the Coastal Restoration and Enhancement through Science and Technology (CREST) Program.

"Coastal restoration is critical to the survival of our area and requires a clear understanding of the problem with the mission of developing the best solution. CREST serves as a much needed resource by providing the latest science and best technologies," said Council President Fielkow.

Established in 2003, CREST utilizes the exceptional concentration of coastal restoration scientists and researchers found in Louisiana and provides training for the next generation of scientists by supporting graduate and post-graduate students. 11 universities in Louisiana, including four in New Orleans - Loyola University of New Orleans, Southern University of New Orleans, Tulane University of New Orleans, University of New Orleans, as well as, the University of Southern Mississippi have joined CREST as Member Universities. However, funding for CREST is extremely vulnerable, and through this Resolution, the Council expresses its support for the CREST Program and urges the State's Congressional Delegation to work with their colleagues in the U.S. Congress and with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration to ensure continued financial support of this important program.

Council President Fielkow will host an Order of Business for and present a Proclamation to the world-renowned Batiste musical family, the Recovery School District (RSD), Greater New Orleans Afterschool Partnership and the New Orleans South African Connection for partnering to establish and administer the International School of Fine and Performing Arts at Live Oak Elementary. The school will serve as the RSD's flagship arts school and students will be taught by acclaimed artists from around the world. The curriculum will supplement traditional academic subjects with quality arts education,

music, drama, dance, and the visual arts. The group has also put together a short musical performance, which will take place prior to the Council meeting.

Also on tomorrow's agenda Council President Fielkow has requested a presentation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the June 2011 deadline to provide a quality system of protection for a 100-year storm. Appearing before the Council to present status reports will be Corps officials and Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority's East Executive Director Tim Doody.

In 2007, the US Congress allocated more than \$12 billion to the Corps to repair Katrina-related damages, provide long-term solutions to pre-existing unsound structures and completely strengthen the City's hurricane defenses to combat a 100-year storm. As project timetables become more clear, the Corps has stated that it may not be able to complete its 100-year storm protection by the June 2011 deadline, and Council President Fielkow has requested that Corps officials testify to the Council on the matter

Also at the request of Council President Fielkow, Justin Augustine of Veolia Transportation will report on the Regional Transit Authority's plans to expand the streetcar system.

Tomorrow's City Council Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

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