

Statement

August 6, 2009



**Council President Fielkow
Responds to Mayor's Suspension
Of Public-Private Partnership**

New Orleans, LA - August 6, 2009 - "The Mayor's decision today to indefinitely suspend the city's first public-private partnership (PPP) is highly detrimental to the citizens of New Orleans and reflects a thinly camouflaged retaliation for the outcome of the Council's vote on the Chevron building. It is an incredibly irresponsible and retaliatory reaction that only hurts the economic development efforts of the city, which have been woefully lacking for a number of years. Development of the PPP has been a studied, collaborative two-year effort with a nominating process that was recommended by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and adopted by the Administration. It is my understanding the IEDC's referenced July letter was intended to help guide the PPP board selection process - not to shut it down - and the IEDC has been working closely with the private-sector nominating organizations to clarify that process.

"The PPP was an effort to incorporate the "best practices" of economic development entities which have proven to be successful in many other cities. It is harmful that the Mayor is unwilling, despite his former support, to bring New Orleans into the 21st century in this area.

"The Mayor's action today is also disrespectful of the Council's past vote in support of funding for the PPP and the nomination of PPP board members by the Council, an item on the Council's agenda today. I and many others stand willing and ready to perfect and complete the process of establishing the city's first dedicated economic development organization and to ensure an inclusive membership on the PPP board. New Orleans deserves better than governance by retaliation. Real leadership is needed to fulfill our commitment to the future success of the city."

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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.