

Statement

February 10, 2009



Council Vice President Fielkow Statement
Re: Value of the New Orleans Saints and Hornets

New Orleans, LA - February 10, 2009 - Today, Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow issued the following statement in response to the news that the State of Louisiana is expected to be more than \$27 million short of what it owes the New Orleans Saints and Hornets next year:

"The current debate which took place in Baton Rouge today regarding the benefit of keeping the NFL/New Orleans Saints and NBA/New Orleans Hornets in our community is one which I feel is unnecessary. There is no question that both the Saints and Hornets, and the Leagues in which they are members, bring tremendous benefit and value to the City of New Orleans, the State of Louisiana and the entire Gulf South region.

As a relatively small market in the context of professional sports, we are indeed fortunate to have two major league sports teams and they are a treasured asset that this community, state and region can ill afford to lose. Both teams have created an emotional attachment among the residents which is deep and very unifying. The community takes great pride in having these teams call New Orleans home, and a loss of either would create a huge void. One need only consider the events post-Katrina, i.e. the majestic night of the Superdome's reopening, record-season ticket sales for both teams and the emotional relief both clubs have provided in the face of a challenging quality of life environment, to fully appreciate the deep emotional impact these sports teams have among our citizens.

From an economic standpoint, both the Saints and Hornets provide an unparalleled return on investment to our community, both in terms of overall economic impact and direct financial benefits. The international and national advertising and publicity these clubs and their leagues bring to our city are things which we could never afford to purchase. Additionally, the potential for another Super Bowl in 2013 and hopefully again in future years would bring hundreds of millions of dollars of additional economic benefit to the community.

The bottom line is that the New Orleans Saints and New Orleans Hornets are part of the fabric of our community and need to remain here for the benefit of future generations. I am fully cognizant of the economic challenges being faced by our state and city, but hope that the decision-makers at both the state and franchise levels will be able to creatively formulate a revenue plan which will allow the current contractual agreements to be honored and for long-term partnerships to be created."

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 Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; Council Vice-President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow ; 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.