



Statement

January 30, 2009

## New Orleans City Council Statement Regarding Resignation of Inspector General Robert Cerasoli

New Orleans, LA - January 30, 2009 - We would like to express our gratitude to New Orleans' first Inspector General Robert Cerasoli for his tireless efforts over the last 17 months serving as an independent watchdog over City government.

Cerasoli's long-term vision and mutually respectful relationship with the Council was a clear catalyst for a voter approved City Charter change that solidified permanent financing for the office.

Under his leadership, operational and policy standards were set ensuring the fluid continuation of the Office of Inspector General for years to come. This will be his legacy to the government and citizens of New Orleans.

We offer reassurance to all citizens that the Council will stand by the Office of Inspector General and pledge our support of its independent work to ensure transparency and accountability in government.

We wish Mr. Cerasoli the very best for his health and a happy retirement.

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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 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.