

City Council Passes Legislation  
Spearheaded by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
To Fund Crime Fighting Initiatives

News Release

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**New Orleans, LA - July 3, 2009 -**

At yesterday's regular meeting, the New Orleans City Council unanimously approved Ordinances to allocate funds for summer overtime for the New Orleans Police Department, as well as to fund investigators for the District Attorney's office.

The Ordinances were authored and introduced by District "D" Councilmember and Budget

Committee Chair Cynthia Hedge-Morrell and co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow, Head, and Clarkson.

Ordinance Calendar No. 27,519 shifted \$1 Million from the Chief Administrative Office to the New Orleans Police Department to fund 12 hour shifts for patrol officers through the summer months.

Ordinance Calendar Nos. 27,526 and 27,527 allocate \$150,710 from the General Fund to the Office of District Attorney. The money will be used to hire eight investigators who will work on cases that currently lack sufficient evidence for prosecution. The District Attorney hopes to close a number of homicide cases where a suspect has been identified but not charged, thereby reducing the number of violent criminals on the streets.

"Public safety is my number one concern. We typically see an increase in crime during the summer months," Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said. "These measures will have an immediate impact on our residents' safety."

### **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.