



Media Advisory

July 13, 2009

**City Council to Host
Community-Led Public Meeting Tomorrow Night
On Planned New Orleans Adolescent Hospital Closure**

What: The City Council will host a community-led public meeting on the closing of the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital (NOAH). City Council President Arnie Fielkow secured the City Council Chamber for the meeting at the request of many concerned citizens. A resource panel, led by Derrick Morrison, will examine the devastating repercussions of the Governor's recent veto of NOAH funding. The panel will also include representatives of community organizations that requested use of the Council Chamber, including Advocates for Louisiana Public Healthcare, United Teachers of New Orleans and Louisiana ACORN.

In earlier statements, Council President Fielkow has stated his belief the NOAH facility is vital to providing mental health services in the City.

"Governor Jindal's decision to apply a line item veto to \$14.2 million dedicated by the Legislature to NOAH destroys our ability to serve residents in crisis and offer them a family-supported continuum of mental health services in the staged progress back to health and independence," stated Council President Fielkow, following Governor Jindal's announcement. "Without the full range of services offered at NOAH, our entire community is put at risk. Expanding mental health services is an essential part of building a safer, healthier City - we cannot cut services."

When: Tuesday, July 14, 2009
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who: Special Guests

- State Representative Neil Abramson, District 98
- State Representative Cedric Richmond, District 101
- Dr. Kevin Stephens, Director, City of New Orleans Health Department
- Cecile Tebo, NOPD Crisis Unit
- Pat Roy, President, NOAH's Friends
- Willie Zanders, Attorney

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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.