

**Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson
To Receive Administration's Report on Chevron Building
At Council Meeting Thursday**

News Release

July 1, 2009

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New Orleans
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - July 1, 2009 -

Representatives from Mayor C. Ray Nagin's administration will appear before the Council Thursday to answer a series of questions regarding the financial details of a pending purchase of the Chevron Building, located at 935 Gravier Street. In a Motion authored by Councilmember Clarkson and unanimously approved by the Council, the Council pledged not to act on the purchase of this property as a site for City Hall until these questions are answered.

"The Chevron Building is a good building at a good price, but is it a good building for City Hall?" Clarkson said. "We need to consider whether the downtown building is an appropriate site for housing what should be a landmark building in any city."

She continued, "We also need to consider whether the entire deal is a financial gain or loss for the City, including the value of the liquidation of our present site and other city owned properties."

The series of questions outlined in the Motion are:

1. What is the funding gap between FEMA funds allotted for City Hall repairs and renovations,

and the cost of the Chevron Building?

2. How will the gap in financing be filled (mortgage, bonds, etc.)?
3. What are the costs to retrofit/build out the Chevron building?
4. What are the savings in leased office space if the offices occupying these spaces are consolidated in the Chevron Building, and how much longer is the City committed to its current leases?
5. What are the plans for the current City Hall property? Will it be sold, retained, leased?
6. What is the cost of physically moving the offices now housed in City Hall and other leased spaces to the Chevron Building?
7. With hurricane season in mind, when is the move planned?
8. What is the Chevron Building's hurricane rating?
9. By what date will the Council receive a comprehensive gain/loss balance sheet on this purchase?

Councilmember Clarkson received a copy of the building's appraisal from the Mayor. This appraisal was delivered to her office last week as requested.

"I'm in the process of reviewing the appraisal," said Clarkson, who is a Realtor with 40 years experience.

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.