

**Council President Fielkow
Seeks to Establish Council Multicultural Committee**

News Release

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New Orleans
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - July 1, 2009 - Tomorrow at the regular New Orleans City Council meeting, members will vote on Motion M-09-291 to establish a City Council Multicultural Committee with the mission of better serving the needs of our city's growing diverse population.

"Throughout its history New Orleans has always enjoyed a great blend of cultures, which has lent to our uniqueness and success, and post Katrina we have grown even more," said Council President Fielkow.

Since its inception as a French port city, New Orleans' multicultural diversity of people, especially African-American, French and Spanish Creole, Irish, Italian and German has shaped its history. In the 1970's, men and women fleeing the Vietnam War, resettled in eastern New Orleans and Algiers, making these some of the densest ethnically Vietnamese populations outside of Vietnam. Further adding to the mix of cultures is a growing number of Hispanics who began to arrive in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to aid in the recovery. The Motion, which Council President Fielkow introduced at the last City Council meeting, will serve several purposes including pursuing a strategy and initiatives that encompass all the cultures and communities in the City.

It will also work in concert with other government entities, like the

Louisiana Council on the Provision of Governmental Services to Latin Americans, to ensure all communities have access to, and are being served, by state and local agencies. The Committee will be chaired by Council President Fielkow. The other members serving on the Committee are Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis and District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell as an alternate.

Also on tomorrow's agenda is a Resolution by Council President Fielkow calling on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take the necessary steps to ensure that it meets the June 2011 deadline to provide a quality system of protection for a 100-year storm. The Resolution goes further to request that Corps officials and Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East President Tim Doody appear at the August 6 City Council meeting to present a status report.

In 2007, the U.S. Congress allocated more than \$12 billion to the Corps to repair Katrina-related damages, provide long-term solutions to pre-existing unsound structures and completely strengthen the City's hurricane defenses to combat a 100-year storm. The deadline for completion is June 1, 2011.

Tomorrow's City Council meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

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.