

**Civil District Court Rules on Motion in Council Emails Case,
Result is that Citizens' Private Information Remains Protected;
No Cost to Public for Review of Emails at Issue;
And Council Has Fulfilled Its Public Records Request Obligations**

News Release

July 24, 2009

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
rjpursell@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



New Orleans, LA - July 24, 2009 - The New Orleans City Council has fulfilled its obligation to produce its emails in response to various public records requests. Additionally, the privacy rights of citizens will remain protected and there will be no public funds expended to pay for the public records requests at issue. That is the end result of a Civil District Court Judge's ruling today.

The ruling resulted from a decision by the Times Picayune and other media outlets to withdraw their pending public records requests.

Judge Madeleine Landrieu also ruled that radio station WBOK had waived its right to demand the City Council emails because no one from WBOK appeared in court to respond to the City Council's motion.

The City Council's Special Counsel previously filed a [motion](#) with the court, addressing public records requests made by a variety of media outlets and one private citizen, and referencing the delivery to the Council from the City Attorney of approximately 440,000 emails.

The Motion asked that the public records requestors specify the types of email documents requested; that citizens' private information be protected;

and that records requestors, not the public, pay the fees and costs associated with the review of 2.5 million pages of emails by Legal Counsel, Forensic Software Analysts and Councilmembers.

As a result of today's court ruling, citizens' private information will be protected and the public will not pay any future costs associated with the review of the Council emails requested in the public records requests at issue. For the last several months Councilmembers have posted thousands of their emails online on the [City Council website](#).

Media calls are being referred to Special Counsel, Steven J. Lane, Attorney and Managing Partner, Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar, (504) 680-0527, slane@hhkc.com.

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.