

Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee
To Receive Status Update on Local Vocational and Technical Colleges
And Presentation of GNO Inc.'s Maritime Industry Study
Thursday Morning

News Release

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New Orleans
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - June 10, 2009 - On Thursday, June 11, at 9 a.m., New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow welcomes local education and workforce development leaders to the Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee meeting to discuss the status of workforce development and technical and vocational education in New Orleans.

Kim Rugon, Provost/Dean of Delgado's Louisiana Technical College, and Lisa Tomlin, Regional Talent Development Vice President for Greater New Orleans Inc. (GNO Inc.), will be on hand to provide updates of current workforce development.

Before her recruitment to GNO Inc. in 2006, Tomlin served as a private consultant for public and private organizations on systemic workforce and economic development redesign in Oregon and Washington. Tomlin has extensive experience organizing statewide and regional stakeholder alliances and strategies; advocating, coordinating, marketing, managing, implementing, and recruiting workforce and economic development initiatives and policies. Kim Rugon has more than 20 years in academia including serving as Business Instructor for the Job Training Partnership Act program at Jackson State University. Also invited to speak on current vocational

education is New Orleans Recovery School District Superintendent Paul Vallas.

As chairman of the Economic Development Committee and a major proponent of increased education for New Orleans' youth, Council President Fielkow enthusiastically welcomes an update of the City's available technical schooling.

"Education and workforce development is one of the highest goals we can set for the city today," said Fielkow. "I look forward to hearing updates about our city's ongoing technical training and future instruction needs from some of our local education experts."

The Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee will also receive the first-ever presentation of GNO Inc.'s in-depth study on southeastern Louisiana ports and maritime trade operations around New Orleans. GNO Inc., the Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAAF) combined efforts approximately six months ago to commission a study that aims for a viable strategy for maximizing Louisiana's lower Mississippi River ports.

Leading strategy and technology consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton conducted the study. Several speakers will be on hand to discuss the study and international trade including: Greg Rusovich, Chairman of the Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region; Gary LaGrange, President and CEO of the Port of New Orleans; and Andrea Bland, Senior Vice President of Business Development for GNO Inc.

Council President Fielkow will also provide a status update on the City's developing Economic Development Public Private Partnership. The City Council voted unanimously on June 4 to approve an ordinance devoting \$2 million from the 2008 Economic Development Fund (EDF) millage for the establishment of the new Economic Development Public Private Partnership. The allocation will endow the City's first-ever nonprofit, public-private economic development entity.

"This is one of those real milestone moments for New Orleans," said Councilman Fielkow. "Once established, this will serve as a one-stop shop for companies that want to come to New Orleans and companies that want to expand in New Orleans. If done right this partnership will do so much for New Orleans."

Councilman Fielkow will discuss the City's next steps for realizing this goal which has been 18 months in the making. The Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee meeting will convene in the City Council Chamber beginning at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 11.

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.