

**Councilmember Shelley Midura
Announces Recent Reopening of Oak Street
And Encourages Citizens to Explore Local Businesses
In this District "A" Commercial Corridor**

News Release

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New Orleans
City Council

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Councilmember Midura

New Orleans, LA - June 12, 2009 - District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura announced the recent reopening last month of Oak Street, in conjunction with the completion of the first phase of the Oak Street reconstruction project approximately two and a half months after construction began.

The revitalized street section now features:

- New pedestrian-friendly amenities such as dining al fresco, wider sidewalks, benches, and bike racks
- New underground sewage lines, water lines, drain pipes, and high-pressure gas lines
- New asphalt roadway and driveways, featuring unique decorative cobblestone intersections
- Installation of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramps in sidewalks

A long-time favorite among families, Oak Street continues to promise something for everyone and its recent re-opening of the first two blocks symbolize a new chapter for local business. Residents are encouraged to renew their love for the street's charming boutique shops and cafés.

"Small local businesses like our Oak Street shops help define

our neighborhoods. Please bring your family and friends to Oak Street and spread the word that they are back and need our support," said Midura.

Midura continued, "Treat yourself and a friend to icy goods from Gelato Pazzo Café or coffee at Rue de la Course or lunch at Curry Corner or Oak Street Café, but be sure to spread the word. Oak Street is back and better than ever."

In total, approximately 0.5 miles of Oak Street from Carrollton Avenue to Leake Avenue will be reconstructed. The project has an estimated construction value of approximately \$5.4 million funded by the City's 2004 General Obligation Bonds and the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans.

Construction began on March 2, 2009 and is expected to last approximately eight months. During construction, residents are encouraged to use Plum Street and Willow Street to avoid delays.

The City recently gave a notice to proceed with construction on the second phase, which will focus on the three-block segment from Dante to Leonidas streets and will receive the same improvements as the first phase.

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.