

## Legislation by Council President Fielkow Seeks to Invest in Local Small Businesses

News Release

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New Orleans  
City Council

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**New Orleans, LA - June 16, 2009 -**

At the June 18th regular New Orleans City Council meeting, Councilmembers will vote on Ordinance Calendar No. 27,520. The measure is the first step in the effort to strengthen opportunities for small businesses and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) to participate in city contracts or city funded transactions.

"Small businesses are the backbone of any strong economy, especially socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses," said Council President Fielkow. "As President of the City Council, I look forward to working with my colleagues to put forth bold initiatives to strengthen these businesses, thereby ensuring that our economy continues to grow and our city's plans for recovery and enhancement are realized."

The Ordinance seeks to codify and extend the provisions set forth by the Mayor's executive order establishing goals for DBE and local small business recovery. It institutes a goal that 50% of any project funded by the city must be controlled by local businesses. It also establishes an overall goal that 35% of any project funded by the city must be controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged businesses, particularly those located in damaged areas. Individual project goals shall be established on a project-by-project basis and based on availability of locally owned and disadvantaged businesses.

Endorsed by the Regional New Orleans Black Chamber of Commerce, this provision would multiply the economic impact of recovery money as well as guarantee equity in the contracting process. "We view this as a very important step

in ensuring that all segments of our local business community have a full and fair opportunity to participate in the long term rebuilding of our great city," said the Chairman Daniel Davillier, who will appear before the Council on Thursday to speak in support of the Ordinance.

Also testifying with Davillier is the Black Economic Development Council Executive Director Judith Williams Dangerfield, who has also expressed endorsement of the legislation. "It will take bold policy, clear vision and committed leadership to rebuild an equitable New Orleans," said Dangerfield. "This Ordinance is an important step toward the equity and parity that will make our city a great city for all citizens."

"Until we uplift the least of us, our city will never move ahead," concluded Councilmember Fielkow. "Through business development and job creation, we are taking the necessary steps in the fight against poverty and crime."

The June 18th Council Meeting will begin at 10:00 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.