

City Council Unanimously Voted
To Approve an Ordinance Establishing Goals
For Local and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises

News Release

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New Orleans
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - June 19, 2009 - Yesterday in its regular meeting, the New Orleans City Council unanimously voted to approve an Ordinance establishing goals for local and disadvantaged business enterprises.

The Ordinance, co-authored by Council President Arnie Fielkow and District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, will increase opportunities for local small businesses and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) by mandating that 50 percent of all city funded projects be allocated to local businesses and that 35 percent be allocated to socially and economically advantaged businesses, particularly those businesses located in storm damaged areas.

"This measure is long overdue. Supporting our local and disadvantaged businesses will allow taxpayer dollars to remain in the community, where it can circulate and maximize the positive economic impact," said Councilmember Hedge-Morrell. "By ensuring our public dollars go to our neighbors, we can continue to foster growth in our strong local economy."

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.