



Media Advisory

June 24, 2009

Special Development Projects & Economic Development
And Budget Committees to Hear Testimony on Enforcement of
Local Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Contracting Law
In Joint Committee Meeting on Thursday

What: The Special Development Projects & Economic Development (SDPED) and Budget committees will hear testimony from the Administration regarding Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) compliance for city contracts.

As a result of recently passed legislation codifying DBE and local requirements in city contracts, Councilmembers requested a joint hearing on the City's compliance of DBE and local requirements, as enforcement of the program will be instrumental to the success of the new legislation.

On June 18, the Council unanimously passed legislation, co-authored by Council President Arnie Fielkow and District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, which guarantees small, local and disadvantaged businesses obtain greater access to city contracts and any business that includes the use of city funds. The approved Ordinance codifies and extends the provisions set forth by Mayor Ray Nagin's executive order establishing goals for DBE and local small business recovery. It institutes a goal that 50 percent of any project funded by the City be controlled by local businesses. It also establishes an overall goal that 35 percent 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.

The New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce, Black Economic Development Council and the New Orleans Business Council, among other business organizations, endorsed the new legislation.

To view the Joint Committee meeting agenda click [here](#).

When: Thursday, June 25, 2009
2:00 p.m.

Where: City Council Chamber

Who:Special Guests

- Officials from the Administration

SDPED Committee Members

- Chair: Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

Budget Committee Members

- Chair: District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
- Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow
- District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head

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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.