

New Orleans City Council

Councilmember-at-Large
Arnie Fielkow

City Council President Arnie Fielkow Pushes For Teeth On Local and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Contract Compliance

News Release

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New Orleans, LA - June 26, 2009 - City Council President Arnie Fielkow encouraged the Administration to beef up its Office of Compliance in order to bolster enforcement of the City's now codified local and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) contracting law.

During a joint meeting of the Special Development Projects and Economic Development and Budget committees Thursday, Councilmembers received testimony from Intergovernmental Relations Director Julie Schwam Harris that the Administration currently is preparing a comprehensive plan for its Compliance Office, which Harris said the Administration will be ready to present in 30 days.

Councilmember Fielkow stated he believes in the vital nature of such a reform, in order to ensure the success of the City's most recent law regarding fair distribution of contracts.

"This new local business and DBE law will pay dividends to this community for years to come," said Council President Fielkow. "But in order to have any effect, enforcement of the new law must have teeth. We must have, not just passage of the law, but execution of the law."

Councilmember Fielkow, and Budget Committee Chair Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell who co-authored the bill, requested the Administration to keep an "open dialogue" with the Council regarding the development of its new compliance plan. Upon completion of the proposed compliance reforms, a legislative agenda item will be placed on the agenda to codify the new enforcement strategies. Council President Fielkow expects these items will be complete for agenda placement either late July or early August.

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.