

Statement

June 26, 2009



**Council President Fielkow Statement:
Urges Universities to Formalize Governance Structure
For the New Orleans Teaching Hospital**

New Orleans, LA - June 26, 2009 - The following is a statement issued today by New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow regarding the inability of Louisiana State University's and Tulane University's Boards of Directors to reach an agreement regarding the governance structure for the New Orleans teaching hospital:

"It is very disappointing that our university communities have been unable to reach consensus on a governance board structure for the proposed New Orleans teaching hospital when it appeared that such an agreement was within reach just a few short days ago. New Orleans and its residents require a first-class, modern teaching hospital to service our city's tremendous healthcare needs. Further, it is extremely important that we continue to attract and retain healthcare professionals who not only will train at this new hospital, but who also will remain in the City of New Orleans after their training is completed.

"I strongly urge the LSU and Tulane Boards to work collectively to reach an agreement on the new academic hospital's governance model. It is immensely important for the citizens of New Orleans, both from a healthcare providing standpoint and an economic development perspective. The New Orleans City Council is prepared to assist all of the stakeholders in whatever way might be necessary to help move this important initiative forward."

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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.