



## Councilmembers to Attend Seminar On the Role of Elected Officials in Disaster Response

News Release

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New Orleans, LA - March 20, 2009 - All seven Councilmembers will be attending a seminar next week that will examine the role of elected officials in disaster response.

Elected officials and representatives from surrounding parishes will also be present at the seminar, which will give attendees the opportunity to share perspectives on the appropriate role of elected officials in supporting emergency management professionals in disaster preparedness, response and mitigation.

Texas A&M Extension Service is presenting the seminar, which will be facilitated by Glen Gilmore, former Mayor of Hamilton, New Jersey.

Seminar topics will include a discussion of:

- Roles and responsibilities and preparedness challenges
- Domestic preparedness resources and how to leverage them
- Homeland Security Strategic Planning risk and needs assessment
- Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
- Executive-level incident response and recovery considerations
- Incident management (ICS), mutual aid agreements, media relations, recovery and restoration processes, Federal assistance, and business/economic recovery

The seminar will be held at the University of New Orleans' Lindy Boggs Conference Center on the Lakefront Campus from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday March 23, Wednesday March 25, and Friday March 27.

The schedule is as follows:

Monday, March 23

- District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head
- District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

Wednesday, March 25

- District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura
- District "C" Councilmember James Carter
- District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell

Friday, March 27

- Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson
- Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow

Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Sneed, Director of Homeland Security for New Orleans, assisted in the coordination of the Councilmembers' attendance at the seminar.

### **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 Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; Council Vice-President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow; 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.