

**Councilmembers Hedge-Morrell and Willard-Lewis  
Attend News Conference in the Ninth Ward**

**Where Federal Officials Announce Millions of Dollars in Grants  
To Aid in Louisiana's Recovery**

News Release

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New Orleans, LA - March 6, 2009 - On Thursday March 5th Councilmembers Cynthia Hedge-Morrell and Cynthia Willard-Lewis attended a news conference in the Ninth ward where Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced millions of dollars of grants to aid in Louisiana's recovery.

Before the news conference, Donovan, Napolitano and visitors were given a first-hand look at the City's ongoing recovery through a bus tour of some of the City's hard-hit areas including Southern University at New Orleans, Chalmette and the Ninth Ward.

The news conference was held in Abundance Square, a section of the redevelopment of the former Desire public housing complex, located in District "E".



*Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano  
and Councilmember Willard-Lewis*

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis said, "We are so grateful that Secretaries Donovan and Napolitano took the time to visit New Orleans to see for themselves the recovery progress of the City. New Orleans is comprised of a wealth of culturally rich and diverse communities and we must work together to ensure that the recovery needs of each community and

its citizens are met."

The recovery funds and aid announced by Donovan and Napolitano include:

- \$23 million for housing for elderly and disabled people in hurricane-affected areas
- \$12 million to rebuild St. Bernard Parish's Waste Water Treatment Plant
- \$2.9 million for repairs to Benjamin Franklin High School

- FEMA's commitment to rebuild the 5th and 7th District Police stations and a firehouse in New Orleans East

- Acceptance of Louisiana's \$438 million plan for long-term disaster recovery



*Councilmember Hedge-Morrell  
& Recovery Director Dr. Blakely*

District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "The recovery funds promised today represent a commitment from the federal government to move the recovery of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana forward. Collaboration between local, regional and national officials is vital in speeding up the pace of recovery in New Orleans and across the Gulf."

Also in attendance at the news conference were Craig Fugate, recently nominated by President Obama to lead FEMA; U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu; Governor Bobby Jindal; Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu; Mayor Ray Nagin; U.S.

Representatives "Joseph" Cao and Charlie Melancon; state Representative Karen Carter Peterson; Major General Hunt Downer of the Army National Guard; Recovery Director Dr. Edward Blakely; other local officials and representatives of community groups.

### 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.