

**State Supreme Court  
Halts Councilmember Email Release  
By Tracie Washington**

News Release

May 13, 2009

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell  
Council Chief of Staff  
Ph: (504) 658-1082  
[rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



**New Orleans, LA - May 13, 2009** - Today, New Orleans City Council Special Counsel filed an application with the Louisiana Supreme Court to stay proceedings in the Council's lawsuit against Tracie Washington. Yesterday, Louisiana's Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal overruled an earlier ruling of the Civil District Court to allow Tracie Washington to make public

non-privileged City Councilmember emails in her possession. Special Counsel Steven J. Lane also asked the Supreme Court to review the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal's judgment.

The Louisiana Supreme Court has issued an order granting the stay pending further orders of the Court. This order, in effect, stops Washington from making emails public even though yesterday's ruling by the circuit court allowed her to do so. Washington has until Friday, May 15, to file an opposition with the Supreme Court. Following a review of both parties' pleadings, the Supreme Court will decide whether or not to overrule the Fourth Circuit's decision.

### 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.