

Community Evening Meeting on NOAH To Be Held in City Council Chambers On Tuesday May 12th

News Release

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Contact:

Kate Schneiderman
Office of Councilmember-at-
Large Arnie Fielkow
Ph: (504) 905-9893
krschneiderman@cityofno.com

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New Orleans, LA - May 1, 2009 - A community meeting on the planned closure of the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital (NOAH) will be held in City Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 12th from 6pm - 8pm. The evening meeting time was specifically chosen to accommodate those citizens who work, or are otherwise unavailable during the day, to speak about NOAH in Uptown New Orleans. City Councilmembers, City Administration officials, local mental health experts and organizations will be present to hear citizens concerns.

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "Our still-struggling mental health care community will be severely and negatively impacted by the closing of NOAH. The Council has already held meetings, both public and private, with state and local officials on this issue. However, I know that many New Orleans citizens cannot attend day-time hearings and it is critical that their voices be heard." Fielkow added, "This evening meeting is an 'after-hours' opportunity for all citizens to come and state your feelings on NOAH."

Members of the City Council were approached with the idea of holding an 'after-hours' public meeting in City Council Chambers last week at a community meeting in the Lower Ninth Ward. Citizens at that meeting expressed frustration that they were often not able to leave work and attend public hearings during the day. Councilmember Fielkow, along with many of his Council colleagues including Councilmembers Cynthia Willard Lewis and Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, agreed to help organize an evening public meeting.

Invited guests include Judge Calvin Johnson (Ret.) of the Metropolitan Human Services District, Dr. Kevin Stephens of the City of New Orleans Health Department, Cecile Tebo of the NOPD's Crisis Unit and other mental health care providers and experts.

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.