

Youth & Recreation Committee to Address Reopening of FEMA-Occupied Playgrounds Tomorrow Afternoon

News Release

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New Orleans, LA - May 21, 2009 - Tomorrow, City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow will chair a Youth & Recreation Committee at 1:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber. The Committee, which last met on April 7th, will feature updates on rebuilding New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) playgrounds and facilities, including the Rosenwald Center and Lyons Center. FEMA will report on how

close the City is to having control of the 15 playgrounds that were occupied after Hurricane Katrina.

Fielkow said, "At the April 7th Youth & Recreation Committee meeting, FEMA and the City of New Orleans pledged to work together expeditiously to reopen the remaining 11 FEMA trailer park sites that were temporarily occupying NORD property. We must get these open in time for summer break, and I am hopeful that good news will be given on this topic."

Invited presenters to the committee include: Dr. Ed Blakely of ORDA; Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Cynthia Sylvain-Lear and William Chrisman of the City of New Orleans; Larry Barabino, Jr, Executive Director of the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD); Bob Josephson of FEMA; James Clark and Skip Barber of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; and James Austin Gray II and Jeffrey Stollier of Wink Architects.

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.