



## City Councilmembers to Attend Louisiana Recovery Authority Meeting

Statement

December 10, 2007

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

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**New Orleans, LA - December 10, 2007** - In a Joint Statement this afternoon, on behalf of the entire City Council, President and Councilmember-At-Large Arnie Fielkow, Vice-President and Councilmember-At-Large Jackie Clarkson, District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura, District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, who are planning to attend the LRA meeting, put forth these points that they expect will be addressed tomorrow at the LRA Board Meeting on behalf of the City of New Orleans:

The City of New Orleans Recovery Action Plan recently requested \$324 million from the State of Louisiana. We are eagerly anticipating that minimum amount. The Council wants to be clear that its position is that Louisiana Recovery Authority stay true to its original model for distribution. As the hardest hit parish, Orleans should receive 58% of all remaining funds.

We are at a critical point. Our citizens are making decisions now on their future - whether or not to reinvest in their homes based on the recovery pace of their surrounding neighborhoods. On behalf of the City, we must do all that we can to demonstrate this investment - doing our part - just as citizens are doing their part. This investment will stabilize the neighborhoods through blight eradication, commercial redevelopment, and improved public safety.

To that end, we urge the LRA to approve these funds. Next, we respectfully request that the State Legislature's joint budget committee immediately convene to take the appropriate action to ensure that money begins to flow into the designated parishes. Following the joint budget committee action, the recovery action plan must be submitted and approved by HUD.

### **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 Arnie Fielkow; Council Vice-President and Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; Council District "A" Shelley Midura; Council District "B" Stacy S. Head; Council District "C" James Carter; Council District "D" Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and Council District "E" Cynthia Willard-Lewis.