



**City Council August 21, 2008
Regular Meeting Summary**

News Release

August 21, 2008

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082

rjpursell@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

New Orleans, LA - August 21, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council passed Resolutions and Ordinances supporting maintenance and publication of Professional Services contracts, and the beginning of the rebuilding phase of the C.J. Peete Housing Development.

The Council also addressed New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) crime prevention initiatives and a presentation from the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, and convened in Executive Session and subsequently, in the open meeting, adopted a resolution requesting cooperation from Entergy New Orleans.

New Orleans, LA - August 21, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council passed Resolutions and Ordinances supporting maintenance and publication of Professional Services contracts, and the beginning of the rebuilding phase of the C.J. Peete Housing Development.

The Council also addressed New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) crime prevention initiatives and a presentation from the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center, and convened in Executive Session and subsequently, in the open meeting, adopted a resolution requesting cooperation from Entergy New Orleans.

Requests Cooperation from Entergy New Orleans



Councilmember Midura

The Council passed Resolution R-08-487 in support of Utility Committee Chair Shelley Midura's letter to Entergy New Orleans (ENO) CEO Rod West, asking ENO to cooperate with the Council in defending New Orleans ratepayers from the impact of withdrawal of Entergy Arkansas and Mississippi from the Entergy system agreement.

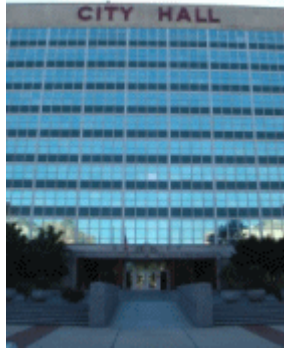
Entergy Arkansas, Inc. (EAI) and Entergy Mississippi, Inc. are seeking to withdraw from the system. Withdrawal of these subsidiaries from the system threatens to leave New Orleans ratepayers saddled with millions of dollars in potential rate increases.

District "A" Councilmember Midura said, "This is a very serious threat to the pocketbooks of the people of New Orleans. My job is to protect the interests of New Orleans ratepayers. Their job is to protect the interests of Entergy stockholders. This is one of those times where those two interests are colliding head on."

ENO ratepayers currently benefit from the cheaper coal power assets of EAI as well as the leverage of system joint power purchases on the open market of cheaper fuel. New Orleans ratepayers have shared in the expenses of infrastructure development system-wide for the better part of the last 50 years with the understanding that the benefits would in turn also be shared system-wide.

Councilmember Midura's letter threatens legal action if ENO ratepayers are forced to absorb unjust and unreasonable rate increases as a result of any withdrawals from the system agreement.

The Council also met today in Executive Session to receive a briefing from its legal team on the possibility of litigation concerning Entergy New Orleans, Inc.'s position relative to the withdrawal of Entergy Arkansas, Inc. and Entergy Mississippi, Inc. from the Entergy System Agreement.



Supports Maintenance and Publication of Professional Services Contracts

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,063, authored by District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head, supporting the maintenance and publication of all current and executed Professional Services contracts on the City Council and City websites.

Councilmember Stacy Head said, "It is important that we provide the citizens of New Orleans with access to these Professional Services contracts. We are working to ensure that transparency and accessibility are a part of the Professional Services contracts process."

The Ordinance reflects the Council's belief that accessibility and transparency are an integral part of keeping the public informed and engaged in the business and activities of the City of New Orleans.

Supports Rebuilding of C.J. Peete Housing Development



Councilmember Head

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,097, authored by District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head, to begin the rebuilding phase of the C.J. Peete housing development bounded by Louisiana Ave. and Washington Ave. and Toledano St. and LaSalle St.

The housing development, developed by McCormack, Baron and Salazar, will be made up of single, double and multiple family dwellings and will include programmed space and activities for school age children, as well as designated green spaces within the development.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "I am excited about the commitment McCormack, Baron and Salazar has made to the revitalization of the Central City area and the Claiborne corridor. The innovative design and construction of the new C.J. Peete housing development marks a significant point in the recovery process."



Addresses NOPD Crime Prevention Initiatives

New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Superintendent Warren Riley, accompanied by Deputy Chief Lawrence Weathersby and Captain Michael Pfeiffer, appeared before the Council today to make a presentation on the status of the NOPD's crime prevention initiatives.

The presentation highlighted crime statistics in the City for the 1st and 2nd quarters of the year, and gave an update on the number of police officers who have joined the force since the start of the nationwide recruiting campaign launched in May.

The Council requested that Superintendent Riley along with Deputy Chief Weathersby and Captain Pfeiffer attend a Criminal Justice Committee Meeting, to be Chaired by District "C" Councilmember James Carter, in the near future to discuss this topic further.



Addresses Greater New Orleans Community Data Center Report

The Council received a report from Allison Plyer, Co-Director of the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center on the recovery of the City of New Orleans.

The report addressed the New Orleans Index, published by the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center. The index provides a statistical analysis of the City, highlighting the population, economy, housing and infrastructures in New Orleans.

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "This information is vital in tracking the recovery progress of the City of New Orleans - we look forward to receiving more information and updates and look forward to you coming back."

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.

