

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell Addresses
Future of New Orleans International Airport
In Airport Committee Meeting

News Release

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New Orleans, LA - August 6, 2008 -

At today's Airport Committee meeting, Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell held the first of a series of hearings on the future of the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "The Louis Armstrong Airport is a vital economic development catalyst for the region's future growth and

development. New Orleans' tourism economy is heavily dependent on having adequate flights to bring convention and leisure visitors to New Orleans. A modern, well-run airport is also a strong indicator for businesses considering expansion or relocation to our region."

The Committee has several goals, which include:

- To understand the new state legislation, Act 972, which was passed earlier this year
- To understand what rights the citizens of New Orleans have through their Home Rule Charter
- To understand how the airport can best serve the citizens of New Orleans, the greater metropolitan area, the State of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region

- To determine the fiscal importance of the airport and the surrounding area for tourism, business travelers and economic development

Aviation Board Chairman Dan Packer addressed the Committee along with attorney A. J. Hebert.

The City Council established an Airport sub-committee in 2007 and recently elevated this sub-committee to a full-standing committee. In addition to Councilmember Hedge-Morrell who serves as Committee Chair, Councilmembers Fielkow and Carter are Committee members and Council President Clarkson is the alternate Committee member.

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.