



**Council Urges Governor and Legislature to
Give Confidentiality Protections and Subpoena Power
to Offices of Inspector General & Ethics Boards
In Local Jurisdictions Across Louisiana
& Requests Formal Investigation to Resolve
Hornets Games Cablecast Dispute in St. Tammany**

Honors the Memory of New Orleans Police Officer Nicola Cotton

News Release

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[New Orleans
City Council](#)

New Orleans, LA - February 7, 2008 - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed a resolution urging the Governor and the legislature give broader confidentiality protections and subpoena power in the Offices of Inspector General and Ethics Boards in jurisdictions across Louisiana. The Council also requested a formal investigation begin to resolve the New Orleans Hornets Cablecast Dispute in St. Tammany. Councilmembers joined to honor the life of New Orleans Police Department Officer Nicola Cotton who was killed in the line of duty earlier this month.

Supports Protections for the Offices of Inspector General and Ethics Boards



The Council unanimously passed Resolution R-08-69 urging the Governor and the State Legislature take action to improve, strengthen and protect local, parish and municipal Offices of Inspector General (OIG) and Ethics Boards.

Specifically, the Council requested that the Governor and Legislature provide local OIGs and Ethics Boards with state court subpoena power, confidentiality protections for those under investigation and broad jurisdiction over all entities and individuals engaged in activities affecting the integrity of local government. The Resolution also called for the Governor and Legislature to require full disclosure of potential conflicts and a procedure for recusal of Ethics Review Board members.

This Resolution reflects the Council's belief in strengthening the independence and increasing protections for Offices of Inspector General to ensure the integrity of government. The Council has been continuously working with members of the Orleans legislative delegation to put forward a strong and united agenda for the Special Session on ethics called by Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal.

Councilmember Midura said, "We have been working hard to develop a strong agenda to bring forward in Baton Rouge during the Special Session. I am so grateful to all of the Councilmembers for signing on to this very important Resolution."

Requests Formal Investigation to Resolve Hornets Games Cablecast Dispute in St. Tammany



The Council passed Motion M-08-66 authorizing the Special Development Projects & Economic Development and Cable & Telecommunications Committees to begin investigations that may be necessary to assure the cablecast of New Orleans Hornets games in St. Tammany Parish and throughout the region.

The Motion asks that the Council Committees jointly report the results of their investigations and recommendations to the Council by March 6, 2008. The Motion also urges the governing authorities of Lafourche, Tangipahoa and Terrebonne Parishes to join with the New Orleans City Council and St. Tammany Parish Council to undertake appropriate actions to require the cablecast of New Orleans Hornets games within each of their respective jurisdictions.

The Motion follows a joint task force meeting held February 6, 2008 by the New Orleans City and St. Tammany Parish Councils to work towards a resolution of the broadcast dispute.

The New Orleans City Council passed a resolution in January requesting the Council's Special Development Projects & Economic Development and the Cable & Telecommunications Committees work with the St. Tammany Parish Council, representatives from the New Orleans Hornets, Cox Communications / Cox Sports Television and Charter Communications to return broadcasts of New Orleans Hornets basketball games to the North Shore.

Honors the Life of NOPD Officer



The City Council passed Resolution R-08-67 honoring the life of New Orleans Police Department Officer Nicola Cotton for her selfless sacrifice and intense commitment to protecting and serving the citizens of New Orleans.

Councilmember James Carter said, "We wanted to give special recognition to this young officer who tragically lost her life in the line of duty."

The Council, along with the community, mourned the loss of Officer Cotton and sent its condolences, thoughts and prayers to her family, friends and fellow officers and shared in the knowledge that Officer Cotton's service was well done.

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; 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.