

***City Council Calls for State Ethics Reform  
To Apply to Local Governments,  
Authorizes Execution of Auditing Contract &  
Honors Historic Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club***

News Release

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**New Orleans, LA - January 24, 2008** - Today, the New Orleans City Council passed a resolution in support of the special state legislative session on ethics reform and the extension of ethics reform to include municipal and parish governments. The council also authorized execution of the City of New Orleans auditing contract. And, as the City enters the first full weekend of Mardi Gras the Council commended the community efforts and contributions of the historic Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club.

***Called for Ethics Reform at the Local Level***



*Councilmember-at-Large  
Arnie Fielkow*

The City Council resolution introduced by Councilmember Fielkow, co-sponsored by Councilmember Midura and unanimously supported by the full Council supports Governor Bobby Jindal's upcoming special legislative session on ethics reform. The resolution also requests that ethics reforms include every political subdivision of Louisiana, including local governments.

Council President Fielkow said, "It would be disingenuous to have ethics laws apply only to state legislators and not to local officials. This Resolution, together with the hiring and full funding of the Office of Inspector General, are great steps by this City Council towards strengthening faith in good local government."

The Resolution strengthens the Council's already strong commitment to ethics reform. The Council has established and funded the New Orleans Office of Inspector General, and has requested that the State Legislature enact stricter campaign finance laws, including prohibition of contributions to elective regulatory bodies from entities that regulate them.

Councilmember Midura said, "We continue our march toward establishing transparency and implementing the necessary administrative controls to ensure that Louisiana's government functions efficiently and ethically."

At a Governmental Affairs Committee meeting earlier this week, Committee Chair Councilmember Shelley Midura met with Inspector General Robert Cerasoli, members of the Orleans legislative delegation and local advocates to formulate an ethics reform agenda to bring forward in Baton Rouge for the Special Session scheduled in February.

### ***Authorized Execution of Auditing Contract***



*Councilmember Hedge-Morrell*

The Resolution reflects the recommendation by the Council's Budget, Audit and Board of Review Committee to retain Postlethwaite & Netterville (P&N) as the lead audit firm in compliance with the City Charter requirement that the City Council obtain an external audit of the City's financial statements.

Budget, Audit, Board of Review Committee Chair Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "The City Council Budget Committee stands committed to the monitoring of all budget processes for City departments and we are confident in our recommendation of P&N."

Specifically, the Resolution requests and authorizes the Council President to execute a contract with P&N to perform the audit of the City for the Fiscal Year of 2007 and four subsequent years. The Council's Budget, Audit and Board of Review Committee interviewed the respondent and engaged in a thorough evaluation of P&N's proposal before making the recommendation.

### ***Honored Historic Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club***



*Members of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club*

Members of the historic Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club updated the Council on the Krewe's 2008 activities including the Zulu Ball, Lundi Gras festivities and the Mardi Gras Day parade.

The Councilmembers recognized the Krewe's continuous community activism and commended the organization for their decision to return to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

The Council presented proclamations to the 2008 Zulu Royalty - Zulu King Mr. Frank Boutte and Zulu Queen Mrs. Joycelyn Boutte; as well as other Krewe members present in recognition of their contributions to the community as part of the Zulu organization.

The Zulu representatives expressed their gratitude for the City Council's continuous support of the Krewe and presented each Councilmember with the traditional Zulu Mardi Gras throws.

### **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.