



## City Council Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

July 10, 2008

Contact:

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

[rjpursell@cityofno.com](mailto:rjpursell@cityofno.com)

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[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

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**New Orleans, LA - July 10, 2008** - Today the New Orleans City Council passed ordinances and resolutions supporting inclusion of force of law in the Master Plan; establishment of a temporary moratorium on alcohol permits in the Lower Ninth Ward; creation of the Independent Police Monitoring Division; Energy Smart New Orleans; 2009 Education Millage; and other city-wide recovery items.

The Council also received presentations on the "Project Let Me Read" campaign and a report from Dr. Edward Blakely on the status of the City's recovery.

### ***Includes Force of Law in Master Plan***



*Councilmember-at-Large  
Clarkson*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,019, authored by Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, to call an election for November 4, 2008 to consider amendments to the Home Rule Charter relative to the City Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning adjustments and to give the Master Plan the force of law.

The purpose of including force of law in the Master Plan is to simplify and clarify the zoning and planning process in the City of New Orleans to allow for economic development and further progress.

Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson said, "Providing a consistent and transparent zoning process will attract more businesses to New Orleans. This Master Plan will send a message to the world that we are serious about rebuilding and redevelopment."

Voters will approve or reject the proposal to amend the City Charter Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

### ***Establishes Temporary Moratorium on Alcohol Permits in Lower Ninth Ward***



*Councilmember Willard-Lewis*

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,057, authored by District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis, to establish a temporary moratorium on all new permits for all alcohol establishments in the Lower Ninth Ward.

The moratorium includes restaurants, bars, grocery stores and liquor stores, within District "E" in the area bounded by the Industrial Canal to the St. Bernard Parish line and from the Mississippi River to Florida Avenue.

Councilmember Willard-Lewis said, "This moratorium is an important measure in preserving the neighborhoods and communities in the Lower Ninth Ward. We are working to do everything we can to assist in the recovery of the historic Lower Ninth Ward community."

### ***Supports Creation of Independent Police Monitoring Division***



*Councilmember Carter*

The Council unanimously passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,032 supporting the establishment of an Independent Police Monitoring Division within the Office of Inspector General.

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "This Independent Police Monitoring Division will be an objective third party focused on addressing citizen concerns and promoting accountability and transparency."

The Independent Police Monitoring Division's duties and responsibilities include: monitoring the operations of the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) particularly in the areas of civilian complaints, internal investigations and discipline; assessing the quality and timeliness of NOPD investigations; and ensuring NOPD accountability, transparency and responsiveness to the community it serves.

### ***Supports Energy Smart New Orleans***



*Councilmember Midura*

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-366 on the report of the Energy Smart New Orleans facilitation process and proposed Energy Smart New Orleans Energy Efficiency Program.

The Energy Smart Plan's elements include: community education, delivery of energy efficiency measures to homes and small businesses, weatherization, energy efficiency training and certification for contractors and builders.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "We must take action to reduce energy consumption and improve efficiency. The purpose of the Energy Smart Plan is to reduce the cost of energy and foster the development of a new green industry in the City of New Orleans."

The Resolution reflects the Council's belief that the Energy Smart Plan concept is consistent with and capable of fulfilling the Council's commitment to energy efficiency and the development of a viable energy efficiency program, as part of the City's comprehensive long-term energy policy.

The Council directed its Advisors to take the necessary steps to implement the Energy Smart Plan concept including the development of a proposed Request for Proposals and evaluation criteria.

#### ***Addresses Logistical Status of Office of Inspector General***



*Inspector General Robert Cerasoli & Courtney Bagneris & Jay Palestina from the Chief Administrative Office*

Inspector General Robert Cerasoli and Courtney Bagneris and Jay Palestina from the Chief Administrative Office appeared before the Council to discuss the logistical status of the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "The OIG is of vital importance to the City of New Orleans. We want to ensure that the OIG is equipped with all necessary tools and resources in order to operate successfully and efficiently."

Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow requested that the OIG submit a monthly report to the Council regarding logistical set-up details. The Council also emphasized the importance of completing the set-up of the OIG in a timely fashion.

#### ***Supports School Board Millage***



*Councilmember Hedge-Morrell*

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-382, authored by District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, supporting and encouraging the passage of the 2009 Education Millage.

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "Millages have been an important source of revenue for the Orleans Parish Public School system and the Recovery School District for more than 50 years. We are in full support of New Orleans schools and this is an important step in their recovery."

The Millage will provide funding for textbooks and technology, competitive teacher salaries, repairs and maintenance and pre-k and drop out programs. This is a renewal of an existing millage and will not raise taxes.

Voters will be called upon to vote on the Education Millage on Saturday, July 19, 2008.

### ***Addresses City-Wide Recovery Items***

The Council passed the following Resolutions and Ordinances addressing several city-wide recovery items:

- Resolution R-08-384, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow, Clarkson, Midura, Head, Carter, Hedge-Morrell and Willard-Lewis, encouraging the formation of a coalition of disaster impacted Gulf Coast and Midwest communities to petition the federal government for appropriate funding and assistance to rebuild and restore affected communities
- Ordinance Calendar No. 27,034, co-authored by Councilmembers Willard-Lewis, Clarkson, Carter and Hedge-Morrell, in support of meter fare for taxi cabs, including disabled friendly taxis, to include an additional \$2.00 gasoline surcharge per each completed trip to assist drivers in combating rising gas prices
- Ordinance Calendar No. 27,059, authored by Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson, in support of assisting and rebuilding the City's police, fire and other necessary government buildings

The Council also received presentations on the following:

- The "Project Let Me Read" campaign to replenish book collections of school libraries devastated by Hurricane Katrina
- A report from Dr. Edward Blakely, Executive Director of the Office of Recovery and Development Administration, on the status of the City's recovery

### **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.