

**Budget Committee Addresses Classified Pay Plan,
Supports Community Health Centers &
Committee Chair Receives Distinguished Budget Award**

News Release

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Mayor Nagin, Councilmember Hedge-Morrell
and Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Hatfield

New Orleans, LA - June 26, 2008 - Today Budget Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell led a Budget Committee meeting to address amendments to the Classified Pay Plan as well as the creation of community-based health centers. Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, along with the Administration, received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Approves Amendments to Classified Pay Plan

The Committee passed a Motion to be taken up at the regular Council meeting on July 10th, co-authored by Councilmembers Hedge-Morrell, Fielkow, Head and Clarkson approving an amendment to the Classified Pay Plan which sets new hiring rates for job classification groups effective July 1st, August 1st, September 1st, October 1st and November 1st.

The job classification groups are as follows:

Effective July 1, 2008: Administrative Support, Airport Administrative Support, Recreation Series, Health Series, Emergency Medical Technician Series, Mosquito Control and Finance.

Effective August 1, 2008: Trade/Maintenance, Aviation Trade/Maintenance, Sewerage and Water Board Facilities Maintenance, Sewerage and Water Board Networks Maintenance and Sewerage and Water Board Inspectional.

Effective September 1, 2008: Security, Safety and Permit Inspectional and Airport Transportation.

Effective October 1, 2008: Office of Municipal Investigation, Mosquito Control Specialty, Museum, Parking Control and Storekeeping.

Effective November 1, 2008: Information Technology, Library Positions and Professional, Attorney Series, Capital Project Series, Engineering Series and Airport Professional Series.

The Chief Administrative Officer has certified that funds are included in the City's 2008 budget to implement the proposed amendment.

Supports Community Health Centers

The Committee passed a Resolution to be taken up at the regular Council meeting on July 10th, co-authored by Councilmembers Hedge-Morrell, Fielkow, Head and Clarkson, in support of community-based health centers and their expansion throughout the New Orleans area

Budget Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "These community health centers are an important addition to the City. These centers will make healthcare more accessible to all our citizens."

Tulane University School of Medicine is planning to rise to the next level by working with community leaders to build model community health centers that will encourage the restoration of neighborhoods. The Council urges the Administration to begin searching for funding for these centers.

The Council also supported the formation of a task-force to be comprised of Tulane University's School of Medicine, Chief Administrative Office, and the Health Department to work collaboratively and identify the needs to establish the community-based health centers

Receives Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

At a press conference today at City Hall, representatives from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the U.S. and Canada presented the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the City of New Orleans. Budget Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, along with Mayor C. Ray Nagin and Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Brenda G. Hatfield were present to accept the prestigious award.

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell said, "I want to thank everyone for their hard work. This award represents the entire Budget process and goes to show that hard work is rewarded."

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. A panel of independent reviewers examined the City's budget document presented to the New Orleans City Council in November 2007 for the current fiscal year.

In order to receive the award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines determining that the City's budget served as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device.



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.