



**Council Supports Public/Private Economic Development Partnership,
Playground Development & Creation of Cultural Districts**

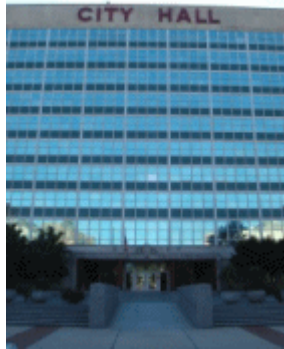
News Release

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New Orleans, LA - June 26, 2008 - At today's Special Council Meeting, the New Orleans City Council supported a public/private economic development partnership, playground development and the creation of cultural districts.

[New Orleans
City Council](#)



Supports Public/Private Economic Development Partnership

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-329 expressing the Council's support of a public/private economic development partnership.

Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee Chair

Councilmember Fielkow said, "This public-private partnership is another important step toward improving economic development efforts in our City."

The Council also requested the Mayor, in conjunction with the Council's Special Projects and Economic Development Committee, to initiate discussions with interested parties and stakeholders regarding a detailed and comprehensive Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City and an appropriate private entity to establish a public/private economic development partnership in New Orleans.



Supports Playground Development

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-346 which states that FEMA should immediately undertake the removal of all utilities or other hindrances in connection with parks and playgrounds previously used for placement of group trailer sites.

The Resolution also states that all 14 parks and playgrounds should be immediately sodded with work to be commenced no later than Thursday, June 26, 2008 and should be re-opened for use no later than thirty days from commencement of sodding.

Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson said, "Getting these playgrounds up-and-running is of the utmost importance. It is imperative that we provide clean venues and healthy activities for the children of this City."

This resolution reflects the Council's belief that New Orleans youth and citizens alike continue to be deprived of the usage of parks and playgrounds and immediate actions need to be taken to expedite the restoration process.



Supports Creation of Cultural Districts

The Council passed Resolutions R-05-348, R-05-350, R-05-351, R-05-352, R-05-353, R-05-354, R-05-355, R-05-356 and R-05-357 in support of the creation of various cultural districts around the City.

The creation of Cultural Districts is part of Act 298 of the 2007 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature which authorizes Local Governing Authorities to create Cultural Districts as a mechanism for community revitalization through the creation of hubs of cultural activity.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "We are in full support of the creation of these Cultural Districts. New Orleans is known for its diversity and we are proud to help showcase the many culturally rich areas of the City."

The City of New Orleans supports and endorses the submission of applications to the LDCRT, Office of Cultural Development to designate the following as state-certified Cultural Districts:

- Bayou Road & African American Heritage Cultural District
- Downtown Development District
- Downtown Rampart-Basin Street Corridor
- French Quarter Cultural District
- Gentilly / Pontchartrain Park Cultural District
- Lincoln Beach Cultural District
- Lower Ninth Ward Cultural District
- Museum-City Park Cultural District
- Saint Claude Corridor Cultural District
- Viet Village Cultural District

At the June 19th regular Council meeting, the Council passed Resolutions in support of the following Cultural Districts as well:

- Freret-Claiborne Cultural District
- Lafitte Greenway 'New City' Cultural District
- Lower Garden District Cultural District
- Magazine Street Gallery Cultural District
- Oak Street Music & Art Corridor Cultural District
- Old Algiers Cultural District
- Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard Cultural District

The Resolutions reflect the Council's support of the creation, administration and promotion of all of the Cultural Districts, and the Council encouraged all affected citizens and businesses to support and promote activities consistent with the purposes of these Cultural Districts.

The Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (LDCRT), Office of Cultural Development is authorized to develop criteria for cultural districts and determine whether or not a proposed Cultural District meets those criteria.

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.