



Council Supports Office of Inspector General and Independent Police Monitor, Southeast Regional Airport Authority & NORD / N.O. Public Library, Addresses 311 System & Acknowledges New Council President

News Release

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New Orleans, LA - June 5, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council supported the Office of Inspector General and Independent Police Monitor, the Southeast Regional Airport Authority, New Orleans Recreation Department and the New Orleans Public Library. The Council also addressed the 311 System and acknowledged the new Council President.

[New Orleans
City Council](#)



Inspector General
Robert Cerzanti

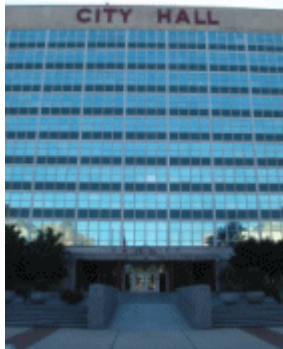
Supports Office of Inspector General and Independent Police Monitor

The Council adopted an ordinance placing a City Charter amendment on the October 4th ballot which, if approved by the voters, guarantees annual city funding for the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

Lead author and Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Our goal is to ensure the permanency and autonomy of the Office of Inspector General."

The charter amendment would also require a portion of the OIG's budget to be allocated to the City's Ethics Review Board and establish an Independent Police Monitor Division.

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "The New Orleans Police Department has done a tremendous job under the leadership of Superintendent Warren Riley and I appreciate all of their efforts. This is a tremendous reform step forward in improving the relationship between law enforcement and the citizens of New Orleans."



Supports Southeast Regional Airport Authority

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-282 supporting House Bill No. 1272, which creates the Southeast Regional Airport Authority.

Special Joint Airport Committee Chair District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "The Airport Committee supports House Bill 1272 by Representative Tucker in concept, and will continue to monitor all legislation going forward.

We will also plan public hearings and conduct a study to evaluate all information regarding the future use of our airport."

The Council's Special Joint Airport Committee met to discuss the House Bill and is in agreement with the overall intent, citing the need for improvements and access to airport facilities within the state, and supporting the establishment of a mechanism to assist in constructing, extending, repairing and maintaining airports and airport facilities.

The Resolution reflects the Council's belief that the House Bill be amended to assign the responsibilities relative to the New Orleans Louis Armstrong International Airport to the New Orleans Building Corporation (NOBC). NOBC is a Public Benefit Corporation with the purpose of owning, leasing, developing and operating properties owned by the City of New Orleans.

The Resolution also urges the plan not be allowed to move forward without a two-thirds vote of the City Council.



Colonel Sneed,
Dept. of Homeland Security

Addresses 311 System

Colonel Sneed of the Department of Homeland Security came before the Council to discuss the 311 System.

Among items discussed: the need to encourage citizens to call 311 and visit www.nolaready.info, New Orleans' evacuation plan and the 311 System's technical issues.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "We know 311 has connection problems with certain carriers, from certain locations in the City, and from non-504 area code phone numbers. These are serious concerns, especially in the event of a hurricane."

Colonel Sneed addressed the issue of connection difficulties and confirmed that this problem is currently being looked into. He offered two other numbers citizens should call for further assistance: 504-658-2299 and the toll free number 1-877-286-6431.

Colonel Sneed emphasized that there will not be shelter in New Orleans for a category 3 hurricane or higher, at which point a mandatory evacuation order will be issued.



Marine Corps Reserve

Acknowledges New Council President

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson led her first Council meeting as Council President. The new Council President's priorities were demonstrated with the Presentation of the Colors and the National Anthem being handled by the Marine Corps Reserve, and Orders of Business addressing healthcare in the City and the 311 System.

Council President Clarkson said, "I want to thank my colleagues for their cooperation and efficiency during my first meeting as Council President - I am honored to be President of this Council. We began this meeting with the Marine Corps Reserve and end with significant Charter changes - the City is ready to rebuild."

Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson introduced Motion M-08-294, providing for the creation of the Women's Committee - a new standing committee dedicated to addressing the various needs and issues facing women in New Orleans. The motion will be considered in two weeks, after advertisement, as required by law.



*New Orleans Public Library and
NORD Representatives*

Supports NORD / New Orleans Public Library

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-275 requesting that the New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) work with the New Orleans Public Library to institute procedures so that when a child registers for any NORD program, the registration acts as a valid registration

for a library card.

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "We need to ensure that we provide our children with the mechanisms they need to become successful citizens. This is a wonderful program that promotes children's literacy skills."

The Council emphasized its strong belief that every child in New Orleans should have access to quality recreation programs and access to a library card to be able to take advantage of all of the information and services that the New Orleans Public Library has to offer.

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.