

## Council Youth & Recreation Committee Moves Forward on NORD Reform

News Release

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[New Orleans  
City Council](#)

**New Orleans, LA - March 5, 2008** - Today, at the New Orleans City Council's Youth and Recreation Committee meeting, the first step towards the potential reform of the New Orleans Recreation Department [NORD] was announced. The Greater New Orleans After-School Partnership [GNOAP] is in possession of a grant that it has chosen to use toward a survey of recreation in the City and some of the "best practices" around the country. Upon the completion of the survey in 90-120 days, the Youth and Recreation Committee, in conjunction with the full City Council, intends to initiate reform steps for NORD.

"Children in New Orleans deserve the best - in education, healthcare and recreation. NORD has been doing a good job in fixing storm-ravaged facilities and offering recreation programs to kids, but for decades the department has not been funded or supported at the level it deserves," said Council President and Youth and Recreation Committee Chair Arnie Fielkow. "The 'best practices' survey by the Greater New Orleans After-School Partnership will help identify key areas for reform, and will ultimately allow our City's recreation opportunities to flourish and grow like never before. The current inequities in programs and facilities are glaring, and it is my sincere hope that every child in New Orleans will soon be able to access the same quality fields and programs that only a few are able to enjoy right now."

Specifically, the study commissioned by GNOAP will examine the governance mechanisms and funding streams of NORD. Additionally, similar recreation models throughout the country will be studied to give context to the current recreation system in New Orleans. GNOAP will contract with professional consultants, who have a vast amount of experience in parks and recreation, to conduct the independent study.

### **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.