

## Council Continues Efforts to Increase Government Transparency

News Release

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[New Orleans  
City Council](#)



New Orleans, LA - May 14, 2008 - At tomorrow's regular Council meeting, District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head is expected to introduce two pieces of legislation that would allow the public to review all professional services contracts issued by the City.

District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head said, "Professional services contracts should be available to the public in an easily accessible format. We have looked at other municipalities in the region, such as the City of Kenner, who have managed to provide their constituents with a user-friendly list of their current contracts."

The legislation further expands the Council's efforts to increase government transparency and emphasizes the importance of providing constituents with information about the use of public funds.

### 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.