

**Council Continues Investigation of Mayor's Office of Technology,
Supports Green Building, Addresses Road Home Program
& Elects New Council President and Vice President**

News Release

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New Orleans, LA - May 15, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council continued the investigation of the Mayor's Office of Technology, supported the Green Building Program and addressed the inequities of the Road Home Program. The Council also elected the new Council President and Vice President.

Continues Investigation of Mayor's Office of Technology



The Council passed Motion M-08-255 initiating an investigation of the operations of the Mayor's Office of Technology regarding contractual obligations and budget expenditures for the 311 system and crime cameras.

Councilmembers and Council staff have repeatedly requested information, documentation and testimony from the Mayor's Office of Technology over the past several months.

District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura said, "I still have many questions that have gone unanswered and so I will continue the open investigation of the Mayor's Office of Technology."

The Council requested specific information and documentation including the following:

- All expenditures for crime camera installation and maintenance in 2007
- Budgeted and expected expenditures for installation and maintenance of crime cameras in 2008
- All contracts related to installation and maintenance of crime cameras in 2007 and 2008
- All expenditures for 311 services in 2007
- Budgeted and expected expenditures for 311 services in 2008
- All contracts related to 311 service for 2007 and 2008
- Testimony from the Director of the Mayor's Office of Technology

Supports Green Building Program



Global Green Representative
Linda Stone

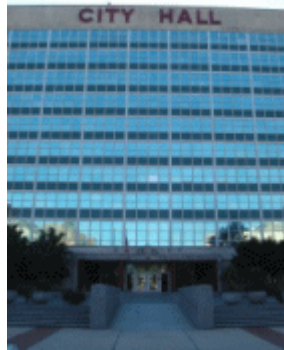
The Council passed Resolution R-08-246 supporting the Green Building Program and requesting a report and recommendations from the Administration concerning this Resolution and the Green Building Program.

The City reviewed the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system and determined it to be the most suitable standard to achieve a meaningful level of green building in City buildings and in private sector development.

The Green Building Program includes various requirements and actions including that all new public schools constructed in the City be designed, constructed and certified at the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Certification Level; that all major renovations be designed and constructed according to the City's criteria for green schools; and that the impact of school districts operations on the environment be minimized.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "Our children deserve to grow and learn in a healthy environment. This program will improve the quality of life for New Orleanians."

Addresses Road Home Program



The Council passed Resolution R-08-263 strongly urging the adoption of SB 740 (Road Home Program Applicants Bill of Rights) and addressing many inequities of the Road Home Program.

The Road Home Program Applicants Bill of Rights aims to correct many of the problems being experienced by Road Home applicants by providing these citizens with certain rights.

The Council also emphasized its support of the Citizen's Road Home Action Team (CHAT) to establish a Road Home Bill of Rights.

Elects New Council President and Vice President



Councilmember-at-Large
Clarkson

The Council passed Motions M-08-244 and M-08-245 providing for the election of Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson as Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow as Council Vice President.

Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "I am honored to serve as City Council President and I look forward to continuing the great work of this Council, leading the City in its recovery."

Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow said, "I have enjoyed my term as Council President and feel confident that Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson will be successful as the new Council President."

In accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Council, both the Council President and Council Vice President will serve one-year terms beginning June 1, 2008 and ending May 31, 2009.

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.