

Councilmembers-At-Large Continue Regional Lobbying & Outreach Efforts in Washington, D.C.

News Release

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New Orleans, LA - May 19, 2008 - Council President Arnie Fielkow and Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson will travel to Washington, D.C. along with Plaquemines Parish Council Chairman John Friedman and Vice Chairman Lynda Banta on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 to highlight regional priority issues.

The trip is a united effort between Orleans and Plaquemines Parish leadership to urge Congress and the Administration to provide additional relief for these regions.

Issues the delegation plans to address include homelessness, crime prevention, flood protection and the current Emergency Supplemental Bill for Iraq and Afghanistan which includes critical funding for our recovery.

Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow said, "It is vitally important that we, as regional leaders, continue to aggressively lobby on behalf of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in Washington, D.C. As more time goes by since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, other pressing issues will take the time and attention of the federal government. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to continue bringing our message of recovery and rebuilding to our nation's leaders."

Executive Director of the New Orleans Mission Ron Gonzales and UNITY of Greater New Orleans leaders Martha Kegel and Angela Patterson will accompany the delegation and provide added guidance on the critical issue of homelessness in New Orleans.

The regional leaders will meet with members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation as well as federal agencies, prominent national think-tanks, the Brookings Institute and the Heritage Foundation, and the Office of the Federal Coordinator to highlight critical needs in New Orleans and Plaquemines Parish.

During the three day trip, the delegation will also meet with Senators Landrieu and Vitter and Congressmen Cazayoux, Melancon, Scalise and Jefferson.

Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson said, "We will be meeting with Louisiana's two newest representatives, Congressman Steve Scalise and Congressman Don Cazayoux. Having served with both of these gentlemen in the Louisiana House, I can attest to the fact that they will strongly represent and support our region and our state. So, I am especially looking forward to representing our regional priorities to them."

Federal Coordinator General Douglass O'Dell assisted in organizing meetings with the Government Accounting Office (GAO) leadership, the Brookings Institute and Heritage Foundation leadership and the National Association of Manufacturers.

Plaquemines Parish Council Chairman Friedman said, "Representation from Plaquemines Parish and the region is a concerted effort to work together to attain the support from our delegation and bring the voice of the region to Washington D.C. Coastal restoration, levee projects, transportation, Peters road extension and the deepening of Baptiste-Collette are major issues for Plaquemines Parish and the entire region."

"We all agree that unified leadership in our lobbying efforts will aide our recovery and bring Louisiana to a new level of prosperity for all. We look forward to meeting with our Louisiana delegation along with our regional Councilmembers from New Orleans," said Plaquemines Parish Council Vice Chair Lynda Banta.

The trip is also an extension of the Fleur-de-lis Ambassador Program, founded by Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow and Tulane University President Scott Cowen, to bring the message of New Orleans' recovery to the nation's Capitol.

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.