



City Council November 20, 2008
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

November 20, 2008

Contact:
Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
rjpursell@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - November 20, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council passed Resolutions supporting education on the Master Planning process, the passage of the Gulf Coast City Works Act, and the creation of the Federal City Cultural Products District and the South Broad Street Cultural District.

Additionally, the Council passed an Ordinance specifying the demolition process of properties located within the Neighborhood Conservation District, and a Resolution addressing airport privatization.

The Council also honored local armed forces and received activity updates from military leaders as part of the annual Military Appreciation Day, and introduced an Ordinance to extend the suspension of the domicile requirement for City employees.

Honors Local Armed Forces Organizations



*Mayor's Military Advisory Committee Members
and Military Leaders*

The Mayor's Military Advisory Committee came before the Council today to conduct the annual Military Appreciation Day activities including the Committee's annual report, performances by

the Marine band, representative groups of active military members from each service in attendance, and activity updates from active military leaders of local armed forces organizations.

Committee Chairman General David Mize USMC Ret, led the presentation and introduced military leaders from the U.S. Army Reserve, Louisiana Army National Guard, US Marine Corps, US Coast Guard and the U.S. Navy.

Each military leader presented the Council with an update on the activities of their respective armed forces organization as well as news of interest to the community.

General Mize said, "We want to express our deep gratitude for the Council's continuous support and recognition. We are honored to have the opportunity to come before you today and provide the Council and the community with information and updates on the local armed forces."

Mayor Ray Nagin was also present to acknowledge the armed forces representatives present and to express his gratitude for their dedication and commitment to the City of New Orleans.

Supports Education on Master Planning Process



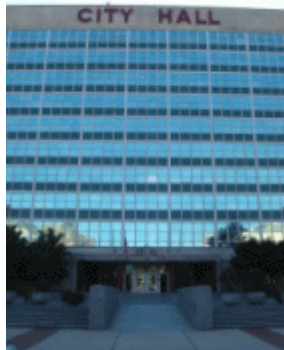
*Councilmember-at-Large
Clarkson*

The Council passed Resolution R-08-619, authored by Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, calling on Goody Clancy, the consultant retained by the City to help prepare the Master Plan, to do everything in its power to educate the residents of New Orleans about the master planning process and about their role in shaping it and bringing it to completion.

The Resolution also asks that Goody Clancy do their part to reassure residents that it will not present the City Council with a plan that "shrinks the footprint" of the City.

Councilmember Clarkson said, "This is an important step forward in our recovery and it is important that all of our citizens are informed and get involved in the process of creating the Master Plan."

For more information on the Master Plan and the planning process click [here](#).



Addresses Demolition Process in Neighborhood Conservation District

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,243, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson, Fielkow and Head, requiring the City of New Orleans to contract with an independent third party structural engineer to inspect and give final approval for the demolition of all Imminent Danger of Collapse (IDC) properties within the Neighborhood Conservation District.

The Ordinance will not affect demolitions in areas that fall outside of affected districts and where demolitions are necessary - neighborhoods such as New Orleans East, Lakeview and Gentilly.

Supports Gulf Coast City Works Act



Councilmember-at-Large
Fielkow

The Council passed Resolution R-08-618, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Midura, supporting efforts and reaffirming the Council's commitment toward passage of HR 4048: the Gulf Coast City Works Act.

The Act would coordinate recovery projects, rebuild key infrastructure and ensure sustainable community development. Additionally, the Act aims to create a minimum of 100,000 jobs.

Councilmember Fielkow said, "The Gulf Coast Civic Works Act, if passed by the U.S. Senate, will set the groundwork for local revitalization efforts. The combination of local and federal cooperation ensures that our community has a direct effect on our rebuilding efforts. The bill provides a minimum of 100,000 jobs and comprehensive job training for Gulf Coast residents, while soliciting input from local citizens and officials in the rebuilding process. I am very proud that the City Council supported the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act today and I urge Congress to support it."

The Resolution reflects the Council's commitment to working closely with local community groups, the Office of the Governor of Louisiana, our state and federal legislators, the U.S. Representatives House Committee on Education and Labor, and the Office of the President of the United States to further strengthen and enact this legislation as it moves through Congress.

Supports Creation of Cultural Products Districts



Councilmember Carter

The Council passed Resolution R-08-621, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson and Carter, supporting an application to the state of Louisiana for the creation of the "Federal City Cultural Products District."

The Council also passed Resolution R-08-622, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson and Head, supporting an application to the state of Louisiana for the creation of the "South Broad Street Cultural District."



Councilmember Head

District "C" Councilmember Carter said, "The creation of these cultural districts serves to highlight those areas of the City with unique cultural influence and to promote community revitalization."

The creation of Cultural Districts is part of Act 298 of the 2007 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature which authorizes Local Governing Authorities to create Cultural Districts as a mechanism for community revitalization through the creation of hubs of cultural activity.

Addresses Airport Privatization



The Council adopted Resolution R-08-645, co-authored by Councilmembers Hedge-Morrell and Fielkow, calling on the New Orleans Aviation Board to begin research on airport privatization, and if appropriate, make an application to the FAA to be considered for the Airport Pilot Privatization Program.

A similar path was recently followed by Chicago Midway Airport that, if approved by the FAA, may result in a \$2.5 billion infusion of cash to the City of Chicago.

Introduces Extension of Suspension of Domicile Requirement



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

The Council introduced Ordinance Calendar No. 27,261, co-authored by Councilmembers Hedge-Morrell, Fielkow, Head and Clarkson, to extend the suspension of the domicile requirement for City employees to December 31, 2012.

The current suspension will expire on December 31st of this year.

The Ordinance will come up for consideration by the Council at the next regular meeting on December 1st.

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 Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; Council Vice-President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow; 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.