

Statement

November 21, 2008



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell Statement Regarding 2009 City Budget

Citizens of New Orleans:

Today, concluded the last day of budget hearings for the 2009 Budget. Throughout the budget hearing process, the Council has heard the formal requests of each City Department and Agency.

The Council is currently reviewing the Mayor's proposed 10 Mil increase. We are focused on adopting a budget that will assist the City's recovery efforts and impact positively future economic development and a safer city for all New Orleanians.

My colleagues and I will be deliberating over the next week to reach a consensus by the charter mandate of 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; Council District "A" Shelley Midura; Council District "B" Stacy S. Head; Council District "C" James Carter; Council District "D" Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and Council District "E" Cynthia Willard-Lewis.