

City Council September 18, 2008
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

September 18, 2008

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New Orleans, LA - September 18, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council passed Resolutions supporting relief and rebuilding efforts in Texas and disaster relief for local businesses.

Supports Relief and Rebuilding Efforts in Texas



The Council passed Resolution R-08-545, calling on the Federal Government to expedite all relief and rebuilding efforts in the state of Texas as a result of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, which caused significant damage to Southeast Texas and its Gulf Coast communities.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Throughout our disasters, the state of Texas and its residents have shown Louisiana great generosity, with many Texans opening their homes to evacuees and the government of Texas giving great material and financial assistance to our residents. We are very grateful for this and we offer our support to Texans and call upon the Federal Government to expedite all relief and recovery efforts in the affected areas of the state."

Supports Local Business Disaster Relief



Councilmember-at-Large
Fielkow

The Council adopted Resolution R-08-542, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow, Clarkson, Head and Willard-Lewis, calling on the Louisiana Economic Development Department and Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO, Inc.) to create a coalition of businesses, government and academic leaders to develop a comprehensive business disaster continuity program.

The disaster continuity program will assist local businesses in advance disaster preparations to lessen hardships, including financial and labor force issues, resulting from mandatory evacuations and short term closures caused by curfews, power outages and other hardships resulting from disasters.

Councilmember-at-Large Fielkow said, "Our local businesses are an important part of the livelihood of our City - the disaster continuity program will offer businesses vital assistance and support when dealing with the economic burdens they face in the aftermath of disasters."

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.