

City Council September 11, 2008
Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

September 11, 2008

Contact:

Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082

rjpursell@cityofno.com

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New Orleans, LA - September 11, 2008 - Today the New Orleans City Council passed a Motion supporting the Federal City project and addressed presentations by the United States Coast Guard and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Captain Lincoln Stroh.

**Addresses U.S. Coast Guard
Presentation**

Captain Lincoln Stroh, Captain of the Port for the U.S. Coast Guard, came before the Council as the first order of business to discuss the incidents of loose vessels in the Industrial Canal during Hurricane Gustav and the Coast Guard's policies on the matter.

Stroh presented information on actions that have been taken by the Coast Guard to protect the citizens of New Orleans, the Port of New Orleans, and other waterways - including the requirement that each marine facility prepare a hurricane contingency plan - a key incident management tool to ensure facilities are prepared to safely weather storms.

District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis said, "We are focused on ensuring that a reliable plan is implemented and executed and that safeguards are in place to protect our citizens. We are glad to hear of the Coast Guard's additional pre-emptive measures - it is important that our citizens know that the Coast Guard is prepared to step in and take the necessary steps to protect our City."

Captain Stroh stated the Coast Guard has launched an investigation to determine whether or not Southern Scrap Recycling followed its hurricane contingency plan regarding vessels that broke free from their moorings during Hurricane Gustav.

Additionally, the Coast Guard has requested that Southern Scrap Recycling remove all vessels for the remainder of the 2008 hurricane season.

Supports Federal City Project



*Councilmember at-Large
Clarkson*

Representatives from the Algiers Development District appeared before the Council to give a report on the Federal City project, giving details about future plans as well as the economic impact of the project.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "This is an important economic development project for Algiers, the City, the region and the country as a whole. Thank you all for your leadership and persistent hard work toward the completion of this project."



Councilmember Carter

District "C" Councilmember James Carter said, "We look forward to the completion and groundbreaking of the Federal City project. This project represents immense economic development opportunity for District "C", the City of New Orleans, and the region."

The Council passed Motion M-08-521, authored by Councilmember-at-Large Clarkson, approving the Algiers Development District Plan and Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for 2008. The plan and budget indicate how the Algiers Development District will utilize funds to develop Federal City.



Colonel Jeff Bedey

Addresses U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee Status Report

Colonel Jeff Bedey and other members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers appeared before the Council to present a status report on the City's levee system.

Colonel Bedey said, "The Corps has taken immediate action following our assessments after the storm - we are making system repairs including erosion repairs on the inside of floodwalls, as well as floodgate repairs."

The Army Corps representatives reviewed specific areas of the City's levee system. Through photographs, the Corps demonstrated to the Council the conditions of the levee system both before and after Hurricane Gustav.

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.