



City Council Reconvenes Recessed February 19, 2009 Regular Meeting

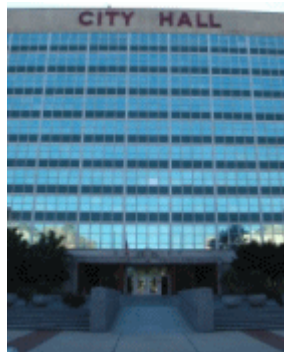
News Release

February 26, 2009

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New Orleans, LA - February 26, 2009 - Today the New Orleans City Council reconvened its recessed February 19, 2009 regular meeting in the Council Chamber.

At the suggestion of the Ordinance's lead author Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow, reconsideration of overriding the Mayor's veto of Ordinance Calendar Number 27,069, requiring compliance with the state's Open Meetings Law relative to the executive branch's competitive selection process for

professional services contracts, was not brought up, and the meeting was adjourned.

Following the meeting a discussion on race relations in the City ensued. Councilmembers, community leaders and citizens participated in the discussion, voicing their concerns and opinions on the subject.

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell proposed a symposium on race, to take place later this year. Hedge-Morrell took the lead to schedule the event in conjunction with the Urban League of Greater New Orleans.

AmericaSpeaks, a national group involved in post-Katrina planning in the City, will organize a series of meetings aimed at bringing together African American, white, Hispanic and Asian neighborhood, religious and community leaders to discuss race relations challenges in the City.

Councilmembers and community leaders will be invited to participate in the event as well.

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.