



City Council January 8, 2009 Regular Meeting Summary

News Release

January 8, 2009

Contact:

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

rjpursell@cityofno.com

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New Orleans, LA - January 8, 2009 - Today the New Orleans City Council passed an Ordinance temporarily extending the Temporary Housing Structure removal deadline in District "D".

Additionally, the Council adopted Resolutions honoring the memory of Reverend Marshall Truehill Jr., and honoring retiring Judges Raymond C. Bigelow, Dennis Waldron, C. Hearn Taylor and Justice Pascal F. Calogero for their years of service to the citizens of New Orleans.

The Council received a report from Dr. Juliet Saussy on the new public service announcement video showcasing the First Responders of New Orleans, as well as a presentation honoring Reverend C. James Smith for his years of dedication to the City Council.

The Council President will call a Special Meeting on Monday morning at 10:30 a.m. to consider the Budget items that went unaddressed at today's meeting.

Honors Memory of Reverend Marshall Truehill Jr.



Miranda Farr Truehill

As its first Order of Business, the Council passed Resolution R-09-2 honoring the memory of Reverend Truehill and acknowledging his vision, perseverance, and loyalty that paved the way for future generations.

Rev. Truehill's wife, Miranda Farr Truehill, along with friends and family, were present in the Council Chamber as the Council honored his legacy.

The Council recognized Rev. Truehill's religious leadership and community activism throughout the City of New Orleans. They also expressed their sympathy and deep gratitude to Rev. Truehill's family for his many years of service to the New Orleans community.

Extends Temporary Housing Structure Removal Deadline in District "D"



Councilmember Hedge-Morrell

The Council passed Ordinance Calendar No. 27,299, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, temporarily suspending, for a three month period, all relevant provisions of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of the City of New Orleans to allow the placement of Temporary Housing Structures on private property affected and damaged by Hurricane Katrina in Council District "D".

District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell said, "This extension is designed to allow residents in District "D" to remain in their temporary housing structures while they continue to rebuild their homes."

Recognizes Retiring Judges

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*Judge Raymond Bigelow and
Judge Dennis Waldron*

The Council passed Resolutions R-09-3, R-09-4, R-09-5 and R-09-9, extending the Council's appreciation to Judge C. Hearn Taylor, Judge Dennis Waldron, Judge Raymond C. Bigelow and Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. for their years of service.

Judge Raymond C. Bigelow and Judge Dennis Waldron appeared before the Council to receive recognition for their years of work in the City of New Orleans.

Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow said, "Thank you for your incredible leadership and service to the City of New Orleans. We are so appreciative of all that you have done throughout the years, and we wish you all a happy retirement."

Honors Retiring Chaplain Rev. C. James Smith



Reverend C. James Smith

The Council honored Reverend C. James Smith for his years of service and dedication to the City Council.

Rev. Smith appeared before the Council, along with family, friends and community and religious leaders.

The Council issued a proclamation recognizing and honoring the Reverend for his 28 years of comfort, blessings and service to the City Council and all constituents.

Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said, "Reverend Smith has truly been a guiding hand and an inspiration to the City Council and to the New Orleans community. We thank him for his kindness, his counsel and his spirit - we will miss him and wish him all the best."

Addresses Presentation on New Orleans First Responders Public Service Announcement



Dr. Juliet Saussy

Dr. Juliet Saussy, along with other New Orleans First Responders, came before the Council today to present the new public service announcement video showcasing First Responders of New Orleans.

Dr. Saussy informed the Council that the public service announcement was a collaborative effort by all First Responders, including EMS and Police and Fire departments.

The announcement showed First Responders in different areas of the City, demonstrating their commitment to serve and assist all citizens. The video highlighted the cultural diversity of the City by incorporating different languages, including Spanish, Vietnamese, and Sign Language, throughout the announcement.

Plans to Address Budget Items at Special Meeting Monday



The Council President will call a Special Meeting on Monday morning at 10:30 a.m. in the Council Chamber to consider the Budget items that went unaddressed at today's regular Council meeting.

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.