

RESOLUTION

NO. R-09-326

CITY HALL: July 2, 2009

BY: COUNCILMEMBER FIELKOW

SECONDED BY:

WHEREAS, the city of New Orleans is annually threatened by hurricanes of varying magnitudes and must be prepared to defend itself against severe storms; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the United States Congress allocated \$12 million to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (hereafter referred to as the Corps), the federal agency charged with providing this protection; and

WHEREAS, this money was intended to repair Hurricane Katrina-related damages, provide medium- and long-term solutions to pre-existing unsound structures, and completely strengthen the city's hurricane defenses to combat a 100-year storm – defined as a storm with a 1 percent chance of striking in any given year; and

WHEREAS, soon after the Corps received these funds, it set a deadline of June 1, 2011 for the completion of the 100-year storm protection; and

WHEREAS, the deputy director of Task Force Hope, created by the Corps days after Katrina to oversee the recovery and construction of New Orleans' hurricane defenses, recently issued an assessment of these hurricane safeguards which cited 13 projects as having delayed schedules; and

WHEREAS, inconsistent with these stated schedules, in early June 2009, the Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division of the Corps confirmed to a Congressional committee that the Army Corps intended to adhere to the June 2011 deadline; and

WHEREAS, pushing the deadline for 100-year storm protection beyond the beginning of the 2011 hurricane season may allow for projects to slip through the cracks and could result in perpetual delays and, ultimately, a lack of essential hurricane protection, **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, that the Council strongly urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take whatever steps necessary to ensure that that it meets the June, 2011 deadline to provide a quality system of protection for a 100-year storm.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council requests:

- 1) that top Corps officials attend the City Council meeting of July 23, 2009 as a Special Order of Business to testify as to the status of 100-year storm protection and the June 2011 deadline; and
- 2) quarterly written progress reports from the Corps so as to keep publicly stated timelines consistent with internal schedules.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk forward certified copies of this resolution to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Task Force Hope.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.