

New Orleans Chosen as Site For 2014 National Association of Counties Annual Conference

News Release

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New Orleans, LA - June 2, 2009 - Recently it was announced that New Orleans was chosen as the host city for the 2014 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference. In December 2008 the City Council passed a Resolution authorizing the submission of a proposal for New Orleans to host the conference.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States.

The last time New Orleans hosted a NACo Annual Conference was in 2002. At that time, NACo reported some of the highest attendance numbers of any of their conferences. It is estimated that anywhere from 3,300 to 3,500 people will attend the conference, representing a huge economic impact for New Orleans.

Stephen J. Perry, President of the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau (NOMCVB), estimates the economic impact of hosting NACo's annual conference in New Orleans to be \$4,116,000.

Council President Arnie Fielkow said, "Securing this conference was a collaborative effort. The Council worked with the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations, Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu, the Louisiana Police Jury Association, and the NOMCVB to bring NACo back to New Orleans. It is a testament to these groups, as well as our many citizens

who work in the hospitality industry, that New Orleans continues to be a top tourist and convention destination."

The NACo annual conference typically features guest speakers, educational workshops, and forums on key issues and timely topics such as the economy, housing, employment, energy, infrastructure and economic development, transparency and accountability.

Other cities competing to host the 2014 conference were Ft. Worth, TX (Tarrant County), and Charlotte, NC (Mecklenberg County).

NACo - The Voice of America's Counties

Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,066 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.NACo.org.

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 Arnie Fielkow; Council Vice President and Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; 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.