

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell Expresses Disappointment with Diversion of FEMA Funds

News Release

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New Orleans, LA - June 4, 2009 - Today, District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell expressed her disappointment in Archbishop Hughes' decision to divert \$8.3 million dollars earmarked for repairs to Epiphany of Our Lord School to projects in Mandeville and St Bernard.

"The children of District D should benefit from these FEMA funds, which could be used to improve the quality of education in our area," said Councilmember Hedge-Morrell. "When I first became aware of the Archbishop's proposal, I sent a letter to FEMA encouraging them to reinvest those funds in our community, either in a community center at Corpus Christi or at St. Leo the Great Catholic School where Epiphany students now attend. I think it is essential that the parishioners of the four Catholic Churches in the district be involved in the Archdiocese's decision. The parishioners raised millions of dollars to build those churches and schools, and they must be respected regarding the use of the FEMA funds."

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell plans to contact FEMA directly and request that Archbishop Hughes meet with parishioners from the four impacted parishes in the near future to discuss possible uses of the FEMA funds.

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.