

Youth & Recreation Committee to Convene Again In Effort to Expedite Opening of NORD Playgrounds

News Release

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New Orleans, LA - March 27, 2009 - City Council Vice President Arnie Fielkow, Chair of the Council's Youth & Recreation Committee, today announced that he will hold a follow-up hearing to continue addressing FEMA reimbursements for NORD playgrounds and facilities. The special Youth & Recreation Committee hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 7th at 1:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

Council Vice President Fielkow called for a follow-up meeting on this topic due to the absence of key participants in the original hearing on Wednesday, March 25th. The attendance of FEMA officials, in addition to representatives from the relevant city and state departments, has been requested.

"The ultimate goal is to open all NORD playgrounds and facilities as quickly as possible," says Fielkow. "With summer and the end of the school year upon us, it is extremely important that as many NORD playgrounds and pools as possible be open and ready for our youth and all New Orleanians. Our citizens are weary of disagreements between governmental entities three and a half years after Hurricane Katrina"

Fielkow continues, "All meeting participants, from FEMA to the state to the city, should be prepared to answer specific questions about why the rebuild/repair of recreational facilities are not being fully funded, whether any funds are being held up, what supplemental funding sources might be used on top of FEMA funds to expedite the openings, and what we can do now to quicken the rebuild/repair of our recreational facilities."

Officials from FEMA, ORDA, the State of Louisiana and the City of New Orleans have been requested to attend and speak on behalf of their respective agencies.

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.