



## Civil District Court Judge Prohibits Release of Council Emails

*Temporary Restraining Order Granted  
And March 12th Hearing Set for Preliminary Injunction*

News Release

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New Orleans, LA - March 4, 2009 - At the Council's request, this morning a temporary restraining order was granted by Orleans Civil District Court Judge Lloyd Medley to prohibit the public release of City Council emails. A hearing on the preliminary injunction is set for 10 a.m., March 12, 2009. Present in court today on the Council's behalf were representatives of the City Council's special counsel Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar. Representatives of the City Attorney's Office were also present in support of the Council's request.

The City Council filed the request for a temporary restraining order to prevent local lawyer Tracie Washington from disseminating Councilmember emails made available to her, at her request, by Sanitation Department Director Veronica White.

The release of the emails to Washington was done without the Council's knowledge or consent and without prior review of the content for information of a privileged and confidential nature.

Yesterday, the Council's special counsel notified Councilmembers that the release of these Council emails may constitute a serious breach of legal rights and protections afforded the City Council, its constituents, and the City of New Orleans.

The City Council is expected to take the matter up in Executive Session at its Regular Council Meeting tomorrow.

Because of the subject matter of this issue, media calls are being referred to Steven J. Lane, Attorney and Managing Partner, Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar, (504) 680-0527, [slane@hhkc.com](mailto:slane@hhkc.com).

### **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.