

## City Council Reviewing Over 2-Million Pages of Emails for Release

News Release

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New Orleans, LA - May 18, 2009 - Today, the New Orleans City Council is continuing its review of over 2-million pages of emails for public release and website posting.

With 24-hour notice, on April 21st the City Attorney delivered to the City Council more than 400-thousand emails comprising over 2 million pages. The delivery was made in a disc format that included calendars and various attachments.

Due to the volume of emails to be reviewed as required under the state's public records law, the process has necessitated three phases of review which includes a technology expert, Council's Special Legal Counsel and Councilmembers and staff, as appropriate.

Since receipt of the emails, the Council's technology expert with assistance from Special Legal Counsel has developed a rolling system to separate and catalog the emails and remove computer viruses. Using word searches and manual review, Special Legal Counsel has reviewed and redacted privileged and confidential information from a portion of the emails.

Over the next few days, Councilmembers and some members of their staffs will meet with its technology expert and Special Legal Counsel to become skilled at accessing and reviewing the emails for privileged and confidential constituent information also covered under the state's public records law. Over a period of time, City Councilmembers will be reviewing emails and making them available to the public.



Independently of the Council's three phase email review, District "B" Councilmember Stacy Head has begun reviewing and posting her emails. To view a statement from Councilmember Head regarding her emails please click [here](#).

## 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.