

Statement

May 21, 2009



Councilmember Willard-Lewis Statement
Re: Demolition of Two Apartment Complexes in New Orleans East

New Orleans, LA - May 21, 2009 - "I am pleased to bring to you some very good news. After two years of testimonies and countless complaints, I am proud to finally say that what many of us know as 8181 Lake Forest Blvd. or La Provence Apartments will soon be demolished. The owners have just sent us a letter agreeing to demolish the entire complex. They are currently in negotiations with a demolition contractor, and New Orleans East will soon reap the benefits.

I am also elated to say that 14101 Michoud Blvd, formerly known as Oak Island apartments, will be demolished. The permit was granted on May 20, 2009.

Both of these units were posing health risks to the citizens of New Orleans and were negatively affecting their quality of life. Since Hurricane Katrina, the community has been working diligently to bring New Orleans East back, and I am glad to say that with this great news, we are two steps closer.

These units were constant reminders of the government's failures, as well as symbols of the greatest natural disaster to ever strike our country. By demolishing these units, we can begin to put our dark past behind us and look to a much better and brighter future.

I would like to thank the community for being so engaged and staying involved in the process. I would like this to serve as a reminder that when we come together as one, with one goal, things change."

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.