

Council Vice President Fielkow
Opposes Any Potential Plans to Close or Merge SUNO
And Will Introduce Resolution at Tomorrow's Council Meeting
Asking State Legislature to Continue Financing SUNO

News Release

May 6, 2009

Contact:
Kate Schneiderman
Office of
Councilmember-at-Large
Arnie Fielkow
Ph: 504-658-1063
Cell: 504-905-9893
krschneiderman@cityofno.com

[New Orleans
City Council](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)




New Orleans, LA - May 6, 2009 - At tomorrow's regular City Council Meeting, Council Vice President Fielkow will introduce Resolution R-09-225 encouraging the State Legislature to search for new funding streams in order to continue the operations of Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO).

The Resolution acknowledges the financial shortfall faced by Louisiana's institutions of higher education, and further states the City Council's opposition to any proposed plan to close SUNO and/or merge it with the University of New Orleans.

"Since its founding, SUNO has consistently educated and trained productive members of our community. The foundation of a strong local economy rests on its educational institutions, and we would be taking a giant step backwards as a state and a city if SUNO and UNO are consolidated and funding is cut," says Vice President Fielkow. "SUNO has done a remarkable rebuilding job since Hurricane Katrina and it would be a terrible affront to the hard work of this community, the university and its students to shut down such a big contributor to the health and vitality of New Orleans."

SUNO's critical role in New Orleans stems from its prestigious School of Social Work and recently re-certified College of Education - both turn out trained professionals and critical research in two areas that are of utmost importance in New Orleans. Further, SUNO is a proven investment for Louisiana - an economic impact study published by Southern University of New Orleans on April



30, 2009 found that for every dollar spent on SUNO by the State of Louisiana, the State receives approximately seven dollars in return.

SUNO officials will be present at tomorrow's meeting to testify about the affects of any proposed closure or merger on the school.

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.