



CITY SPIRIT.
NEVER STRONGER.

NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL

2010 POLICY OVERVIEW
2009 LEGISLATIVE ACTION



As we reflect on the past year and look to the future, the people of New Orleans remain strong, resilient and determined to rebuild and renew this beloved American City. Elected officials, the business community, engaged citizens, non-profit groups and neighborhoods are working together and advocating for a full and complete recovery of our City. We will not be deterred until our job is done.

As the legislative branch of city government, the Council serves the will and needs of citizens and supports the growth and economic prosperity of the City. Through legislative action, we have set priorities, addressed tough issues, faced challenges and made difficult decisions.

We have been persistent in our approach to public safety, economic development and fiscal and budgetary responsibilities. From the allocation of resources to ensuring the progress and high performance of projects and programs, we are unrelenting in the pursuit of a complete and full recovery and economic revitalization of every neighborhood in the City.

It is our privilege to represent the citizens of New Orleans and continue fair, transparent and accountable governance of the people. Our legislative work and community efforts are chronicled in this document. We invite you to review the New Orleans City Council Annual Report: 2010 Policy Overview and 2009 Legislative Action.

Annice Feller

Jacquelyn Bruchtel Galaktion

Shelley Midura

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Cynthia Willard Lewis

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Cynthia Hedge Marshall



NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL



2010 POLICY OVERVIEW

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Annually, in accordance with Council Rule 46, the New Orleans City Council holds a Planning Retreat in the month of October.

This year's planning retreat consisted of open discussion and constructive debate on the successes and challenges of 2009 policy initiatives, implementation results and forward activity. Specifically, the Council focused on major areas of concern that included, **Public Safety and Crime Prevention, Economic and Community Development, Reform and Governance and Energy and Environment.**

In anticipation of this year's municipal elections and the introduction of new Councilmembers to the Council in May of 2010, the Council departed from its previous retreat agendas by not including the development of new legislative priority focus areas.

However, during the course of the retreat, Councilmembers agreed that numerous categories could be used to classify and understand the legislative body's work. The Council introduced three over-arching subject areas that might be considered essential by a new council when establishing legislative priorities and setting an agenda for public policy discussion among Councilmembers. The broad policy areas include **Budget, Utilities Regulation and Land Use.**

Reflecting on these broad policy areas, Councilmembers reiterated their commitment to fiscal responsibility, attention to energy and environment through programs and initiatives within the area of municipal utilities, and building toward the future – including all recovery efforts, the implementation of a master land use plan, and adoption of a comprehensive zoning ordinance. Councilmembers further stressed that identifying particular legislative priorities in these key areas should be left to the new City Council taking office in May of 2010 and continuing its term through 2014.



Hurricane Katrina Memorial



NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL



2009 LEGISLATIVE ACTION

COUNCILMEMBER-AT-LARGE ARNIE FIELKOW



Addressed New Orleans recovery needs on a national platform

- Traveled to Washington D.C. and New York to meet with the Obama Administration about the need for FEMA and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to expedite rebuilding efforts; met with Six Flags officials about redevelopment of the Six Flags theme park property in eastern New Orleans
- Appeared at the National Press Club in Washington D.C., as co-founder of the Fleur de Lis Ambassador Program, to discuss the progress of New Orleans' recovery

Invested in local youth through recreation programs

- Co-sponsored and led 100 New Orleans public middle school students on a field trip to Birmingham, Alabama that included the 14th Annual Rickwood Baseball Classic game, America's oldest ballpark which hosted historically iconic baseball teams and players, as well as a tour of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
- Continued work as Chairman of the Youth and Recreation Committee, bringing athletic programs and activities to local children, including a free baseball clinic for children and free attendance to a New Orleans Zephyrs baseball game

Advocated the reopening of recreational facilities

- Set deadline for FEMA, the State and New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) to work collaboratively to create a clear path for reopening city playgrounds and NORD facilities formerly used as FEMA trailer sites

Spearheaded funding effort for Iberville neighborhood

- Led a successful effort to coordinate donors willing to contribute stop-gap funds to support the reopening of the Iberville Community Center, a valuable recreation facility for the Iberville community, and participated in the informal reopening of the facility

Explored development opportunity for the East

- Led a team of 25 New Orleans-area legislators, including U.S. Congressman Anh "Joseph" Cao, to Dallas for a site visit of the Big League Dreams Park and Hawaiian Falls Water Park complex with the idea of bringing a similar development to eastern New Orleans. Executives from the facility also visited New Orleans and presented the Big League Dreams concept to the Council's Youth & Recreation Committee.

Facilitated efforts to address wage theft

- Led information-gathering hearing on wage theft during a Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee meeting with local labor advocates and law experts, to begin the official process of criminalizing wage theft through legislation

RECOVERY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Insisted on Superior Storm Surge Protection for Outfall Canals

Councilmember Clarkson led the Council in calling for an independent review of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers redesign plans for the Orleans Ave., London Ave., and 17th St. Canals, requesting that redesign Option 2a be implemented, and thanking U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Mary Landrieu for their continued advocacy of Option 2a. Option 2a provides for the deepening and repaving of canal walls and construction of new all-purpose pumping stations, and incorporates the Pump to the River project. *(R-09-147, R-09-574 and R-09-306)*

Held Army Corps Accountable for Meeting 100-year Storm Protection Deadline

To ensure adequate hurricane protection for the City, the Council, led by Councilmembers Fielkow and Clarkson, urged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take steps necessary to ensure that it meets the June 1, 2011 deadline to provide a quality system of protection for a 100-year storm. *(R-09-326)*

Highlighted City Recovery Needs at Congressional Hearing

Councilmembers Fielkow, Clarkson, Head and Hedge-Morrell attended a Congressional Roundtable hearing of the U.S. House committee responsible for overseeing FEMA, to urge congressional leaders to reform the FEMA reimbursement process, forgive the City its Community Disaster Loans granted in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and focus on coastal restoration and outfall canals.

Supported Coastal Restoration and Enhancement

The Council, led by Councilmembers Fielkow and Clarkson, urged the state's Congressional Delegation to work with the U.S. Congress and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration to ensure continued funding of the Coastal Restoration and Enhancement through Science and Technology program. *(R-09-404)* Additionally, the Council passed legislation, spearheaded by Councilmember Clarkson, in support of efforts to investigate the benefits of large-scale land diversions as a means of restoring Louisiana's coastline. *(R-09-101)*

Urged Congress to Amend Federal Medicaid Rules

To account for the aberration in personal income statistics directly linked to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Council, led by Councilmember Fielkow, urged Congress to consider amending Federal Medicaid rules due to the fact that insurance settlements and Road Home grants are considered personal income, therefore inflating the state's per capita income statistics. *(R-09-490)*

Maintained Advisory Base Flood Elevations

The Council evaluated new options regarding Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps, which set flood levels throughout the City. The Council agreed to continue with the Advisory Base Flood Elevations adopted after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, to protect citizens from substantial damage caused by hurricanes of comparable sizes.

Called for Replacement of Undersized Culvert

Led by Councilmember Midura, the Council called upon the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board to work with Jefferson Parish and the State of Louisiana to replace the undersized culvert in the Monticello Canal under Airline Highway in order to provide flood protection and avoid constrictions in the canal. *(R-09-470)*

Encouraged Citizen Input on Hurricane Evacuation Planning

To encourage citizen input, the Council hosted a public hearing on 2009 Hurricane Season Evacuation and Shelter Planning, offering citizens the opportunity to hear and comment on 2009 emergency plans.

Called for Expedited Allocation of HUD Grant Funds

The Council, led by Councilmember Clarkson, called on the Mayor's Office to expedite the allocation of \$11 million in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant money, which is in danger of being lost if it is not allocated to specific affordable housing initiatives. *(R-09-126)*

Supported Extension of Disaster Housing Assistance

Led by Councilmembers Fielkow and Midura, the Council urged HUD and FEMA to take immediate action to extend for one year the Disaster Housing Assistance Program which provides rental assistance to Louisiana residents still in need after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. *(R-09-50)*

Requested Preservation and Neighborhood Consideration from Army Corps

Led by Councilmember Midura, the Council requested that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers adopt a plan to build the 17th Street Canal pumping station that does not require confiscation of the land in District "A" currently occupied by Coconut Beach, achieves maximum flood protection, and leaves the smallest possible environmental footprint. *(R-09-248)*

Extended Trailer Removal Deadline in Rebuilding Community

Led by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, the Council temporarily suspended all relevant provisions of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to allow the placement of Temporary Housing Structures on private property affected and damaged by Hurricane Katrina in District "D." *(Ord. # 23,377 M.C.S.)*

Examined Role of Elected Officials in Disaster Response

Councilmembers attended a seminar by Texas A&M Extension Service which examined the role of elected officials in disaster response and in supporting emergency management professionals in disaster preparedness, response and mitigation.

Supported New Office Focused on Hurricane Protection

The Council passed legislation, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson, Head and Hedge-Morrell, in support of House Bill 833, creating a new office in the Office of the Governor to consolidate functions relative to hurricane protection, flood control and coastal restoration. *(R-09-243)*

Supported Academy to Foster Leadership during Disasters

The Council, led by Councilmember Fielkow, supported Tulane University on the forthcoming opening of its Disaster Management Leadership Academy, which will grant certifications to high-level government officials and masters and doctoral degrees to students in research programs who will be able to lead the City in the case of a natural or man-made disaster. *(R-09-325)*

Focused on Citizen Rebuilding Efforts

In acknowledgement of the citizens whose hard work and personal financial resources have contributed greatly to the recovery of New Orleans, Councilmembers Willard-Lewis and Hedge-Morrell led the Council in publicly refuting all of Dr. Edward Blakely's comments relative to the recovery of New Orleans. *(R-09-622)*

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Supported Executive and Legislative Branch Compliance with Open Meetings Law

Under the leadership of Councilmember Fielkow, the Council required that both the executive and legislative branches of City Government, in their professional service contracting processes, comply with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law. (*Ord. # 23,388 M.C.S. and M-08-380*)

Amended 2009 Budget in Support of Responsible Funds Allocations

In light of the Council's continued focus on fiscal responsibility, Councilmembers returned approximately \$2.4 million to the Community Disaster Loan, lessened budget cuts for other operating expenses in appropriate departments, funded the Office of the Indigent Defender and supported the addition of a fee to red light camera tickets to generate funding for the office, restored \$30 million Community Development Block Grants from the reserve, and reduced the reserve of Sanitation contracts from 50% to 25%. (*Ord. # 23,379 M.C.S., Ord. # 23,381 M.C.S., Ord. # 23,380 M.C.S. and Ord. # 23,382 M.C.S.*)

Passed Balanced 2010 Budget with Focus on Critical Services and Citizen Needs

After an extensive and detailed session of Budget Hearings focusing on the fiscal needs of city departments and agencies, Budget Committee Chair Councilmember Hedge-Morrell led the Council in passing a balanced budget by the City Charter mandated deadline of December 1, avoiding personnel cuts and restoring furlough days, while funding critical city services and keeping citizen needs in mind. (*Ord. # 23,809 M.C.S., Ord. # 23,810 M.C.S. and Ord. # 23,811 M.C.S.*)

Launched Redesigned User-Friendly Website with Streaming Video Capabilities and Citizen Resource Section

The Council launched a redesigned and enhanced user-friendly website, **NOLACityCouncil.com**, and **NOLA GOV. Online** live and archived streaming video with meetings management functionality. In an effort to engage citizens, the website's enhanced resources section provides citizens with accessible information on timely topics, key issues and government resource information. **NOLA GOV. Online** allows citizens to watch the Council meeting and follow along with the agenda live, as well as review archived meetings.

Supported Establishment of Responsible Take-Home Vehicle Policy

Led by Councilmembers Head, Hedge-Morrell and Midura, the Council addressed the Administration's role in setting policy pertaining to take-home vehicles and supported the repeal of Section 2-901 of the City Code which prohibits any out of parish use of city-owned or leased vehicles. The Council also pushed to establish criteria for the assignment of take-home vehicles and to exempt public safety and service departments from take-home restrictions. (*Ord. # 23,421 M.C.S. and Ord. # 23,653 M.C.S.*)

Ensured Proper Payment and Collection of Property Liens and Taxes

The Council, led by Councilmember Head, supported the collection of property liens and ad valorem taxes as required by law and established penalties for collection costs relative to outstanding liens. Additionally, the Council required that any payment collected for property taxes first satisfy all outstanding liens, and only when all outstanding liens are satisfied in full will payment be applied towards property taxes. (*Ord. # 23,645 M.C.S., Ord. # 23,679 M.C.S. and Ord. # 23,680 M.C.S.*)

COUNCILMEMBER-AT-LARGE JACQUELYN BRECHTEL CLARKSON



Continued progress on Federal City, the largest economic development project in the state

- As a member of the New Orleans Federal Alliance, the board that oversees Federal City, Councilmember Clarkson ensured the successful completion of Phase 1 and the beginning of Phase 2, recruiting federal and state agencies and private businesses to locate to the Federal City site
- Secured Quarters A, a historic home from the 1700s on the Federal City site, to be restored and retained as the home of the Commanding General of the Marine Reserves

Fought for a responsible, comprehensive approach to flood protection

- Traveled to the Netherlands on a fact-finding trip hosted by U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu and the Dutch Embassy to study the country's advanced system of flood control
- Joined community leaders at a neighborhood rally in the Lower Ninth Ward to demand that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers restore the wetlands surrounding the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO)
- Urged the Corps of Engineers to consider using large scale diversions to restore Louisiana's coastline and provided testimony on coastal erosion before the Mississippi River Fresh Water Diversion Summit in New Orleans

Advocated for fundamental infrastructure and recovery needs

- Lobbied Louisiana's Federal Delegation in Washington, D.C. for regional planning projects including public works street repair projects as well as vital infrastructure and recovery needs

Supported regional libraries and parks

- Authored legislation that fast-tracked the design and construction of five new regional libraries around the City
- Helped direct millions of dollars in federal funding toward the City's three regional parks

Required Regular Monitoring of Sanitation Services

To ensure a high quality of service and effective use of funds, the Council passed legislation, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, requiring monthly notice of performance from the Department of Sanitation and contractors, and an in-house performance-based audit of the department. (*Ord. # 23,378 M.C.S.*)

Required Review of Youth Study Center Design Plans prior to Expenditure of Funds

Councilmember Midura led the Council in overriding the Mayor's veto and requiring that, prior to expenditure of the 2009 appropriated Budget funds, Capital Projects and Human Services present the conceptual design submission of the Youth Study Center to the Criminal Justice Committee for approval before entering into the construction phase of the project. (*Ord. # 23,384 M.C.S.*)

Supported Competitive Review of Council's Regulatory Function

After requesting that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) perform a preliminary management review of the Council's regulatory function, the Council, led by Councilmember Midura, reissued the Request for Qualifications to initiate the competitive selection of qualified professionals to advise and represent the Council on electric and gas utility matters. (*M-09-577*)

Supported Third-Party Reviews of Office of Inspector General

Led by Councilmembers Fielkow and Carter, the Council established the Office of Inspector General Third-Party Advisory Committee to perform annual reviews of audits, investigations, inspections and performance reviews of the office, and appointed Councilmember Carter as Committee Chair until the committee elects a Chair from among its membership. (*M-09-570*)

Eliminated Duplicative Investigative Offices

In an effort to promote good government, Councilmember Head led the Council in supporting the elimination of the Office of Municipal Investigation (OMI) as the duties of the OMI are duplicative of the duties of the Office of Inspector General. (*Ord. # 23,383 M.C.S.*)

Investigated Legality of Senate Bill relative to Implementation of Master Plan

Led by Councilmember Clarkson, the Council requested an opinion from the Attorney General, regarding the legality of Senate Bill 75, a bill that would require that the Master Plan receive voter approval prior to implementation, which may be in conflict with the City Charter, the Louisiana Constitution and/or other applicable law. (*R-09-177*)

Worked to Fulfill Responsibilities Relative to Firefighters' Pension Fund

Led by Budget Committee Chair Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, the Council increased the millage for fire protection to 5.21 mills, relative to the levy of ad valorem taxes upon the assessed value of all property subject to taxation in the City of New Orleans, to help address the recent judgment relative to the Firefighters' Pension. (*Ord. # 23,830 M.C.S.*)

In an effort to explore alternative methods of making the Firefighters' Pension Fund whole, Councilmembers Clarkson and Head led the Council in requesting that the Administration investigate the possibility of donating surplus property to the Firefighters' Pension Fund in order to receive a credit, of a minimum of fair market value of the donated properties, against debts owed. (*M-09-631*)

Held Annual Retreat and Public Information Briefing

The Council held its annual Council Planning retreat where Councilmembers addressed the accomplishments and challenges of 2009 policies and the development of a framework of legislative focus areas for use by the incoming new City Council. Immediately after the retreat, the Council held a public information briefing summarizing its discussions.

Supported Financially Responsible Decision regarding Purchase of Chevron Building

Councilmember Clarkson led the Council in requesting that the Administration answer questions regarding the acquisition of the Chevron Building as the site for a new City Hall. (M-09-290) After a thorough and detailed analysis of the Administration's presentation on the potential property purchase, the Council defeated Ordinances in support of acquisition of the Chevron Building. (*Ord. Calendar No. 27,552, and Ord. Calendar No. 27,563*)

Acted to Fill Vacant Council Staff Positions

The Council retained Scope Services, Inc. to perform recruitment services and to fill the vacant position of Council Utilities Regulatory Officer, and appointed Chief Deputy City Attorney Evelyn F. Pugh as Interim Chief of Staff of the City Council. (*M-09-498 and M-09-496*)

Elected New Council President and Vice President

The Council elected Councilmember Fielkow as Council President and Councilmember Clarkson as Council Vice President, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Council. (*M-09-193 and M-09-194*)

Focused on Expedited Response to Public Records Requests

In an effort to expedite responses to pending public records requests, the Council authorized action to develop an independent Management Information Services system to enable the Council to more effectively access its emails and to respond more quickly to public records requests.

Provided Financial Incentive to Attract Competitive Mayoral and Councilmember Applicants

The Council passed legislation, led by Councilmembers Midura and Carter, to provide for an increase in and future adjustments to the salaries of the Council and the Mayor, not to apply to the current Council or Mayoral term. (*Ord. # 23,749 M.C.S.*)

Addressed 2010 Property Assessments as Board of Review

The Council, acting as the Board of Review, adopted the recommendations concerning disposition of abatement appeals in the First through Seventh Municipal Districts, with the exception of Appeal #610-1, and certified to the Louisiana Tax Commission by the Secretary of the Board of Review, the 2010 assessment rolls of the First through Seventh Municipal Districts, as adjusted by the Board of Review, with the exception of Appeal #610-1. (*R-09-1 and R-09-2*)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS GROWTH

Strengthened Business Opportunities for Local and Disadvantaged Businesses

The Council, led by Councilmembers Fielkow and Hedge-Morrell, established 35% Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and 50% local contractor participation goals for contracts issued by the City of New Orleans. (*Ord. # 23,587 M.C.S.*). To ensure enforcement of the participation goals, Councilmembers Fielkow and Hedge-Morrell led a joint committee meeting to request that the Administration formulate a specific enforcement plan for the Ordinance.

In a regional approach, Councilmember Fielkow spearheaded legislation urging the State government to adopt policies and procedures requiring 35% DBE and 50% local contractor participation for all State projects in New Orleans. (*R-09-663*)

Supported Public Private Partnership

The Council passed legislation, spearheaded by Councilmembers Fielkow and Hedge-Morrell, supporting funding of the Economic Development Public Private Partnership, temporarily suspending deadlines for economic development project proposals and/or recommendations and allocating 2008 Economic Development Fund (EDF) millage and previous years' unexpended EDF millage to projects in need of funding. (*Ord. # 23,565 M.C.S. and Ord. # 23,569 M.C.S.*)

Supported Economic Incentives for State Film Industry

In recognition of the continued growth of Louisiana's film industry, Councilmember Fielkow led the Council in supporting state legislative efforts to remove the scheduled Motion Picture Investor Tax Credit reduction slated for early 2010 and stabilize the existing tax credit at 30%. (*R-09-182*)

Encouraged Revitalization in Dormant Blighted Areas

The Council endeavored to support City-Initiated Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts and take all necessary steps to approve TIF in geographically defined Tax Increment Districts that are dormant, blighted, and in which revitalization would not occur but for the use of TIF. (*R-09-429*)

Diversified Allocations of Tax Increment Financing Funds

Led by Councilmembers Clarkson and Carter, the Council expanded the scope of purposes for which TIF money can be allocated, including Federal City general needs, road work, transportation projects, blight in Algiers, and Algiers schools and playground infrastructure improvements. (*Ord. # 23,583 M.C.S.*)

Stimulated Economic Development in Underserved Areas

The Council passed legislation, spearheaded by Councilmembers Fielkow and Hedge-Morrell, authorizing the Mayor to enter into individual Cooperative Endeavor Agreements with Canseco's Holdings, LLC; Mrs. Wheat's Fabulous Foods, Inc.; CJC Resources LLC; and Advanced Steel Homes, LLC to approve the use of Urban Development Action Grants in order to stimulate economic development in underserved areas. (*Ord. # 23,732 M.C.S., Ord. # 23,733 M.C.S., Ord. # 23,734 M.C.S., and Ord. # 23,735 M.C.S.*)

DISTRICT "A" COUNCILMEMBER SHELLEY MIDURA



Encouraged District revitalization and redevelopment

- Supported reopening of Oak Street, in conjunction with the completion of the first phase of the Oak Street reconstruction project, and encouraged citizens to explore local businesses in the District "A" commercial corridor

Advocated for improved public transportation

- Helped launch "Lil' Easy" public transportation service in Lakeview, designed to meet the needs of communities with lower population density or light transit ridership

Responded to community needs

- Co-hosted a joint area community meeting with Neighborhood Associations to address neighborhood issues including taxing districts, Dogmoor Dog Park, signage issues, flood control, drainage improvements and street improvements

Engaged citizens in the 2010 City Budget process

- Co-hosted Budget Review Town Hall to solicit citizen input for the City Budget crisis and provided detailed information on the City Budget to engage citizens in Budget Hearings and meetings

Addressed university community concerns

- Joined community and student leaders at the Tulane University Campus-Community Forum to discuss ways to reduce alcohol-related incidents and problems in the university community

Supported Efforts to Increase International Trade through Local and State Port Improvements

In support of Parish economic development, Councilmember Clarkson led the Council in supporting the application of the Port of New Orleans to use an Alternative Site Plan to more rapidly respond to international business needs by restructuring the Port's Foreign-Trade Zone #2. *(R-09-433)* The Council also passed legislation, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, urging the Legislature to pass Louisiana House Bill Nos. 215, 744 and 779, dedicated to the establishment of a unified, regional approach to governance and the creation of incentives for investment in local ports by businesses that will develop infrastructure and trade internationally. *(R-09-288)*

Explored Developing International Economic Opportunities

Special Development Projects & Economic Development Committee Chair Councilmember Fielkow led the Committee in addressing New Orleans' preparation to renew and strengthen cultural and economic ties with Cuba in response to the Obama Administration's revised U.S. travel policy to Cuba, and how New Orleans must prepare for and take advantage of the 2014 widening of the Panama Canal.

Supported Expansion of Streetcar System

The Council passed legislation, spearheaded by Councilmember Clarkson, in support of the Regional Transit Authority's expansion of the streetcar system, forward movement on the assembly of three new alignments, and pursuit of funds for continued project development activities. *(R-09-408)*

Supported Increased Funding for Rebuilding Libraries

To provide for staffing needs of new libraries currently being built around the City, the Council reduced the Board of Liquidation's originally proposed 3 mill increase down to 1.7 mills, and increased the library millage by 1.2 mills. *(Ord. # 23,821 M.C.S.)*

Facilitated Continued Growth of Federal City

Led by Councilmember Clarkson, the Council expanded the effective date of the Algiers Economic Development District No. 1 to continue the growth and success of Federal City. *(Ord. # 23,555 M.C.S.)*

Supported Local Oyster Industry

In support of the local oyster industry, Councilmember Fielkow led the Council in opposing the severe burden that the Food and Drug Administration intended to place on the industry by requiring the implementation of a sterilization process. *(R-09-606)*

Extended Renewal Period for Taxicab Driver Operation Certificates

To give those taxicab drivers forced to live outside of the City after Hurricane Katrina additional time to renew their Certificates of Public Necessity and Convenience (CPNC), Councilmember Willard-Lewis led the Council in extending the renewal period for CPNCs and adding a "Delinquency Penalty," a "Revocation of Certificates of Public Necessity and Convenience," and an "Extension for Acquiring a Vehicle and Fee" to the CPNC rules. *(Ord. # 23,492 M.C.S. and Ord. # 23,493 M.C.S.)*

Supported Competitive Cab Fare Rates

In order to place cab drivers at a nationally competitive level, Councilmember Willard-Lewis led the Council in supporting rate increases for meter fare, hourly rate, special events fare and airport rates for taxicabs and Disabled Friendly Taxis (DFT), as well as Airport shuttle fare. (*Ord. # 23,579 M.C.S., Ord. # 23,580 M.C.S., Ord. # 23,581 M.C.S., Ord. # 23,582 M.C.S. and Ord. # 23,708 M.C.S.*)

Repealed Taxi Gasoline Surcharge

As a result of the decrease of gasoline prices to a more reasonable level, the Council passed legislation, spearheaded by Councilmember Willard-Lewis, in support of the repeal of the \$2.00 gasoline surcharge per each completed trip for taxicabs and DFTs. (*Ord. # 23,507 M.C.S.*) The surcharge was originally imposed in response to the economic hardships that many drivers experienced as a result of high gasoline prices in 2008.

Supported Economic Stimulus Project in New Orleans East

In recognition of the economic challenges in New Orleans East, the Council supported the redevelopment of Lake Forest Plaza, authorizing the execution of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Lake Forest Plaza District and the City of New Orleans. (*Ord. # 23,727 M.C.S.*)

Nominated Local Leaders for Economic Development Board

The Council submitted the nominations of six local community leaders for the New Orleans Economic Development Council Board of Directors. The nominated leaders include: Donald “Boysie” Bollinger, Sheila Burns, Vaughn Fauria, Gaye Anderson Frederic, Marshall Page and James Williams. (*M-09-406*)

Recognized Efforts to Secure 2013 Super Bowl

The Council, led by Councilmember Clarkson, commended and congratulated all those involved in securing the 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans, which will serve as a significant economic driver before, during and after the event. (*R-09-246*)

Celebrated Expansion of National World War II Museum

Councilmembers Clarkson and Head led the Council in congratulating The National World War II Museum on the opening and dedication of The Solomon Theater, The Stage Door Canteen and The American Sector Restaurant, and declared the week of November 2-8, 2009 “Experience the Victory at The National World War II Museum week.” (*R-09-583*)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND CIVIC SERVICES

Supported Use of Grant to Provide Affordable Health Care

The Council, led by Councilmember Fielkow, supported providing affordable health care to the uninsured and underinsured in the Greater New Orleans region through the Primary Care Access and Stabilization Grant, which expires September 30, 2010. (*R-09-432*)

Provided Forum for Community Discussion on Planned Hospital Closure

Spearheaded by Councilmember Fielkow, the Council hosted a community-led public meeting, at the request of concerned citizens, on the planned closure of New Orleans Adolescent Hospital (NOAH) and the devastating repercussions of the Governor's recent veto of NOAH funding. Earlier in the year, the Council urged the Governor to reconsider the plan to close in-patient services at NOAH and relocate them outside of Orleans Parish. *(R-09-153)*

Solicited Legal Support for Local Hospital

The Council, led by Councilmembers Fielkow and Clarkson, requested that the City Attorney consider filing amicus curiae briefs to support the New Orleans Adolescent Hospital in any and all litigation involving its closure. *(R-09-376)*

Requested Public Input on Plans for Rehabilitation Facility

Councilmembers Fielkow, Clarkson and Midura led the Council in opposing Louisiana House Bill No. 783 and the privatization of the John J. Hainkel Jr. Home and Rehabilitation Center, and requested that public meetings be held regarding any plan going forward relative to the selling or leasing of the Hainkel Home, which has served the elderly and disabled populations of New Orleans since 1895. *(R-09-244)*

Emphasized Importance of Health Benefits for First Responders

Led by Councilmembers Fielkow and Carter, the Council urged the federal government to continue funding the Counseling Service Unit program which works to ensure the health of the City's first responders. *(R-09-586)*

Pushed for Acceptance of Federal Resources for State Health Benefits

The Council, led by Councilmember Fielkow, urged Governor Jindal and Louisiana Secretary of Health and Hospitals Alan Levine to reconsider their plan to reject federal stimulus package funds designed to provide health benefits to Louisiana's poor, underinsured and uninsured, and called for the State to hold public meetings on this issue in New Orleans and throughout Louisiana. *(R-09-155)*

Advocated for Health Care Patients' Right to Treatment

Led by Councilmember Fielkow, the Council opposed Louisiana House Bill No. 517, which seeks to protect from legal and job repercussions public health care providers who refuse to treat patients, potentially depriving many patients of legitimate, legal treatments due to physicians' predisposed standards of good and bad. *(R-09-284)*

Moved Forward on Installation of Wireless Internet in Council Chamber

In keeping with the Council's focus on increasing the accessibility of citizen resources, Councilmembers Carter and Fielkow spearheaded legislation to issue a Request for Proposals for qualified professionals for the implementation of wireless internet in the Council Chamber, and authorized the expenditure of \$12,000 from the City's Government Access Capital Fund for the purchase of hardware, software, maintenance and one-year transport costs necessary for the implementation. *(M-09-668 and Ord. # 23,744 M.C.S.)* Previously, Councilmembers Fielkow and Midura led the Council in supporting an assessment of the feasibility of the implementation of these wireless internet services. *(R-09-51)*

DISTRICT “B” COUNCILMEMBER STACY HEAD



Organized community clean-up efforts

- Led community clean-ups in Mid City, Central City and Gert Town with the assistance of volunteers including Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to revitalize District “B” neighborhoods affected by Hurricane Katrina

Supported locally owned small businesses

- Led a Business Outreach Tour in traditional commercial corridors to distribute a “Business Resource Guide” created and designed by the Councilmember to provide businesses with accessible and clear contact information for city departments, elected officials and resource information relative to the appropriate agencies to contact for business needs and concerns
- Celebrated the revitalization of the Freret Street Corridor with the grand opening of Freret Street Po-Boys and Village Coffee, both located on the commercial corridor

Participated in dialogue about critical community concerns

- Co-hosted a panel discussion to reduce street homelessness and called for further development of working relationships with national leaders to significantly reduce downtown’s homeless population
- Hosted a Town Hall meeting to engage and open a consistent dialogue with the Hispanic community in District “B”

Responded to community health needs

- Hosted two free community health fairs in conjunction with Central City Health Coalition, a partnership dedicated to revitalizing the Central City community by promoting health and wellness
- Began dialogue with residents and community leaders to improve community healthcare in Central City

Encouraged citizen involvement in the 2010 Budget Process

- Helped organize a Budget Review Town Hall to encourage citizen input on the City Budget and provide detailed information on the budget process to engage residents in Budget Hearings and meetings

Collaborated with Administration to Maintain Sanitation Services in French Quarter

In an effort to maintain the cleanliness and attractiveness that citizens and visitors have come to expect in the French Quarter, the Council reached a compromise with the Mayor to ensure that SDT continues to provide “enhanced cleaning services” in the French Quarter through October 2009.

Approved Utility Rates Decrease and Implementation of Energy Efficiency Program

Led by Utility Committee Chair Councilmember Midura, the Council approved a legal settlement between the Council and Entergy New Orleans, Inc. which will decrease Entergy utility rates by \$30 million for New Orleans ratepayers. This action includes an agreement by Entergy to fund the Energy Smart citywide energy efficiency financing program and ratifies a gas hedging plan to manage power costs during peak usage periods. *(R-09-136 and R-09-137)*

Supported Equitable Practices for Issuance of Birth Certificates of Adopted Children

Councilmember Fielkow led the Council in opposition to Louisiana House Bill No. 60 and urged all members of the Louisiana House of Representatives to vote against the passage of the bill, which calls for changing the criteria under which the State of Louisiana issues a new birth certificate for an adopted child, allowing issuance only to a married couple or single parent. *(R-09-221)*

Supported National Adoption Day and Month

In support of the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month, Councilmembers Fielkow and Head led the Council in encouraging citizens of New Orleans to consider adoption during the month of November and all throughout the year. *(R-09-647)*

Commended Naming of Trauma Center

The Council passed legislation, spearheaded by Councilmembers Clarkson and Head, commending the LSU Board of Supervisors for naming the New Orleans trauma center “The Spirit of Charity Trauma Center.” *(R-09-573)*

CRIME PREVENTION AND CITIZEN SAFETY**Created Indigent Defender Fund**

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell spearheaded legislation in support of the creation of a new fund to be designated as the Indigent Defender Fund for the receipt and accounting of the proceeds from the \$5.00 fee on the automated traffic enforcement system that have been dedicated to the Indigent Defender Office. *(Ord. # 23,808 M.C.S.)*

Provided for Maintenance of Critical Security Measures at Criminal Court

Led by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, the Council, in an emergency Motion, provided for allocation of additional funds to Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman for maintaining security services and measures at Criminal Court. *(M-09-409, Ord. # 23,669 M.C.S., and Ord. # 23,670 M.C.S.)*

DISTRICT “C” COUNCILMEMBER JAMES CARTER



Encouraged implementation of crime fighting initiatives

- Led efforts to encourage Chicago Project for Violence Prevention to partner with the City to replicate Chicago CeaseFire, to reduce shootings and deaths due to gun violence
- Supported Project Restore working with at-risk youth to keep communities safe, decrease crime and promote victim awareness
- Led the Council in supporting the Expedited Screening and Disposition Initiative, which expedites all practices from arrest to arraignment for simple possession drug cases

Advocated transparency in the Independent Police Monitor selection process

- Called for a halt to the Independent Police Monitor selection process until the Council developed new selection procedures which fully addressed community concerns, complied with the establishing Ordinance which requires governing policies be reviewed and accepted by the Council and requested that the Advisory Committee be immediately impaneled to meet its mandated duties

Responded to District “C” community concerns

- Supported expediting repairs at the Cut Off Community Center, including fixing outdoor lighting and air conditioning systems, and revitalizing community playgrounds in Algiers
- Organized Fischer Area Community Meeting with Housing Authority of New Orleans and New Orleans Police Department Fourth District to provide an open forum for community members to voice concerns about crime and housing issues

Recognized for efforts to improve the criminal justice system

- Accepted an award from the Vera Institute of Justice for leadership and dedication in addressing issues related to the criminal justice system

Supported youth program

- Served as a motivational speaker for “Judge and Teen Day,” an educational event focusing on the judicial branch of government

Addressed Criminal Justice Critical Funding Needs

The Council, led by Budget Committee Chair Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, supported allocating funds for summer overtime for the New Orleans Police Department and funding investigators for the District Attorney's office to assist the organizations with crime-fighting activities throughout the City. (*Ord. # 23,600 M.C.S., Ord. # 23,604 M.C.S., and Ord. # 23,605 M.C.S.*)

Called for Expedited Allocation of Funds to Public Defenders Office

Councilmember Clarkson led the Council in calling upon the Mayor's Office to expend the \$600,000 of funds allocated by the Council to the Orleans Parish Public Defenders Office expeditiously. As of April 2, 2009, the office had yet to receive the funds needed to perform various tasks. (*R-09-149*)

Facilitated Expansion of Public Safety Facilities in District "E"

The Council, led by Councilmember Willard-Lewis, encouraged the expansion of existing fire station Engine House 36, and the relocation and expansion of the 7th District police station. (*Ord. # 23,676 M.C.S.*)

Supported Incentives to Turn-in Weapons

The Council supported the annual Gun Buy Back Program, dedicated to decreasing the number of guns on the street by providing cash for each weapon turned in and featuring presentations on gun safety, training and awareness.

NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Prepared for New Riverfront Development

In preparation for the New Orleans Building Corporation's "Reinventing the Crescent" riverfront development in District "C," Councilmember Carter led the Council in approving a zoning change from a Light Industrial district to Park and Recreation district for land along the east bank of the Mississippi River. (*Zoning Docket 87/09*)

Supported Redevelopment of Blighted Building into Health Clinic

Councilmember Midura led the Council in supporting the conversion of the former Ruth's Chris Steak House building, located in District "A," into the Ruth U. Fertel/Tulane Community Health Center. (*Zoning Docket 103/09*)

Encouraged Small Business Development

Councilmembers Fielkow and Willard-Lewis led the Council in supporting the Fast Forward Restart organization and the Fast Forward Main Street Demonstration Project to revitalize New Orleans East and support small businesses by creating a synergistic business environment for new entrepreneurs. (*R-09-614*)

DISTRICT “D” COUNCILMEMBER CYNTHIA HEDGE-MORRELL



Organized initiatives to address crime

- Collaborated with State Senator J.P. Morrell and State Representative Jared Brossett to host a Crime Town Hall meeting to encourage citizen involvement and neighborhood awareness to impact violence on the streets

Pushed to improve recreation and education opportunities for children

- Facilitated acquisition and demolition of blighted building adjacent to Norman Mayer Library site in Gentilly to allow for reconstruction of a larger library with space for children’s programs, computers and environmentally sustainable features
- Joined Hornets player Chris Paul to dedicate a new outdoor basketball court at Hardin Park in the 7th Ward, and secured funding to renovate the park’s playground
- Led efforts to revitalize McCue Park in the 8th Ward, resulting in a new \$70,000 Allstate Little Hands Playground

Advocated for Gentilly public transportation needs

- Participated in the launch of the “Lil’ Easy” public transportation service, an innovative public transportation initiative servicing the Gentilly neighborhood

Facilitated community enhancements and improvements

- Pushed for reconstruction of streets in District “D,” resulting in repairs to many major thoroughfares including Crowder Blvd., Downman Rd., Elysian Fields Ave., Filmore Ave., Leon C. Simon Dr., Mirabeau Dr., Paris Ave. and St. Bernard Ave., accounting for over 1/3 of street repairs citywide
- Protected the quality and historic character of neighborhoods by establishing a temporary moratorium on the opening of new tattoo parlors, bars, cocktail lounges, package liquor stores, grocery stores and restaurants, and extended the moratorium on the issuance or renewal of alcoholic beverage permits to anyone who doesn’t already have an active alcoholic beverage outlet in District “D”
- Supported the opening of two grocery stores to service community needs, Canseco’s Elysian Fields Market and the Dollar General Store, and helped local businesses such as Adrian’s Bakery return
- Assisted Project Home Again in gifting 12 homes to displaced families to complete Phase 2 of their efforts to revitalize the St. Anthony neighborhood, and broke ground for an additional 12 homes in Phase 3
- Preserved funding for the blight hearings held at St. Maria Goretti Church, which resulted in nearly 800 adjudications in one week

Protected Historic Character and Quality of Local Neighborhoods

The Council, led by Councilmember Head, urged the solicitation of public feedback on the down zoning of industrial areas of Gert Town in District “B,” and supported the Gert Town Mixed Use Interim Zoning District, which down zones industrial areas in residential parts of Gert Town to improve the residents’ quality of life. *(M-09-124 and Zoning Docket 40/09)*

The Council passed legislation, spearheaded by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, supporting the expansion of the boundaries of the Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD) to include parts of Gentilly Terrace. The NCD protects historical and residential structures, promotes redevelopment that contributes to the historic character of the neighborhood, and discourages underutilization and demolition of property. *(Ord. # 23,764 M.C.S.)*

In an effort to protect the unique architecture and character of District “D,” the Council passed legislation spearheaded by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell. The legislation supports a temporary moratorium on the issuance of permits for trailers; places a moratorium on the opening of new tattoo parlors, cocktail lounges, package liquor stores, grocery stores and restaurants; and extends the moratorium on the issuance or renewal of alcoholic beverage permits to anyone who doesn’t already have an active alcoholic beverage outlet. *(Ord. # 23,696 M.C.S. and Ord. # 23,666 M.C.S.)*

Supported Streamlined Construction of Libraries

Led by Councilmember Clarkson, the Council added five library projects to the list of approved projects for implementation of design-build procedures which expedite site planning and construction. *(Ord. # 23,395 M.C.S.)* In recognition of the community and educational value provided by libraries, Councilmembers Carter and Clarkson spearheaded legislation supporting new construction of the Algiers Regional Library. *(M-09-642)*

Supported Renovation of Senior Citizen Center

Led by Councilmember Carter, the Council permitted the renovation of an existing building in District “C” to become the Harmony House Senior Citizen Center, dedicated to enriching the lives of the City’s elderly population. *(Zoning Docket 80/09)*

Worked to Prevent Children’s Exposure to Tobacco Products

The Council passed legislation, spearheaded by Councilmember Head, which encouraged the establishment of spacing restrictions relative to the sale of tobacco products near playgrounds, schools, churches and any entities providing structured and organized care for youth. *(Ord. # 23,629 M.C.S.)*

Reinstated Historic Designation

Led by Councilmembers Clarkson and Head, the Council restored the designation “American Sector,” referencing the City’s evolution from the time of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, in the area bounded by the uptown side of Canal St., Calliope St., the Mississippi River and S. Claiborne Ave. *(R-09-265)*

DISTRICT “E” COUNCILMEMBER CYNTHIA WILLARD-LEWIS



Encouraged recovery and redevelopment efforts

- Called for the demolition of the East New Orleans Regional Library that was damaged by Hurricane Katrina and supported the construction of a new regional library at the existing site
- Hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony, in partnership with the Regional Transit Authority Board of Commissioners and Veolia Transportation, to commemorate the launch of the “Lil’ Easy,” a new transit service for the Lower Ninth Ward

Advocated for demolition of hazardous facilities

- Promoted the demolition of La Provence and Oak Island apartment complexes due to the health risks the buildings pose to community members

Highlighted new resource in District “E”

- Hosted a community tour of University of New Orleans Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Studies, a research facility in the Lake Catherine Neighborhood for scientists and educators to study marine life and aspects of the Pontchartrain Estuary Zone

Addressed women’s equality concerns

- Moderated a panel of elected officials, community leaders and academics discussing issues affecting women in Louisiana, including the failure of the Louisiana Equal Pay for Women Act, access to healthcare and workforce equality

Addressed senior citizen health needs

- Hosted the 14th annual Seniors Screen for Life event, in conjunction with the Mayor’s Office and Family Advocacy and Neighborhood Services, to address senior health needs and provide free health screenings

ENHANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, YOUTH PROGRAMS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Encouraged Local and Regional Collaboration to Salvage Local University Programs

The Council passed legislation, spearheaded by Councilmember Fielkow, calling on the local business community to join with government and citizens to work with the University of New Orleans to preserve the educational and athletic programs to be cut under the proposed State budget, and encouraging the State Legislature to search for new funding streams in order to continue the operations of Southern University at New Orleans. *(R-09-219 and R-09-225)*

Supported Continuance of Regional Youth Program

Councilmembers Clarkson and Carter led the Council in supporting any and all possible alternate funding sources to maintain current operations of the Boys & Girls Club of Southeast Louisiana program. *(R-09-664)*

Expedited Repairs at Recreational Facilities

Councilmember Hedge-Morrell led the Council in declaring an emergency need for plumbing and general construction repairs at various New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) facilities, allowing the City to expedite the bid, advertising and contracting processes to make the repairs. *(M-09-328)*

Addressed Proposals for Recreation Department Reform

The Council's Youth & Recreation Committee received a presentation from the New Orleans Recreation Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP), regarding proposals for revitalizing NORD facilities, including the creation of a new, independent recreation and playground commission governing entity and increased funding through a property tax millage.

Recognized Contributors to Formation of International Arts School

The Council, led by Councilmember Fielkow, recognized the contributors to the formation of the Batiste Family International School of Fine & Performing Arts at Live Oak Elementary, for their extraordinary contribution to the children of New Orleans and the future of arts education in the City. *(R-09-434)*

Supported Continuing Education of Local Students

The Council confirmed the award of five four-year Tulane University Mayoral Scholarships to the following local scholars: Alia Soomro from Louise S. McGehee School, Caroline Sanches from St. Mary's Dominican High School, and Charlotte Fournier, Jillian Poche and Van Kim Nguyen from Benjamin Franklin High School. *(M-09-247)*

Honored Historical and Cultural Significance of Mardi Gras Indians

Councilmember Carter led the Council in recognizing the Mardi Gras Indians for their historical and cultural significance and issuing a proclamation declaring that the first day of Carnival Season be designated as "Big Chief Tootie Montana Day."



THE 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 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 Council is 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 the 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 public access television in Orleans Parish. Annually, the Council establishes its policy priorities for the upcoming year at a legislative retreat, usually held in the month of October. The City Council is comprised of five district Councilmembers and two Councilmembers-at-Large.

Council President and Councilmember-at-Large **Arnie Fielkow**
Council Vice President and Councilmember-at-Large **Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson**

District “A” Councilmember **Shelley Midura**
District “B” Councilmember **Stacy Head**
District “C” Councilmember **James Carter**
District “D” Councilmember **Cynthia Hedge-Morrell**
District “E” Councilmember **Cynthia Willard-Lewis.**

COUNCIL STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Airport Committee
Board of Murals Review
Budget, Audit, and Board of Review Committee
Cable and Telecommunications Committee
Competitive Selection Committee
Criminal Justice Committee
Education Committee
Election Code and Reapportionment Committee
Governmental Affairs Committee
Ground Transportation and Parking Committee
Housing and Human Needs Committee
Public Works Committee
Sanitation and Environmental Enforcement Committee
Special Arts and Culture Committee
Special Committee on Mental Health
Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee
Special Disaster and Recovery Committee
Special Official Journal and New Orleans Register Ordinances Committee
Special Remote and Evening Meeting Feasibility Study Committee
Utility Committee
Women's Committee
Youth and Recreation Committee

COUNCIL EXECUTIVE STAFF

Evelyn F. Pugh, *Interim Chief of Staff*
Peggy Lewis, *Clerk of Council*
Lydia Glapion-Days, *Council Research Director*
Calvin Aguillard, *Council Fiscal Officer*



NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL

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Additional copies of the *New Orleans City Council Annual Report: 2010 Policy Overview and 2009 Legislative Action* are available in the Clerk of Council's Office, Room 1E09, City Hall. Visit www.NOLACityCouncil.com to view the report online.