



...THE PEOPLE HAVE THE  
RIGHT TO A GOVERNMENT  
RESPONSIVE TO THEIR WILL  
AND THE RIGHT TO TAKE  
PART IN THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE CITY... CITY CHARTER

# **NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL**

2011 POLICY OVERVIEW  
2010 LEGISLATIVE ACTION





## A LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW ORLEANS

This year has been one of change and transition for the governing body of the City of New Orleans. Following winter municipal elections, a new City Council and Mayor were sworn in and seated in May of 2010. The new City Council's membership includes seasoned members elected to a second term, a veteran former State Legislator, a proven community leader and a well respected attorney.

The members, as private citizens and elected leaders, have fought alongside neighbors, business and community groups and colleagues to ensure that the City's neighborhoods are safe and viable, that City government is transparent and accountable to citizens, and that the local economy continues to improve and become stronger.

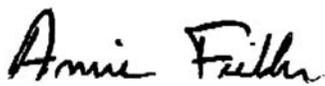
Councilmembers represent geographically and culturally diverse communities, all with unique needs. As individual members, we do not always agree on the path to serving our varying constituencies or solving the particular challenges of each neighborhood. However, what we do share is a collective vision that utilizes best practices governing models that will ultimately provide fair and effective representation of every New Orleans citizen and every New Orleans neighborhood.

We know that the unified voice of the City Council, the legislative branch of government, can impact and change the direction of challenging community issues and foster and support innovative ways to live, work and do business in this great historic American City.

Through legislative action, we have witnessed change and reform in key policy areas including transparency and accountability; recovery and emergency preparedness; public safety and crime prevention; neighborhood and citizen engagement; and economic development and business growth.

Together, we pledge to continue that same course this year. Individually, and as a body, we will be especially vigilant to our city charter responsibility to review and approve the City's operating and capital budgets. Throughout the year, we will monitor expenditures for local government operations from allocation of resources to ensuring the progress and high performance of projects and programs.

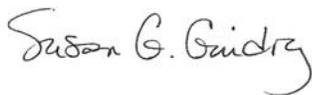
It is our privilege to represent the citizens of New Orleans. Our past legislative and community work is chronicled in this document. We invite your review of the New Orleans City Council Annual Report: 2011 Policy Overview and 2010 Legislative Action.



**President, Arnie Fielkow**



**Vice President, Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson**



**District A, Susan G. Guidry**



**District B, Stacy Head**



**District C, Kristin Gisleson Palmer**



**District D, Cynthia Hedge-Morrell**



**District E, Jon D. Johnson**

# 2011 POLICY OVERVIEW

The 2010 municipal elections saw the introduction of new Councilmembers to the Council in May of 2010. The Council continued its work throughout the year focusing on key areas of interest to the citizenry including **Public Safety and Crime Prevention; Economic and Community Development; Governance and Reform; Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection**. This past year, the Council departed from its previous tradition of holding an annual retreat and instead collaborated with individual Council office staff to develop its priority focus areas.

These public policy items will guide the Council in setting a legislative agenda for discussion and to proactively address and respond to the diverse needs of the New Orleans citizenry.

- ✦ Completion of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance with an accompanying Neighborhood Participation program
- ✦ Quality of Life improvement measures including:
  - Establishment of a Quality of Life Court in Municipal Court for specific housing and environmental citations
  - Adoption of new ordinances to address new blight strategies and substandard, occupied dwellings and commercial properties
  - Adoption of a new fair, clear and enforceable noise ordinance
  - Adoption of ordinances to authorize the suspension or revocation of improperly issued occupational or alcoholic beverage licenses and/or permits
- ✦ Review policies and procedures of City agencies, boards and commissions including:
  - Ground Transportation Bureau
  - Neighborhood Conservation District Commission
  - Board of Zoning Adjustments
  - Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
- ✦ Continue initiatives for criminal justice system reforms
- ✦ Complete, prompt and equitable redistricting of all five City Council Districts
- ✦ Continued efforts toward a more streamlined and efficient government
- ✦ Receive regular updates on improvements in administrative department functions through budgeting for outcomes
- ✦ Improve fee structures and waivers/exemptions for select non-profits

# 2010 LEGISLATIVE ACTION

## RECOVERY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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### **Supported Relief Efforts in Haiti**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-56*, co-authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, acknowledging the devastation and suffering of the people of Haiti, and urging this City's Administration, the Louisiana Delegation and the Federal Government to do everything in their power to facilitate relief efforts on a continuous basis.

### **Authorized Roll Over of Capital Projects Funds for Recovery Projects**

The Council passed *Ord. # 23,856 M.C.S.*, co-authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, to amend *Ord. # 23,809 M.C.S.* to roll over 2009 Capital Projects funds to a designated list of recovery projects.



“ *Providing quality cultural and recreational programs for our youth is the key to a promising future for our City and its citizens. Utilizing knowledge of national best practices along with community input, the new Recreation Commission is leading the charge to reform the City's recreation department. This public-private partnership of community and government leaders is dedicated to ensuring that New Orleans has a first class recreation system so that all youth in New Orleans, irrespective of neighborhood, will have a quality experience.* ”

– Arnie Fielkow  
Councilmember-at-Large

### **Supported Outfall Canal Agreement and Future Implementation of Option 2a**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-157*, introduced by Councilmember Clarkson, thanking the U.S. Army Corps for finalizing an agreement between the New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board, Jefferson Parish and State officials to construct permanent pumps for the City's three outfall canals.

### **Encouraged Support of Small Businesses Affected by 2005 and 2008 Hurricanes**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-235*, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, calling on Congress, as part of H.R. 4899, the Fiscal Year 2010 Emergency Supplemental, to include interest relief for businesses with Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loans from the 2005 and 2008 hurricanes.

### **Councilmembers Surveyed Impacts of Oil Spill on Local Coastline on Boat Tour of Barataria Basin and Grand Isle**

Council President Arnie Fielkow, Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson and District “C” Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer toured the Barataria Basin and Grand Isle by boat to get a first-hand look at the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil leak on the region’s coast.

### **Signed Army Community Covenant**

On behalf of the Council, Councilmembers-at-Large Fielkow and Clarkson, in conjunction with representatives of the United States Army, signed the Army Community Covenant, a formal commitment of support by state and local communities to soldiers and families of the Army - Active, Guard and Reserve.

### **Appointed Councilmembers-at-Large to Oil Spill Recovery Committee**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-263*, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Clarkson, appointing Councilmembers-at-Large Fielkow and Clarkson to the Oil Spill Coastal Zone Authority Recovery Committee on behalf of the interests of Orleans Parish.

### **Called for Expedited Construction of Coastal Protective Measures**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-265*, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson and Fielkow, requesting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to issue the emergency permits necessary to allow the construction of each and every sand berm, rock dike and other protective measure recommended by the local affected parishes and the Louisiana Coastal Restoration Authority, and that BP be instructed to fund the construction of all requested measures.

### **Supported Federal Government Efforts to Assist Communities Affected by the Oil Spill**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-264*, introduced by Councilmember Fielkow, supporting the efforts of the President of the United States and the federal government to assist residents of the Gulf Coast affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

### **Councilmembers Surveyed Latest Oil Spill Damage in Plaquemines Parish**

City Council President Arnie Fielkow and Council Vice President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson traveled with C-Span to Plaquemines Parish to speak with Parish President Billy Nungesser and survey the latest oil spill damage.

### **Supported Coastal Restoration Projects to Mitigate Effects of Oil Spill**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-283*, introduced by Councilmembers Fielkow and Clarkson, supporting the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East Coastal Advisory Committee’s request to the United States Coast Guard Sector New Orleans to fund the implementation of specific projects to reduce damage caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill by providing a rock shoreline barrier to any oil that may enter Lake Borgne.

### **Council Disaster and Recovery Committee Reviewed City Administration and BP Oil Spill Response Strategy and Councilmembers Tour Affected Areas of Lake Pontchartrain**

The New Orleans City Council Disaster and Recovery Committee held a special meeting to discuss the effects of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Following the meeting, Councilmembers Fielkow, Guidry and Gisleson Palmer participated in a boat tour of Lake Pontchartrain, which offered a firsthand look at the ongoing clean-up efforts in response to the presence of tar balls in the lake.

### **Encouraged Army Corps to Expedite Implementation of Local Coastal Protection Plans**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-303*, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, requesting that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issue the emergency permits necessary to implement the plans developed by local authorities in response to the oil spill, including the construction and use of protective measures supported by the impacted local governments and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, and that BP be directed to fund the implementation costs.



“ *New Orleans, as the multi-cultural capital of America, has many diverse neighborhoods. They are what make this City so unique - each community adds a little something different to the cultural make-up of the City. The Master Plan and Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance aim to protect the distinctive character of each neighborhood, while providing necessary urban planning guidelines that will afford us the opportunity for investment and economic growth in the future - ultimately creating a stronger New Orleans.* ”

– Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson  
Councilmember-at-Large

### **Led the Development of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance**

Councilmember Clarkson led the effort towards adoption of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO), to be developed as the second phase of the Master Plan. The CZO translates the Master Plan’s policies into user-friendly land use and development regulations, giving clear direction and a higher level of predictability to all users of the ordinance.

### **Took the Lead for the Adoption of the Master Plan**

The Council passed *Ord. # 24,079 M.C.S.*, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson and Fielkow, providing for adoption of the Master Plan, also known as “Plan for the 21st Century: New Orleans 2030.” This plan was selected by the American Planning Association (APA) to receive the 2011 National Planning Excellence Award as well as an award for Outstanding Large Jurisdiction Plan from the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association.

### **Encouraged Ministries’/Non-Profits’ Application for Federal Assistance**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-351*, authored by Councilmember Johnson, supporting the application efforts of ministries and non-profits across Louisiana who previously were not made aware of the federal assistance available to them as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

### **Honored Local Katrina Heroes**

In commemoration of the five year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the Council paid tribute to several heroes of the storm. At the request of Councilmember Clarkson, local heroes were honored for their service to the City during and after Hurricane Katrina. The Council also passed *Resolution R-10-358*, authored by Councilmember Johnson, honoring and thanking “The Soul Patrol”, for their bravery and tireless actions during and after Hurricane Katrina.

### **Organized Lower Ninth Ward Hurricane Katrina 5th Anniversary Commemoration**

Councilmember Johnson, working with local and national non-profit organizations and neighborhood organizations, coordinated a K 5 commemoration held in the Lower Ninth Ward that attracted several hundred community members and garnered national news media attention. Guest Speaker: The Honorable Maxine Waters, California, District 35.

### **Pushed for Equitable Process in the Issuance of Road Home Grants**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-372*, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Johnson, urging the State to immediately take appropriate actions to implement the U.S. District Court ruling which prohibits the State of Louisiana from issuing any further Road Home grants based on pre-storm property value.

### **Encouraged Expedited Investigation of Flood Protection Failure Resulting from Hurricane Katrina**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-389*, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, urging Congress to act immediately to establish a bipartisan Investigation Team, as called for in the 8-29 *Investigation Act*, to examine the events of August 29, 2005 and consider ongoing flood control and restoration projects in the region.

## TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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### **Established Restrictions for Execution of City Contracts**

The Council passed *Ord. # 23,911 M.C.S.*, authored by Councilmember Head, to establish that it is unlawful for the City to execute a contract or cooperative endeavor agreement with any person, corporation or entity whose principal member(s) have within the preceding five years been convicted of, or pled guilty to, a felony for embezzlement, theft of public funds, bribery, and/or falsification or destruction of public records.

### **Supported Revitalization of Lafitte Greenway Area**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-118*, authored by Councilmember Head, supporting amending of the boundaries of the “Lafitte Greenway New City Cultural District” to support tax incentives for investment(s) in the area’s revitalization.

### **Overrode Mayor’s Veto of Ordinance Prohibiting City from Contracting with Certain Felons**

The Council overrode the Mayor’s veto of *Ord. # 23,911 M.C.S.*, authored by Councilmember Head, to establish restrictions for execution of City Contracts with convicted felons.

### **Required Full Disclosure of Contractors on City Contracts**

The Council passed *Ord. # 23,986 M.C.S.*, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Clarkson, requiring city contracts to require the submission of a sworn affidavit listing all persons with an ownership interest in a contract and all persons retained by the contractor as a subcontractor in connection with the contract.

### **Approved Reform of City Recreation Governance Structure**

The Council passed *Ord. # 23,998 M.C.S.*, introduced by Councilmember Fielkow, submitting to a vote of the people in October 2010, a City Charter amendment to establish the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission.

### **Established Transparent Campaign Contribution Policy**

Councilmember Head led the Council in passing *Resolution R-10-253*, which prompted the Council to agree to not accept future campaign contributions from any Council Utility Advisor(s) and/or from any person(s), firm(s), or entities with professional services contracts awarded by, or pertaining to, the City Council.

### **Supported Attendance Record Keeping for Boards and Commissions**

The Council passed *Ord. # 24,132 M.C.S.*, authored by Councilmember Guidry, to require all city boards and commissions to submit annually to the City Council and Office of the Mayor the attendance records for all board or commission members.

### **Saved New Orleans Ratepayers Over 2 Million Dollars**

The New Orleans City Council Utility Committee passed *Resolution R-10-479*, instructing Entergy New Orleans, Inc. to withdraw its Purchased Gas Adjustment Undercharge Application, thus preventing Entergy from collecting over \$2 million from New Orleans ratepayers that had been under-collected during the period 2005-2009 due to the company’s own accounting error.

### **Adopted 2011 City Budget**

City Council President and Budget Committee Chair Councilmember Fielkow led the Council in adopting Ordinances providing for a 2011 Capital Budget, 2011 Operating Budget of Revenues and 2011 Operating Budget of Expenditures (*Ord. # 24,222 M.C.S.*; *Ord. # 24,223 M.C.S.*; and *Ord. # 24,224 M.C.S.*). Additionally, the Council passed *Ord. # 24,221 M.C.S. (Amendments CTL-1AM and CTL-1)*, adjusting the property tax millage rate for 2011 to 13.91 mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation of property. The Council also passed *Ord. # 24,231 M.C.S.*, increasing the

sanitation service charge per residential unit from \$12 per month to \$20 per month, and introduced *Ordinance Calendar No. 28,259* to further increase the sanitation service charge. The 2011 budget process followed a new national best-practice “Budgeting for Outcomes” model, which organized the overall budget by “result area” rather than by department, and focused on producing a more user-friendly budget by utilizing a citizen-driven process. As Budget Committee Chair, Councilmember Fielkow initiated a process which linked 2011 city agency budget expenditures to Council Committees having oversight of the agency’s function.



“ *Citizen safety and criminal justice are, and will continue to be, top priorities of the City Council. Through our collaborative efforts with the Superintendent of Police, the Independent Police Monitor, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, and criminal courts, we are forging ahead with the implementation of unprecedented strategic and results-driven criminal justice reform aimed at reducing crime in this City in both the short-term and the long-term.* ”

– Susan G. Guidry  
District “A” Councilmember

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS GROWTH

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### **Supported Local Shrimp Industry**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-1*, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, supporting the actions of Governor Bobby Jindal, especially the creation of the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force, in cracking down on price fixing and mislabeling in the shrimp industry.

### **Supported Creation of U.S. Export-Import Bank Regional Office in New Orleans**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-24*, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, standing with the Louisiana congressional delegation in its call for a regional office of the U.S. Export-Import Bank to be opened in New Orleans.

### **Congratulated the Saints**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-74*, introduced by Councilmember Clarkson, congratulating the Saints on the team’s incredible and unprecedented victory over the Minnesota Vikings in the NFC Championship, as well as *Resolution R-10-85* wishing the Saints the best of luck at the Super Bowl.

### **Called for Deadline Extensions for Use of GO-Zone Bonds**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-125*, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, calling on Congress to extend the deadlines for Orleans Parish to use its \$1.3 billion allocation of Gulf Opportunity Zone (GO-Zone) bonds.

### **Supported New Entertainment and Retail Complex**

The Council passed *Ord. # 23,925 M.C.S.*, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson, Hedge-Morrell and Carter, authorizing a cooperative endeavor agreement between TAG Businesses, LLC and the City of New Orleans, authorizing the use of \$2,500,000 of Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) funds to assist with the development of The Inspire Entertainment and Retail Complex which will be located at St. Bernard Avenue and North Claiborne Avenue. The complex will consist of retail suites, The Perfect Bar and Grill, television and recording studios, a live entertainment Theater and a Grand Ballroom.

### **Authorized Street Closures on VA Hospital Footprint and Mandated Reporting Requirements**

The Council passed *Ord. # 23,959 M.C.S.*, introduced by Councilmember Head, to authorize the closure of streets to be utilized as part of the site used in the construction of the Veterans Administration Medical Center and established reporting requirements for the City to report to the Council on the use of funds on the VA hospital project. The Council also passed *Motion M-10-193*, which mandates that the City receive monthly reports from the State relative to the status of demolition, acquisition and relocation activities in relation to the VA hospital project.

### **Supported Continued Use of Michoud Facility**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-185*, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, calling on the Obama administration to ensure that public and private entities continue using the Michoud facility for the manufacture of projects related to space exploration and other complementary growth industries, and hiring local skilled workers in the process.

### **Council President Arnie Fielkow to Discussed International Relations and Trade during a Visit with Honduran President Porfirio Lobo**

Economic Development Committee Chair Arnie Fielkow met with newly elected Honduran President Porfirio Lobo at the Presidential Palace in the capital city, Tegucigalpa, to build and expand trade partnerships with the city.

### **Supported Immediate Sharing of Offshore Oil and Gas Lease Revenues among Gulf States**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-237*, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, supporting the efforts of Senator Mary Landrieu to immediately share 37.5% of the revenues derived from all offshore oil and gas leases in the Gulf of Mexico among the Gulf states of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Florida.

### **Promoted Legislation to Reduce Concentration of Alcohol Beverage Permit Issuance in the Lower Ninth Ward Requested**

The City Council, under the leadership of Councilmember Johnson, adopted *Motion M-10-293*, requesting the City Planning Commission to conduct public hearings to consider the establishment of an Interim Zoning District in the Lower 9th Ward to prohibit a high concentration of alcoholic beverage establishments.

### **Supported Introduction of Pedicab Services to the City**

The Council unanimously passed *Ord. # 24,111 M.C.S.*, authored by Councilmember Gisleson Palmer, to amend the "Vehicles for Hire" chapter of the City Code, to add "Pedicab Service" to the provisions contained within, which will provide regulations and establish rates for pedicab service.

### **Led Effort to Support Implementation of Tax Credits to Increase Activity at the Port of New Orleans**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-397*, co-authored by Councilmembers Johnson, Fielkow, Clarkson and Guidry, urging Governor Bobby Jindal and the State Department of Economic Development to disseminate information relative to tax credits designed to increase activity at the Port of New Orleans. This resolution supports legislation (*LA House Bill 215*) enacted by the 2009 State Legislature.

### **Supported Phase One of Reinventing the Crescent Riverfront Development**

The Council passed *Ord. # 24,152 M.C.S.*, authored by Councilmember Gisleson Palmer, authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Act of Transfer, Cash Sale, Consent and Servitude Agreement between the City of New Orleans and the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans pertaining to the \$30 million first phase of the Reinventing the Crescent: Crescent Park.



“ *As elected officials and stewards of public money, we recognize our responsibility to the public to ensure that government operates effectively and transparently. This Council has pushed for reform of the City contracting process, requiring high ethics standards and full disclosure for all city contractors. The implementation of these measures will continue forward progress in our City by ensuring that city contracts are only awarded to entities with proven records of responsibility and accountability.* ”

– Stacy Head  
District “B” Councilmember

### **Authorized Donation and Lease of Saenger Theatre**

The Council passed *Ord. # 24,153 M.C.S.*, co-authored by Councilmembers Gisleson Palmer and Clarkson, authorizing the Saenger Theatre Partnership, Ltd. to donate the Saenger Theatre to the Canal Street Development Corporation (CSDC). The Council also passed *Ordinance Calendar No. 24,154*, allowing the CSDC to lease the property to the Saenger Theatre Redevelopment Company, L.L.C. so that the theatre can be renovated and reopened.

### **Authorized Extension of Opelousas Avenue into Federal City**

The Council passed *Ord. # 24,192 M.C.S.*, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson and Gisleson Palmer, authorizing the City to construct and maintain a roadway over land owned by the Algiers Development District (ADD).

### **Prohibited Establishment of New T-shirt Shops in the French Quarter**

The Council, led by District “C” Councilmember Gisleson Palmer, approved *Zoning Docket 94/10* to amend the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to prohibit the future establishment of t-shirt, novelty, gift and souvenir shops as a zoning classification in the Vieux Carré.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH AND CIVIC SERVICES**

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### **Addressed Report from District Attorney on 2010 Budget Allocation**

The Council passed *Motion M-10-42*, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, affirming that a state of emergency exists due to the fact that critical and essential services were eliminated from the District Attorney’s Office as a result of the implementation of budget cuts. The Council also adopted *Ord. # 23,831 M.C.S.*, *Ord. # 23,832 M.C.S.*, and *Ord. # 23,833 M.C.S.*, providing for the transfer of funds to the DA's Office and appropriation of funds to restore essential services including public safety vehicle maintenance, procurement of EMS supplies, opening of health clinics and multi-service centers, resumption of blight hearings, and restoration of funding to the Office of Inspector General up to the mandated level.

### **Encouraged Return of Rail Service between New Orleans and Orlando**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-163*, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, renewing the Council’s call for the return of passenger rail service between New Orleans and Orlando.

### **Approved Real-Time Energy Use Monitoring Pilot Program**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-234*, introduced by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, approving the implementation, with specified requirements, of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Pilot. The DOE AMI Pilot is a real-time energy use monitoring program to study the effectiveness of real-time monitoring in reducing energy consumption.

### **Approved Re-Composition of Sewerage and Water Board**

The Council passed *Ord. # 23,996 M.C.S.*, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, submitting to a vote of the people in October 2010, a City Charter amendment revising the specified Councilmember membership to the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board to require that one at-large Councilmember and two other Councilmembers, all selected by the Council, sit on the Board.

### **Encouraged Increase of Revenue Sharing Fund**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-287*, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, requesting Governor Jindal and the Louisiana Legislature to include in the State’s 2011 budget sufficient appropriations as provided for in the 1974 Louisiana Constitution to increase the Revenue Sharing Fund to an amount required to offset revenues lost by local governments as a result of the Homestead Exemption.

### **Approved Appointments to Public Belt Railroad Commission**

During a Special Meeting, called by Mayor Mitch Landrieu in accordance with his authority under the Home Rule Charter, the Council passed *Motions M-10-409, M-10-410, M-10-411, M-10-412, M-10-413, M-10-414, M-10-415, M-10-416 and M-10-417*, authored by Councilmember Guidry, ratifying, confirming and approving the appointments of members of the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Commission.

### **Urged Healthcare Professionals and the Courts to Continue Dialogue to Improve Delivery of Services**

Under the leadership of Councilmember Jon D. Johnson, Chair of the Health Care and Social Services Committee, a meeting was held to urge dialogue among public and private sector mental health and healthcare professionals, the court system and elected leaders to improve the delivery of health services to New Orleans citizens. Among the items discussed were hospital bed availability, the challenge of providing consistent and quality mental health and general health care, waivers available to health clinics in the City and an update on the status of the City's Health Department.



“ *As our City continues to rebuild and grow, we will persist in our focus on the issues that are of critical importance to our citizens. We will continue our aggressive and strategic approach to blight removal, while ensuring that superior flood protection exists for all areas of our City. Both Katrina and the BP oil spill have taught us the value of effective crisis response, and we will continue our collaborative efforts with state and regional government leaders to develop emergency response plans to ensure that our citizens and businesses are protected.* ”

– Kristin Gisleson Palmer  
District “C” Councilmember

### **Led a ‘Call to Action’ to Resolve the Mortgage & Conveyances Computer Crash**

Councilmember Clarkson gathered leaders of the New Orleans Real Estate and Title Attorney industries to move towards a resolution of the October 26, 2010 Mortgage & Conveyances computer crash. Her leadership in bringing the necessary parties together led to the organization of volunteers to assist with record entry and resolve the data loss.

### **Supported Appointment of Special Committee on City Pensions and Retirement**

The Council passed *Motion M-10-577*, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, authorizing the appointment of a Special Committee on Pensions and Retirement to consider issues of cost, fairness and continuity of institutional knowledge in making recommendations to the full Council concerning issues of shoring up the long-term solvency of the municipal pension and retirement system, the firefighter pension plans and the police pension plan.

## **CRIME PREVENTION AND CITIZEN SAFETY**

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### **Established Penalties for Misrepresentation of Value of Building Repairs and Enhancements**

The Council passed *Ord. # 23,840 M.C.S.*, co-authored by Councilmember Head, revising the International Building Code to create penalties for the misrepresentation of the value of work performed on a building on Safety and Permit's application(s).

### **Ensured Collection of Rabies Vaccination Tag Fees**

The Council passed *Ord. # 23,854 M.C.S.*, co-authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, to create a new fund to be designated as the Rabies Vaccination Tag Fee Fund for the receipt and accounting of the proceeds of the rabies vaccination tag fees that have been dedicated to the Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (LA/SPCA). The Council also passed *Ord. # 23,853 M.C.S.*, to direct fees collected for municipal license tags for cats and dogs to the Rabies Vaccination Tag Fee fund.

### **Encouraged Responsible Dog Ownership**

The Council unanimously passed *Ord. # 23,970 M.C.S.*, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, to promote a spay and neuter program for dogs, to establish an intact dog permit, and to establish fees and requirements for such permit and penalties for violations.

### **Enhanced Emergency Access in Local Neighborhood**

The Council passed *Ord. # 24,043 M.C.S.*, authored by Councilmember Gisleson Palmer, to rename part of Hendee Street in the Fifth Municipal District in order to eliminate duplicative addresses to avoid any confusion in the emergency responder community.

### **Amended Procedures and Enforcement of Automated Traffic Enforcement Systems**

The Council passed *Ord. # 24,193 M.C.S.*, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, amending the definitions and procedures for Automated Traffic Enforcement Systems in the City Code and bringing the procedures into compliance with the City Charter by moving enforcement of the Automated Traffic Enforcement Systems from the Public Works Department to the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD).

### **Moderated the Signing of an MOU between the NOPD and the IPM**

Councilmember Clarkson and her Criminal Justice Committee Co-Chair Councilmember Susan Guidry presided over the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) and the Independent Police Monitor (IPM). By providing outreach to the New Orleans community and making thoughtful policy recommendations to the NOPD and the City Council, the IPM works to promote accountability and increase the NOPD’s openness and responsiveness to the community it serves.

### **Supported Greater Efficiency in Criminal Justice System**

The Council passed Ordinances (*Ord. # 24,246 M.C.S., Ord. # 24,247 M.C.S., Ord. # 24,248 M.C.S. and Ord. # 24,249 M.C.S.*), co-authored by Councilmembers Guidry, Clarkson and Johnson, that allowed the following offenses to be prosecuted in Municipal Court rather than in Criminal District Court: Simple possession of marijuana; Interfering with a law enforcement investigation; Flight from an officer; and Prostitution.



“ Every day our citizens face unique challenges. As representatives of the public, we are dedicated to responding to neighborhood issues in a timely and effective manner. From holding community meetings on blight, street repairs and crime to the adoption of an Ordinance to encourage responsible pet ownership and ensure the safety of our communities, this Council is committed to meeting diverse needs of our citizenry. ”

– Cynthia Hedge-Morrell  
District “D” Councilmember

## NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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### **Supported Cultural Investment in Irish Channel**

The Council, led by Councilmember Head, adopted *Resolution R-10-21*, which supported amending the boundaries of the “Irish Channel Cultural Products District,” to support tax incentives for investment in unique and complimentary cultural experiences in the area.

### **Led Vital Infrastructure Renovations on General deGaulle Drive**

Councilmember Clarkson led the Orleans Parish Sewerage & Water Board to implement a \$5 million study of drainage on General deGaulle Drive in Algiers. This extensive study resulted in a \$22 million state project to construct new culverts at canal crossings along the road to relieve flooding and renovate the community evacuation route.

### **Significantly improved MacArthur Boulevard**

Councilmember Clarkson secured funds for an infrastructure improvement project in a bond issue of 2004. Due to Katrina, the bond sale was delayed; the project was started in 2009 and completed in April of 2010, giving MacArthur Boulevard between Kabel and Woodland Drives a vital infrastructure overhaul.

### **Supported Development of Claiborne Avenue**

The Council passed *Ord. # 23,956 M.C.S.*, authored by Councilmember Head, expanding Claiborne Avenue's Inner City Urban Corridor to include all commercial zoning districts on Claiborne Avenue between Earhart Boulevard and Jena Street, to ensure superb design standards and compatible commercial development on this key commercial corridor.

### **Supported Preservation of Historic Properties in Gentilly Terrace**

The Council, led by District "D" Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, voted to overrule the Neighborhood Conservation District Committee's (NCDC) decision of "denial" of the demolition of historic properties located in Gentilly Terrace, with the understanding that none of the properties will be demolished until NORA independently evaluates each property and determines appropriate next steps. The vote to overrule the NCDC's denial was necessary because if no action was taken at this Council meeting, the issue could not be heard again for two years.

### **Supported Lafitte Greenway Steering Advisory Committee**

The Council passed *Ord. # 23,997 M.C.S.*, introduced by Councilmember Guidry, to reaffirm the advisory authority of the Lafitte Greenway Steering Advisory Committee over the Lafitte Greenway Corridor, which offers three miles of continuous open land, from Basin Street to the cemeteries located at the foot of Canal Street, connecting parks, bike trails and open public green spaces for the neighborhoods that lie along it.

### **Initiated Discussion on Creation of a Housing and Environmental Court**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-246*, authored by Councilmember Johnson, inviting the Honorable Paul N. Sens, Chief Judge of New Orleans Municipal Court, and Winston H. Reid, Director of Code Enforcement, to speak before the Housing and Human Needs Committee regarding the creation of a Housing and Environmental Court.

### **Supported the Uniting American Families Act**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-289*, introduced by Councilmember Head, supporting the Uniting American Families Act (UAFSA), a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents, and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships.

### **Supported Preservation of Historic Canal Street**

The Council passed *Ord. # 24,149 M.C.S.*, which effectuated City Council *Motion M-10-205*, authored by Councilmember Head, expanding the area of applicability of the Inner City Urban Corridor to include Canal Street from North Claiborne Avenue to South Pierce Street, which preserves the historic nature of this important street by tailoring the design and use standards to ensure harmony and beautification.

### **Encouraged Establishment of Neighborhood Participation System**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-439*, co-authored by Councilmembers Clarkson, Hedge-Morrell and Gisleson Palmer, requesting that the City Planning Commission (CPC) prepare and recommend a plan for neighborhood participation, as required by the Master Plan within the City Charter.

### **Hosted the Return of the Algiers Bonfire**

Councilmembers Clarkson and Gisleson-Palmer worked with the Algiers Economic Development District to bring back the annual holiday concert and lighting of the Algiers Bonfire for the first time since before Hurricane Katrina, bringing thousands of local residents together to usher in the holiday season. Councilmember Clarkson originally started the Algiers Bonfire tradition in 1991.



“ *Moving forward, the Council must be unrelenting in its efforts to grow and sustain the New Orleans economy while maintaining the unique local business environment made up of entrepreneurs and small businesses. Our future lies in economic and business development and we are dedicated to ensuring that equitable business opportunities exist in all areas of the City, including those areas most affected by Hurricane Katrina - New Orleans East and the Lower Ninth Ward.* ”

– Jon D. Johnson  
District “E” Councilmember

## ENHANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, YOUTH PROGRAMS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

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### **Secured Grants for NORD/NOBA Center for Dance**

Councilmember Clarkson secured grants to help make dance accessible to all school-age children of New Orleans through the NORD/NOBA Center for Dance. Councilmember Clarkson helped restart the cultural community partnership between NORD and the New Orleans Ballet Association in 1992.

### **Sponsored NORD Theatre in National Competition**

Councilmembers Clarkson and Fielkow co-sponsored a Harrah's grant which enabled youth actors of NORD/Crescent City Lights Youth Theatre to compete in the National Junior Youth Theatre Festival.

### **Organized a Free Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra Concert at Brechtel Park**

Using a \$25,000 Harrah's Grant, Councilmember Clarkson planned and organized a free public concert at Brechtel Park in Algiers. The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra's performance in the park brought in nearly 1,000 members of the community and garnered support for the park's post-hurricane repairs.

### **Supported Expansion of Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club Facility**

The Council passed *Ord. # 23,924 M.C.S.*, authored by Councilmember Hedge-Morrell, authorizing a cooperative endeavor agreement between Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club and the City of New Orleans, authorizing the use of \$400,000 of Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) funds to stimulate economic development.

### **Supported Expansion of Family Reading Program**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-208*, introduced by Councilmember Clarkson, congratulating the organizers of Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities' Prime Time Family Reading Time on the program's success, and supporting their proposal to the U.S. Department of Education's Investing in Innovation Fund for further expansion of the successful model in Louisiana's schools.

### **Supported Advisory Committee Recommendations**

#### **Re: School Food Improvements**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-354*, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Johnson, extending the Council's thanks to the members of the Food Policy Advisory Committee and expressing support for its recommendations relative to improvements in school meals.

### **Established Commission to Govern City Recreation**

The Council passed *Ord. # 24,126 M.C.S.*, co-authored by Councilmembers Fielkow and Clarkson, to establish the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission, to provide for membership composition and length of terms of members to the Commission, its powers, duties and functions, and its administration. The Council also pushed to have the New Orleans Recreation Department placed in the City Charter as a Public-Private Partnership by public vote.

### **Urged State to Properly Fund Higher Education**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-469*, authored by Councilmember Clarkson, urging the State of Louisiana to properly fund higher education and work with all components of the LSU system to mitigate the impact of future cuts upon University of New Orleans (UNO).

**Facilitated Volunteer Center Clean-Up and Landscaping at the Louisiana Nature Center and Joe W. Brown Regional Park**

Councilmember Johnson with representatives of the Audubon Nature Institute, neighborhood groups and more than 50 volunteers participated in a clean-up day at Joe W. Brown Regional Park and the Louisiana Nature and Science Center. Volunteers focused on the removal of Chinese Tallow, litter removal, minimal landscaping and gathering debris.

**Encouraged Public Support of New Orleans Hornets**

The Council passed *Resolution R-10-570*, introduced by Councilmember Fielkow, urging the citizens and businesses of New Orleans and the Gulf South region to show their support of the New Orleans Hornets by buying tickets, merchandise and sponsorships to help ensure that the Hornets and NBA remain in New Orleans.

**Established Fundraising Body for Recreation Commission**

The Council passed *Ordinance Calendar No. 28,263*, authored by Councilmember Fielkow, to establish the New Orleans Recreation Development Foundation as a Louisiana non-profit corporation to serve as a fundraising body to support the activities of the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission.

# 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. The City Council is comprised of five district councilmembers and two councilmembers-at-large.



*(L-R)* Council President and Councilmember-at-Large **Arnie Fielkow**  
and Council Vice-President and Councilmember-at-Large **Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson**



*(L-R)* District “A” Councilmember **Susan G. Guidry**; District “B” Councilmember **Stacy Head**;  
District “C” Councilmember **Kristin Gisleson Palmer**; District “D” Councilmember **Cynthia  
Hedge-Morrell**; and District “E” Councilmember **Jon D. Johnson**.



## COUNCIL STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Airport Committee  
Budget, Audit, and Board of Review Committee  
Cable and Telecommunications Committee  
Competitive Selection Committee  
Criminal Justice Committee  
Disaster and Recovery Committee  
Economic Development and Special Development Projects Committee  
Election Code and Reapportionment Committee  
Governmental Affairs Committee  
Health Care and Social Services Committee  
Housing and Human Needs Committee  
Public Works Committee  
Sanitation and Environmental Enforcement Committee  
Special Pensions and Retirement Committee  
Transportation Committee  
Utility 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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**1300 Perdido Street, Second Floor West  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
(504) 658-1000**

**[www.NOLACityCouncil.com](http://www.NOLACityCouncil.com)**

*Additional copies of the **New Orleans City Council Annual Report: 2011 Policy Overview and 2010 Legislative Action** are available in the Clerk of Council's Office, Room 1E09, City Hall.*

**Visit [www.NOLACityCouncil.com](http://www.NOLACityCouncil.com) to view the report online.**