



**NOLA CITY COUNCIL**

The legislative branch of city government

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**Kristin Gisleson Palmer, Councilmember District C**

## **Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer – District “C” Annual Report 2010 - 2011**

Neighbors & Friends,

Inauguration Day brought about feelings of a new day and a robust start on a journey that we have all looked forward to for a number of years. Since taking the oath of office, I have been honored to serve the interest of the public and have had the distinct pleasure of meeting and working with so many residents of District “C.”

At the end of last year, the Council spent three months reviewing the existing 2010 budget and meeting with the administration and department leaders to review requested 2011 budgets and best practices of similar municipalities. The result of the meetings was a budget for outcomes system. The 2011 budget that was passed by the City Council is designed to accomplish the goals that were expressed throughout the budget hearings. The start of 2011 has been very positive for the City of New Orleans under the new budget. As the year progresses, we will continue to work with Mayor Landrieu and the Administration to assure that our budget outcomes are being met and that the City remains fiscally prudent.

Furthermore, as we look forward to the remainder of the year, I am asking that each of you visit [www.nolacitycouncil.com](http://www.nolacitycouncil.com) and [www.nola.gov](http://www.nola.gov) to obtain the most recent information occurring citywide as well as register for important alerts and updates at [www.nolaready.info](http://www.nolaready.info). We are fast approaching the start of this year’s hurricane season and there have been substantial changes to the notification system and evacuation assistance program. I implore you all to pack an emergency kit, create a family emergency plan and register with [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) to be informed and prepared.

Sincerely,

*Kristin*

## Infrastructure Improvement and Capital Projects



In August 2010, Mayor Landrieu released a list of 100 projects, which included many important spaces within District “C”.

There are various capital improvement projects focused on the renovation of facilities and infrastructure throughout the district.

Advocated for and completed the demolition of the Pool and Pool House near L.B. Landry High School.

Below are some of the current projects underway

- Algiers Regional Library
- Behrman Soccer Stadium
- Brechtel Park
- Crescent Park
- Cut-Off Center
- Hunter’s Field
- Armstrong Park

Multiple projects are in the design phase and will soon bid for construction

- Arthur Monday Center
- Behrman Community Center
- Behrman Pool
- Cita Hubbell Library
- NOFD Engine 40 Gen. DeGaulle
- NOPD 5<sup>th</sup> District Station
- Nora Navra Library
- Oscar Medrano Clinic
- St. Roch Market
- St. Roch Neutral Ground
- St. Roch Park
- Stallings St. Claude Community Center
- Treme Community Center

To receive project status updates, go to <http://www.nola.gov/GOVERNMENT/Capital-and-Recovery-Projects/>

## Community Participation



Residents attend Town Hall Meeting to discuss ongoing projects and concerns in their neighborhood.

Councilmember Gisleson Palmer works diligently to encourage constituent driven task forces and committees to identify and recommend solutions to issues that affect our quality of life. She has facilitated the organization of groups that are focusing on: a new sound ordinance, Jackson Square improvements, sustainable transportation, an Algiers' housing policy and Algiers' infrastructure and street repairs.

In addition:

- Councilmember Gisleson Palmer holds monthly town hall meetings to discuss issues pertinent to the district.
- The Councilmember regularly attends neighborhood and community meetings.
- She holds monthly radio interviews and call-ins on several radio stations.
- The Councilmember will also begin to send quarterly newsletters so that all constituents have the most up to date information of events and issues in the district. You can request to receive updates via email by registering on the Council web site at [www.nolacitycouncil.com](http://www.nolacitycouncil.com).
- Has representation at all NONPAC meetings in the 4 police districts located in District "C"

## Committees

Below are summaries of recent accomplishments achieved by the Council committees that Councilmember Gisleson Palmer chairs.

### Disaster and Recovery



Councilmember Gisleson Palmer tours vacant and blighted properties in lower coast Algiers.

As Chair of the Disaster and Recovery Committee, Councilmember Gisleson Palmer has been addressing a variety of important issues facing our recovery.

- Received regular updates on the Mayor’s “100 Recovery Projects” and on contracting opportunities for small businesses and DBE businesses.
- Held state/city rebuilding programs accountable.
- Urged the City and the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) to continue with strategic auctions of Louisiana Land Trust properties in neighborhoods that can support this disposition. After a very successful auction, it is apparent that there is a strong demand for these properties in our communities. The Louisiana Land Trust properties will provide first time homebuyer opportunities for our citizens and helps in further reducing blight in our neighborhoods.
- Held updates during the BP Oil Spill to inform the public of the latest developments throughout the disaster.

## Sanitation and Environmental



Councilmembers Gisleson Palmer, Arnie Fielkow & Jackie Clarkson discuss the impact of the Deep Water Horizon oil spill with Governor Bobby Jindal.

As Chair of the Sanitation and Environmental Committee, Councilmember Gisleson Palmer has focused on the City's renegotiated sanitation contracts and on the City's new recycling program.

- Worked with the Department of Sanitation to provide updates and information to the public on how the new recycling program will operate.

Recycling has been a top priority for

Councilmember Gisleson Palmer and she has

continued to push for the institution of a City-wide recycling program since being sworn in last year. At her request, the City has now agreed to allow residents to reuse the blue recycling bins. This allows residents of historic districts and other areas of the City with smaller lots to use the small bins instead of the 64.8-gallon carts. Councilmember Gisleson Palmer looks forward to working with the Administration and the sanitation contractors to make citywide recycling a huge success.

- Attended a Louisiana Legislative Senate Committee hearing on lead paint in our playgrounds and is now working with the State for more funding for testing and abatement.
- Authored a resolution supporting the Woodlands Park and Trails efforts to promote, protect and expand green space in Algiers.

## *Transportation*

- Introduced city-wide pedicab service.
- Promoted the development of the Sustainable Transportation Advisory Committee, comprised of transportation professionals and experts, which will then advise the City Council on various transportation topics.
- Created a dialogue with the Administration, taxicab, and tourism industries to create a process to reform the taxicab industry.
- Advocated for streetcar expansion and was a powerful voice in getting the RTA to commit to prioritizing the North Rampart/St. Claude expansion and is advocating for the line to extend to Poland Avenue.
- Advocated with the Friends of the Ferry Foundation to address items such as high speed ferries, the renovation of the Algiers' ferry terminal, and the 2012 sunset of the Crescent City Connection bridge tolls.
- Appointed by the City Council to the Louisiana Interstate Rail Compact, a multi-parish entity created to study and develop high speed rail alternatives.
- Advocated for expanding bike routes and recently drafted a resolution for the Public Works Department and Regional Planning Commission in support of their applications to the Louisiana Recreational Trails Program for bike and pedestrian projects throughout the city.

In addition to the committees listed below, Councilmember Gisleson Palmer is a member of the Airport, Governmental Affairs, Housing and Human Needs, and Public Works Committees. She is also appointed as an alternative to the Utilities, Competitive Selection, and Youth and Recreation Committees. For information on meeting schedules, agendas and streaming video, please visit the City Council's web site ([www.nolacitycouncil.com](http://www.nolacitycouncil.com)).

## **Boards and Commissions**



Councilmember Gisleson Palmer tours the Federal City Construction site to review the existing plans and discuss developmental milestones.

Councilmember Gisleson Palmer serves on a variety of boards and commissions in her capacity as the Councilmember for District “C”.

- New Orleans Building Corporation (NOBC)
- French Market Corporation
- Upper Pontalba Restoration Corporation
- Algiers Development District (ADD)
- Canal Street Development Corporation
- Rivergate Development Corporation
- New Orleans Tourism and Marketing Corporation (NOTMC)

## Ordinances

- **Authored Ordinance to Establish Pedicab Services to the City**  
The Council unanimously passed **Ord. # 24,111 M.C.S.**, authored by Councilmember Gisleson Palmer, to provide city-wide pedicab services.
- **Promoted access to State Recovery Money for Redevelopment Projects**  
Councilmember Gisleson Palmer authored Resolutions **R-10-440 and R-10-536** to promote the City's access to stagnant state recovery dollars allocated to the City for recovery projects such as the Algiers Regional Library, Behrman Soccer Stadium and Track, the Historic Algiers Courthouse Renovation and Holiday Drive Roadway Construction.
- **Supported Phase One of Reinventing the Crescent Riverfront Development**  
The Council passed **Ord. # 24,152 M.C.S.**, authored by Councilmember Gisleson Palmer, which allowed construction to begin on the \$30 million reinventing the Crescent-Crescent Park.
- **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), which allowed renovations to begin.
- **Moving forward with streetcar expansion- Resolution R-11-152**  
Councilmember Gisleson Palmer authored **Resolution R-11-152** which was adopted by the City Council on April 7th, 2011 in support of the expansion of an "At Grade" streetcar crossing at the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks at Press Street intended to bring the streetcar to Poland Avenue.
- **Appointment of Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer as a member of the Louisiana Intrastate Rail Compact**  
The City Council adopted **Motion M-11-168** which ratifies, confirms and approves the appointment of Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer as a member of the Louisiana Intrastate Rail Compact.
- **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 an ordinance, informed by public input, that establishes a system for neighborhood participation.

- **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 new t-shirt, novelty, gift and souvenir shops in the Vieux Carré zoning districts.
- **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 the extension of Opelousas Avenue into the new Federal City development.
- **Support for Migratory Bird Habitat**  
Councilmember Gisleson Palmer authored Resolution **R-11-132** which supported the Woodlands Conservancy’s Greenway Corridor project for Natural Resource Damage Assessment funds in order to ensure migratory bird habitat and recreational opportunities in perpetuity.

### **Summary of Precedential Land Use Matters**

- Councilmember Gisleson Palmer supports solar panel installation in historic districts such as the Vieux Carre and Algiers Point and supports the Historic District Landmarks Commission in its guidelines to allow minimally visible solar panels.
- She approved redevelopment plans for Algiers Regional Library.
- She approved Bywater Artists Community Development

## Councilmember Gisleson Palmer Photo Gallery



Councilmember speaks with Cops for Kids Summer program children.



The Southeast Levee Protection Authority – West cleared debris from the batture at Algiers Point.



Joins in prayer with neighborhood residents during the National Night Out Against Crime.



Tours the west bank pumping station.



Attends the Algiers Bonfire with Superintendent Charles Parent & Assistant Superintendent Tim McConnell.



Participates in *Read Across America* with the children at the Urban League Head Start Center.



Participates in the Red Tent – National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in Treme.



Councilmember Gisleson Palmer is sworn in by her parents Mr. & Mrs. Gisleson.

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