

**Council Files Civil District Court Motion in Emails Case
Asks that Public Records Requests Be More Specific and that
Requestors, Not the Public, Pay Costs Associated with
Review Necessary to Protect Citizens' Private Information**

News Release

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Contact:
Ronald J. Pursell
Council Chief of Staff
Ph: (504) 658-1082
rjpursell@cityofno.com

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City Council](#)

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New Orleans, LA - June 23, 2009 - Today, the City Council's legal counsel filed a motion in Orleans Civil District Court asking that public records requestors specify the types of email documents requested; that citizens' private information be protected; and that the records requestors, not the public, pay the fees and costs associated with the review of 2.5 million pages of emails.

The motion addresses public records requests made by a variety of media outlets and one private citizen.

The motion references the delivery to the City Council from the City Attorney of approximately 440,000 emails comprising over 2 million pages; the vague, overbroad and burdensome requests; and the time-consuming and costly review of documents by Legal Counsel, Forensic Software Analysts and Councilmembers.

According to Legal Counsel Steven Lane, the motion asks the Court to limit the scope and define the areas of public records inquiries; protect citizens' privacy; and/or, as provided under the Louisiana Public Records Act, have public records requestors pay the fees and costs incurred to process the requested documents.

"The Council's concern is the taxpayer. Councilmembers want to avoid placing the burden of the costs and fees associated with the review of over 440,000 emails on citizens when there are critical infrastructure,



health, public safety and economic development needs in the City of New Orleans," Lane said.

Click [here](#) for the full text of the motion filed today in Orleans Civil District Court.

Media calls are being referred to Steven J. Lane, Attorney and Managing Partner, Herman, Herman, Katz & Cotlar, (504) 680-0527, slane@hhkc.com.

New Orleans City Council

The New Orleans City Council is the legislative branch of New Orleans City government. The Council considers and enacts all local laws that govern the City of New Orleans. The Council also approves the operating and capital budgets for the City, as recommended by the mayor, and continually monitors revenues and expenditures for local government operations. The City Council is also the regulatory body for public utilities. It also reviews and has final say on many land use and zoning matters, as well as considers major economic development projects for the City. As a Board of Review for Orleans Parish, the Council examines appeals of property tax assessments for real estate taxes, and certifies tax rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission. Other responsibilities of the Council include overseeing the operation of the public access television in Orleans Parish.

The City Council is comprised of five districts and two councilmembers-at-large. Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow; Council Vice President and Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura; District "B" Councilmember Stacy S. Head; District "C" Councilmember James Carter; District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.