

**Council Requests Attorney General Opinion
On Document Production Time and Privilege Requirements
Under Louisiana Public Records Act**

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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New Orleans, LA - May 26, 2009 - Today, the New Orleans City Council's Special Counsel, Steven J. Lane has sent a letter to the State Attorney General James D. "Buddy" Caldwell requesting an advisory opinion relative to document production time and constituent privacy privilege requirements under the Louisiana Public Records Act.

The request for an Attorney General opinion is related to numerous public records requests made to the City Council asking that it produce three years of its emails.

To read the City Council's letter requesting an Attorney General Opinion click [here](#).

The letter was sent to the Attorney General following a three-day holiday weekend during which special counsel, technology experts and Councilmembers conducted reviews and began posting the emails on the City Council website.

Lane said, "We are acting as quickly as possible to review millions of pages of emails. But, we are seeking guidance from the Attorney General as to whether and to what extent the Council needs to act more quickly. The Council is also concerned about exposing the City of New Orleans and the City Council to liability if private, privileged or otherwise protected constituent information is divulged should the Council be forced to produce documents without having the full opportunity to review each of the over 2 million pages of over 400,000 emails."

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 Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; Council Vice-President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow; District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura; District "B" Councilmember Stacy S. Head; District "C" Councilmember James Carter; District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.