



New Orleans  
City Council

**Court Prohibits City Attorney's Public Release of Council Emails until  
Its Legal Counsel Conducts Privileged and Confidential Information Review**

News Release

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New Orleans, LA - May 6, 2009 - Today, Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judge Madeleine Landrieu ruled that the New Orleans City Council is the custodian of its emails and that it can review the emails for privileged and confidential information prior to responses made to the public records request.

Judge Landrieu heard oral argument from City Council Attorney Steve Lane and Associate City Attorney Franz Zibilich on the Petition for Writ of Injunction filed on behalf of the Council.

The Court granted the injunction, prohibiting the City Attorney from releasing the emails until the Council has a reasonable opportunity to review them for privileged and confidential information.

The City Attorney was ordered to produce the City Council's emails to the President of the City Council so that they can be reviewed to determine if privilege or confidentiality applies to any of the emails. Responses to public records requests made of the City Council will be made as quickly as possible and in accordance with the State's Public Records Law.

**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.