

New Orleans City Council



LEGISLATIVE ACTION 2018



NEW ORLEANS

MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU, MAYOR

New Orleans City Council

JANUARY - MAY 2018



STACY HEAD
Councilmember-At-Large



JASON WILLIAMS
Councilmember-At-Large



SUSAN GUIDRY
District "A" Councilmember



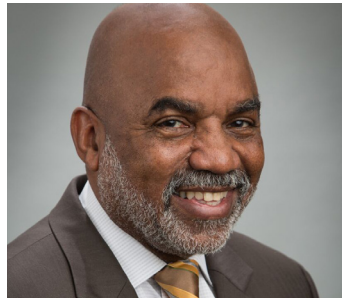
LATOYA CANTRELL
District "B" Councilmember



NADINE RAMSEY
District "C" Councilmember



JARED BROSSETT
District "D" Councilmember



JAMES GRAY
District "E" Councilmember



MAY - DECEMBER 2018



JASON WILLIAMS
Councilmember-At-Large



HELENA MORENO
Councilmember-At-Large



JOSEPH GIARRUSSO III
District "A" Councilmember



JAY H. BANKS
District "B" Councilmember



KRISTIN GISLESON PALMER
District "C" Councilmember



JARED BROSSETT
District "D" Councilmember



CYNDI NGUYEN
District "E" Councilmember

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.



A Letter From New Orleans City Council

2018 was a historic year for the City Council and the entire City of New Orleans. In the midst of the Tricentennial festivities commemorating the 300th anniversary of the founding of our city, the most diverse and representative Council to date, as well as the City's first-ever female mayor, were inaugurated in May.

This year marked major milestones for the Council both legislatively and operationally, as the City Council affirmed its commitment to improving the quality of life for residents of New Orleans. Council representation was reinstated to the Sewerage & Water Board and requirements were passed to protect drainage systems. Ours became one of the first cities in the state to pass a comprehensive ban on sexual harassment in City government. On a committee level, the first Smart and Sustainable Cities Committee meeting was convened and a new Quality of Life Special Committee to address constituent complaints citywide was created. We fought to improve the health and safety of not just some, but all New Orleanians.

The first budget process of this Council was a successful collaboration with the new Mayor, focusing on people through increased funding for youth and families as well as public safety initiatives. The 2019 budget allocates monies for catch basin cleaning, a partnership of Children's Bureau and NOPD Crisis Management, an assisted outpatient treatment program and doubles funding for early childhood education to 1.5 million dollars.

New Orleans experienced its lowest annual crime rate since the early 1970s and the Council played an integral role in crime reduction. Legislation was passed that allowed police officers to focus their time and resources on violent crimes. The new City Council website includes a public-facing crime dashboard with real-time updates and public safety information. Funding was allocated by the Council to attract, retain and develop talent within NOPD as well as support the implementation of trauma-informed systems within schools.

In presenting this 2018 Annual Report, we reflect on the tremendous strides we have taken to maintain and enhance the rich culture, diversity, history, and resiliency that has shaped New Orleans over the last 300 years. We also recognize the areas in which we must focus our efforts and continue to work toward improving to ensure the city's continued growth and success 300 years from now. We thank you, the people of New Orleans, for allowing us to serve you and for working alongside us to make our city a better place for our generation and all those to come.

A Letter From The Council

Chief Of Staff

It has been a great honor for the Central Staff to serve the Council and citizens of New Orleans in 2018. The year was one of transition. It was one of the most challenging years in the organization's history, and it was one of the most productive. With the 2017 Fall elections determining that the Council would have five new members, and with nearly half of the organization turning over in May 2018 as a result, staff support was critical for success moving forward. These changes came at a time when the Council's home base of operations, the City Council Chamber, was closed for renovations and key central staff positions were vacant.

On Jan. 1, 2018, the City Council Chamber was closed for its first major renovation since the 1980s, with some upgrades occurring for the first time since the building opened in 1954. The staff-initiated and managed project marks a significant upgrade from previous conditions. Specifically, the upgrades include: the replacement of the costly and inefficient lighting system with reliable and energy-efficient LED alternative, the replacement of a failing audio/visual system, the replacement of 60 year old seating, the installation of a locally designed and fabricated ADA compliant speakers' podium, and the completion of numerous aesthetic enhancements to make the City's most prominent space of public discourse a more inviting place. These long overdue renovations were completed one month ahead of schedule.

Staff both guided the successful completion of the project and facilitated the Council to keep its normal meeting schedule during the chamber closure. All regular and committee meetings of the Council were recorded and archived despite being held in numerous locations throughout the City. The Orleans Parish School Board deserves a deep nod of appreciation for hosting the Council's regular meetings at their board room.

On Jan. 1, 2018, there were key vacancies in the central support staff of the Council. The Council Deputy Chief of Staff, the Council Utilities Regulatory Office Chief of Staff, and the Council Research Officer position all were vacant. Later in the year, there was a key vacancy in the CURO Deputy Chief of Staff position.

Additionally, the Council lacked a human resources professional, a critical position to shepherd the transition of the political offices. The timely filling of this human resources position allowed for the nearly 30 new Council employees, who came as a result of the transition in the political offices, to be paid on-cycle with continuing employees. This may seem like a mundane feat, but previous transitions sometimes took several pay

cycles to sort out. One employee who came in the 2014 transition once quipped: “I had to take out a loan while I waited for that first check.”

In a very short period of time, all of the support staff positions were filled as well, and new ones were added. For the first time in its history, the CURO office has a dedicated engineer professional to assist in the complicated analytics required of that office. The position continues the trend of further professionalization of CURO to assist the Council in its regulatory and oversight functions.

Also a first, the Council has a dedicated technology professional whose primary functions are to act as program administrator for the Council’s technology solutions, to maintain the Council website and to coordinate service desk support with Information Technology & Innovation. The position is representative of a very close collaboration with the City’s technology office that has been established over the years, and it situates the Council to be more responsive to the citizens of the New Orleans.

As another staffing first, the Council is currently in the process of filling the newly created position of Executive Counsel. This position will allow the Council to seek its own in-house legal advice, thus saving taxpayer money and developing in-house capacity and expertise, all while preserving Council independence.

Investments in this organization’s staff are being amplified by corresponding investments in its systems. Working with the City’s Office of Information Technology & Innovation, the Council replaced its antiquated, privately hosted website with one that is publicly designed and maintained. The new site, <https://council.nola.gov>, is a comprehensive improvement from its bug-addled and unreliable predecessor. Since the new site is integrated into the City’s website and staffed by City personnel, on-going improvements and new offerings have become routine to doing business. Moreover, the website features a significantly improved search engine of the Council’s legislative and meeting history, as well as a first-of-its-kind, real-time crime dashboard implemented by the Council’s public safety analyst.

By every measure, as 2019 opens, the Council central staff is in an improved position to support the Council over one year ago. With a focus on facilities, staffing and systems, we have undertaken long-needed improvements, revisions, and upgrades. As we look forward to future projects, we will continue to take on challenging issues and to support the Council in its mission. The central staff is poised to continue its pursuit of excellence as it serves the Council and the citizens of this great city in 2019 and beyond.



David S. Gavlinski

Chief of Staff, New Orleans City Council

Introduction

This annual report provides the citizens of New Orleans with a legislative summary and recap of the Council's work throughout 2018. The report highlights the historic transition of the most diverse Council in New Orleans history, issues of importance to citizens, challenges faced by the community, and progress made on critical legislative items while fulfilling specific legal requirements of the City's legislative branch of government.

The 2018 legislative report showcases both the previous and current Council's commitment to the ongoing development and betterment of the City through its work in areas of critical importance to the New Orleans citizenry, including: strengthening crime prevention and public safety initiatives, providing incentives for economic development and business growth, dedicating resources to maintenance and improvement of educational and recreational facilities for youth, committing to resourceful and transparent governmental operations, highlighting the cultural contributions and accomplishments of local and regional businesses, residents, religious, military, civic and social organizations, and community and nonprofit groups.

The Council's new website, council.nola.gov, was launched this year as an enhanced informational portal and resource for citizens to learn more about the legislative process and the Council's daily operations. Citizens can access meeting schedules and agendas, view live and archived streaming video of meetings, review information on Committees and community events, keep track of legislative issues, and monitor citywide crime statistics via the new crime dashboard. The website also includes contact information for Councilmembers and staff so that citizens may directly express their concerns and interests to the Council.





New Orleans City Council

LEGISLATIVE ACTION 2018

1st Quarter



Crime Prevention & Public Safety

COUNCIL APPROVES ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO ISSUING OF NOTICES AND SUMMONS FOR JUVENILE CRIMES

At the regular meeting on Jan. 11, The Council approved an ordinance to amend the City Code relative to juvenile warning notices and summonses to clarify an officer's ability to address juvenile offenses. The ordinance further enhanced the effectiveness of the Policing Alternatives for Youth Ordinance, authored by former District "A" Councilmember Susan Guidry and unanimously passed by the Council in August 2017, to keep low-risk youth out of the justice system whenever safe and possible to do so.

This legislation allowed New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) officers to focus their time and resources on serious crimes, rather than on adolescent misbehavior. The ordinance specified the written nature of a juvenile warning notice and removed minor traffic offenses from those delinquent offenses eligible for a juvenile warning notice. Additionally, it contained reporting requirements, stating the NOPD must prepare and submit quarterly reports to the Council's Criminal Justice Committee including data from the previous quarter.

NOPD & INNOCENCE PROJECT PARTNER FOR CRITICAL TRAINING INITIATIVE

Since 2016, the Innocence Project New Orleans (IPNO) has partnered with the NOPD to bring a unique detectives training program to new and seasoned detectives: a training designed to use lessons from past investigative failures to improve the accuracy of future investigations. To date, IPNO has worked with more than 300 detectives, and in March 2018, it partnered with the City of New Orleans to host a national first: a symposium for NOPD commanders on best practices for major incident investigation.

The two-day symposium was designed to look at pressures and factors that can cause investigative failures or weaknesses (the results of which are cold cases, insufficient evidence to prosecute or a wrongful arrest and conviction) where they come from, how they affect investigations and how leadership and investigators can guard against them in order to solve the most crime, most accurately.

IPNO Board Member and Councilmember-At-Large Jason Williams attended the historic training event alongside 50 department leaders, including NOPD's 14-member command staff, all deputy chiefs, 11 lieutenants and 12 sergeants.



Economic Development & Business Development

CITY ACQUIRES GOVERNOR NICHOLLS AND ESPLANADE AVENUE WHARVES

The Council authorized a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) for the transfer of all rights the City and the Public Belt Railroad (NOPB) had in properties and assets pertaining to the railroad to the Port of New Orleans in exchange for the Governor Nicholls and Esplanade Avenue Wharves. With this transfer, the Council enhanced economic growth and the development of trade and commerce in the City.

The exchange of property was described as a **“win-win-win”** for all involved parties, increasing New Orleans’ competitive edge in international trade and providing residents and visitors contiguous public access to



the riverfront along the 3-mile stretch. The NOPB vowed to work together with the City to maintain appropriate and safe pedestrian crossings of the rail tracks at various points to ensure continued public access to the riverfront.

win-win-win

COUNCIL APPROVES REDEVELOPMENT OF VACANT HIGH-RISE IN DISTRICT “D”

The Council approved Zoning Docket 9/18 to allow for the redevelopment of a longtime vacant office high-rise building located at 4948 Chef Menteur Highway into an apartment complex. This conditional use authorized K&G Developments, LLC to redevelop the blighted building, spurring economic development in the area.

The site was previously a blighted eight-story concrete building, formerly used as the New Orleans Federal Savings and Loan Building. The applicant proposed to substantially renovate the existing structure into an apartment complex with 41 dwelling units on the upper floors and a commercial ground floor use. The plans indicated restoration of the existing façade, awning, and storefront as well as modifications to the parking area to incorporate stormwater management and landscape features.

“For far too many years, this area along Chef Menteur Highway has been plagued with abandoned buildings and overgrown trees,” said District “D” Councilmember Jared Brossett. “This neighborhood investment represents a huge victory for this Council and for the entire City of New Orleans as it will encourage further growth and help transform the surrounding area into a place people can once again be proud to call home.”

Infrastructure, Utilities & Capital Improvements

COUNCIL ESTABLISHES STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROCESSES

The Council adopted several measures pertaining to stormwater management processes and best practices to increase efficiency and encourage ecological sustainability and resiliency. Zoning Docket No. 86/17 transferred stormwater management plan review from the City Planning Commission (CPC) to the Department of Safety and Permits to provide clarity and streamline the process.

This legislation amended the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) to establish administrative processes for stormwater management plan review, provide a process for utilizing a fee-in-lieu of compliance for stormwater management and landscape requirements, and make miscellaneous changes to the stormwater management requirements.

“This has been a collaborative effort, and I commend the CPC for their hard work, which spans more than two years, and for proposing a better option in regards to our stormwater management,” said then District “B” Councilmember LaToya Cantrell. “Managing stormwater is critical, and I hope as we begin to streamline and manage this process, we can work together to mitigate the impact of runoff on our system.”

Zoning Docket No. 86/17 transferred stormwater management plan review from the City Planning Commission (CPC) to the Department of Safety and Permits to provide clarity and streamline the process.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED FOR SEWERAGE & WATER BOARD

The Council approved an ordinance relative to reporting requirements of the Sewerage and Water Board (S&WB). This measure helped streamline the S&WB’s process of reporting to ensure the Council

and the public are regularly informed. By establishing a proactive set of policies and procedures, the Council sought to avoid future issues such as the August 2017 flood event.



FUNDING APPROVED FOR CANAL STREET FERRY TERMINAL BRIDGE

The Council authorized the Mayor to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the City, the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA), and the Audubon Commission relative to the funding, construction,

and operation of the Canal Street Ferry Terminal bridge. The bridge was designed to support public transportation and safety needs of both residents and visitors in New Orleans. The Canal Street Ferry Terminal project replaced the previous 37-year-old concrete structure at the foot of Canal Street, leaving the public with a much-improved facility and method of transit with increased access to the riverfront.

“This is a shining example of what we can accomplish when we work together to address a problem presented to us by our constituents,” said former District “C” Councilmember Nadine Ramsey. “I’m very excited to see this pass for the people of Algiers and the entire City of New Orleans.”



Photo rendering courtesy of Manning Architects

RIVERFRONT OVERLAY STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED INTO COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE

The Council voted to amend the City’s CZO to incorporate recommendations provided in “Part 6: Recommendations & Next Steps” of the CPC’s Riverfront Overlay Study. On Dec. 15, 2016, the Council directed the CPC to conduct a public hearing and study for the following: To make recommendations as to

whether height, density, and massing bonuses along the east bank in exchange for heightened development standards, as currently contemplated in the CZO, were appropriate and consistent with the Master Plan; and to recommend appropriate bonuses and other best practices to incentivize quality developments along the riverfront in a manner consistent with the Master Plan.

The CPC recommendations listed in the study included eliminating the “one-size-fits-all” model and differentiating bulk/area and use standards, adding more detail to ground floor use requirements of the base overlay, allowing greater heights for riverfront development in the overlay district, exploring other non-zoning options for eventual construction of additional crossings, and instituting a maximum height/density by right instead of through conditional use, among others.

“We have an affordable housing crisis on our hands, and we have to increase available housing units any way that we can,” said Councilmember Williams. “Whether or not this is the right way to do that, I’m not sure, but I am sure that we need to make a change because we cannot continue to stifle development as we have in the past. Affordable housing and low-income housing have to be at the forefront for everything that we do moving forward.”

Health Care & Civic Services

ADVOCACY CENTER OF LOUISIANA CELEBRATES 41ST ANNIVERSARY

At its regular meeting on Feb. 8, the Council welcomed representatives of the Advocacy Center of Louisiana in celebration of the organization's 41st anniversary. Litigation Director and Acting Executive Director Ron Lospennato and Legal Director Sarah Voigt presented to the Council on their work and many accomplishments since the organization was founded in 1977.

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Advocacy Center is committed to its mission to protect, empower and advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities and senior citizens in Louisiana. With an initial staff of only four and one office in New Orleans, the Advocacy Center has grown substantially to include a staff of more than fifty who work out of offices in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette. Following the presentation, the Council presented a special proclamation to the Advocacy Center for the critical services they provide the people in New Orleans and throughout the entire state of Louisiana.



The Council with Advocacy Center of Louisiana representatives

Historical & Cultural Preservation

CPC DIRECTED TO STUDY SHORT TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS

The Council passed a motion directing the CPC to conduct a study on existing short term rental (STR) regulations to determine if any modifications were needed. Per the motion, the CPC was required to hold a public hearing within 60 days and complete the study within 120 days. Since passing a series of ordinances to define, categorize, and enforce STRs in New Orleans in April of 2017, the Council felt that this comprehensive follow-up study by the CPC was necessary to analyze the effectiveness of the current laws and guide any future regulation.

“These national and sometimes international corporations are artificially driving up the cost to buy a home or rent a home in our city,” said Councilmember Williams. “That is patently unfair to the people of New

Orleans, and I have a serious problem with that. In this first year, I have not seen effective enforcement from the administration nor have I seen voluntary compliance on the part of these companies and platforms. This study will look at all of this and more so that we can take next steps to protect our city.”

I have not seen effective enforcement from the administration nor have I seen voluntary compliance on the part of these companies and platforms.

Resilience & Environmental Sustainability

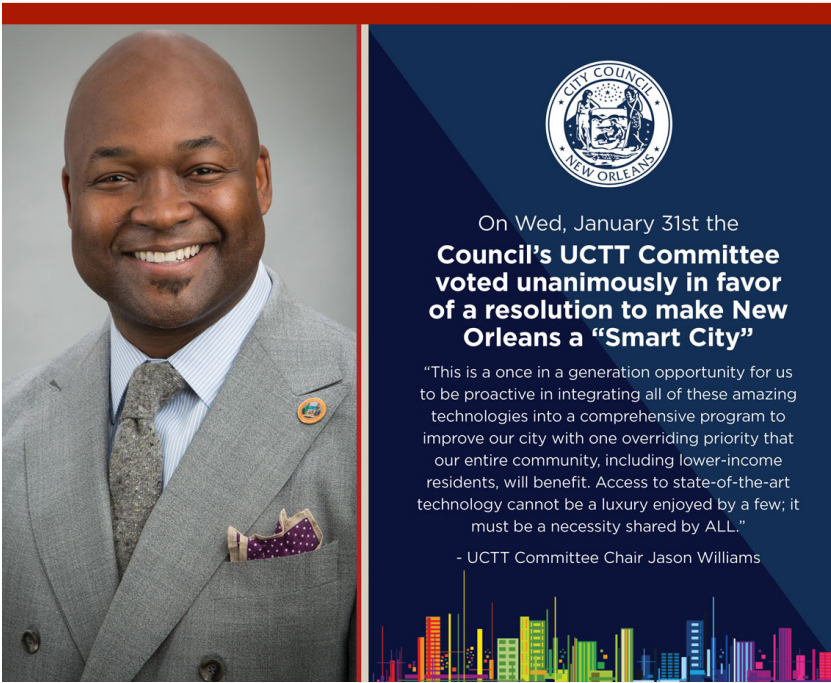
COUNCIL ADOPTS MASTER PLAN AMENDMENTS

The Council adopted amendments to the City’s Master Plan, also known as the Plan for the 21st Century: New Orleans 2030. While the plan reflects recovery planning, it goes beyond recovery to lay out a vision of livability, opportunity, and sustainability over 20 years for the City’s physical development and its social, economic, and environmental future. The City Charter calls for a review of the Plan at least every five years, but changes cannot be made more than once a year. The approved amendments are the result of nearly a year-long review process by the Council and the CPC:

UTILITIES COMMITTEE TAKES STEP TOWARD MAKING NEW ORLEANS A “SMART CITY”

On Jan. 31, the Utility, Cable, Telecommunications and Technology (UCTT) Committee Chair Williams announced that the committee was setting wheels in motion to make New Orleans a “Smart City.” The Smart Cities concept had already been adopted by cities around the world to develop a highly integrated approach to technology that brings together cutting-edge advances in energy generation and management, wireless

July 10, 2017	Meeting of the Committee of the Whole to host a public hearing on the proposed amendments
July 27, 2017	Regular Council meeting where the Council adopted certain changes to the Master Plan while sending back others to the CPC
October 2017	The CPC had 60 days to further consider any amendments included in the Motion and submit new/final recommendations to the Council
February 2018	The Council had 45 days to consider the final CPC recommendations before voting on the final package of Master Plan amendments



communications, high-speed data analysis and transfer, water and transportation management, and other services. The goal of Smart Cities is to use information and communication technology, the internet of things and clean technology to optimize the efficiency of city operations and services, connect citizens, improve the quality of life, and foster sustainability.

“New Orleans stands at the edge of a technology frontier and how we respond will either make us a true 21st-century city or leave us in the wake of this advanced technology as a backwater laggard,” said Councilmember Williams.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of a resolution that opened a utility docket and provided a mechanism requiring Entergy to offer a plan for grid modernization. Also, it allowed stakeholders and the public to comment on the Smart Cities concept.

“As Mayor-Elect, I am particularly interested in continuing to modernize the City,” said then Councilmember Cantrell. “I encourage public input and engagement to make sure that whatever is implemented is the best fit for our communities and the City, and that it spurs job growth and equity for New Orleans residents.”

Notable Orders Of Business

COUNCIL REMEMBERS FORMER COUNCILMAN JOHNNY JACKSON, JR.

As a point of personal privilege at its regular meeting on Jan. 25, the Council took a moment of silence to remember former Councilmember Johnny Jackson, Jr., who passed away the day prior. Jackson served the people of New Orleans in the state House of Representatives from 1972 - 1986 and as a District “E” City Councilmember from 1986-1994. During his tenure on the Council, he was a strong advocate for his district, seeking economic opportunity and improved city services for its residents. He was also known for taking a stand for human rights and pushing legislation aimed at ensuring equal treatment of all residents, particularly the LGBTQ community.

“I’ve admired the man for 40 years,” said then District “E” Councilmember James Gray. “He was one of the first people I met when I moved to New Orleans, and his community development non-profit organization, the Desire Community Housing Corporation, helped me feed my kids while providing housing for Desire residents. A soldier for the people, the very honorable Johnny Jackson will be sorely missed.”



Left to right: Sidney J. Barthelemy, Dorothy Mae Taylor, Johnny Jackson, Jr., and Louis Charbonnet during a 1975

COUNCIL CHAMBER UNDERGOES HISTORIC RENOVATIONS

Commencing on Dec. 17, 2017, the Council Chamber at City Hall underwent much-needed renovations for the first time since its construction. The Council celebrated the re-opening of the new and improved Chamber space with a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 8. The new updates to the chamber included energy-efficient LED lighting; upgraded electrical, communications, and audio systems; repainted interior; new carpeting and auditorium seating; and an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant lectern for speakers. These long overdue renovations have allowed the Council to better serve the public.



Members of the Council commemorating the reopening of the Council Chamber with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 8

New updates to the chamber included:

- energy-efficient LED lighting
- upgraded electrical, communications, and audio systems
- repainted interior
- new carpeting and auditorium seating
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant lectern for speakers



New Orleans City Council

LEGISLATIVE ACTION 2018

2nd Quarter



INAUGURATION OF MOST DIVERSE COUNCIL IN CITY HISTORY

The newly-inaugurated Council became the **city's most diverse** to date in terms of **both gender and race.**

On May 7, the Council held its charter-mandated organizational meeting celebrating the inauguration of the most diverse group of representatives since the city's founding 300 years ago. Councilmember-At-Large Helena Moreno represented the first Hispanic-American and District "E" Councilmember Cyndi Nguyen represented the first Vietnamese-American in the Council's history. In its entirety, the newly-inaugurated Council became the city's most diverse to date in terms of both gender and race.

At the end of their first week in office, the newly inaugurated Council held an informal meet and greet event for their constituents in the Pavilion of Two Sisters at City Park. The event provided residents a chance not only to meet their Council representatives in a relaxed setting, but also to collect names and telephone numbers of their aides.

"This represents a monumental occasion not only for this Council but the entire City of New Orleans," said Councilmember Brossett. "For the first time in history, we sit before you as an elected body truly representative of the unique and multifaceted communities we serve. We've spent a lot of time celebrating our city's 300-year past, but now we look to its future. With hard work and collaboration between this Council, our newly-elected mayor, and the people of New Orleans, I am confident that our future will be a bright one."



The new Council at the meet-and-greet in City Park on May 11 courtesy of Gambit



The five new and two returning members of the Council at the swearing-in ceremony held at Mahalia Jackson Theater on May 7 courtesy of NOLA.com

Crime Prevention & Public Safety

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY ADOPTED TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Council unanimously passed an ordinance establishing uniform sexual harassment policies alongside a similar resolution expressing its commitment to protecting those at risk from domestic violence. On May 24, Councilmember Moreno introduced an ordinance to establish and codify New Orleans' first legal guidelines to prevent sexual harassment and properly train City officials and employees to avoid, identify, and punish harassment wherever it may be found within the city's charter-ruled agencies. The resolution adopted on June 7 expressed the Council's strong commitment to preserving life for all citizens and protecting those at risk from domestic violence. In addition, Resolution R-18-208 formally requested the immediate adoption and enactment of domestic abuse policies, procedure, and processes.

"I am a proud author of the state legislation on this issue and am equally proud to author this local ordinance," said Councilmember Moreno. "Mostly, I am proud that the City of New Orleans will become the first municipality to put into place procedures consistent with our State law. This is a vital first step, not only in complying with state law but showing true leadership for our sister municipalities on this critical issue."

The Council also adopted a resolution requesting the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office to immediately adopt state law barring domestic violence offenders from possessing firearms. In the resolution, the Council urged the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office to begin implementing a new state law that requires sheriffs to collect restricted firearms from individuals convicted of domestic violence or subjects of protective orders. On June 7, the City Council passed Resolution R-18-208 urging the sheriff to immediately comply with the law, which has a start date effective Oct. 1, 2018.



Councilmember Moreno speaking during the March for Our Lives rally courtesy of New Orleans Advocate

Councilmember Moreno introduced an ordinance to establish and codify New Orleans' first legal guidelines to prevent sexual harassment and properly train City officials and employees

Economic Development & Business Development



COUNCIL APPROVES RESOURCES FOR SMALL AND LOCAL BUSINESSES

The Council approved an ordinance to authorize the Mayor to enter into a CEA between the City and the New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce (NORBCC) for the provision of financial resources for industry-specific programming for small and local businesses. The NORBCC offers a variety of programs designed to support disadvantaged businesses in New Orleans including networking opportunities, educational seminar series, business forums, and annual meetings. This measure allowed the NORBCC to continue this important work and increase their economic impact.

IMPROVEMENTS TO BLIGHT HEARING PROCESS

On June 21, the Council passed an ordinance authored by District “A” Councilmember Joseph Giarrusso to improve the blight hearing process. The ultimate goal of the ordinance was to reduce the time it takes to get blighted properties through the adjudication process. The new streamlined process allowed the City to schedule cost hearings and to record liens quicker. The changes did not affect due process or notification requirements, but simply removed the unnecessary delay.

“I introduced this ordinance with the goal of improving our city’s blight hearing process,” said Councilmember Giarrusso. “I am grateful to have the support of my colleagues and am confident that New Orleans neighborhoods will see a positive change as a result.”



Blighted property located in the Lower Ninth Ward courtesy of Politico.com)

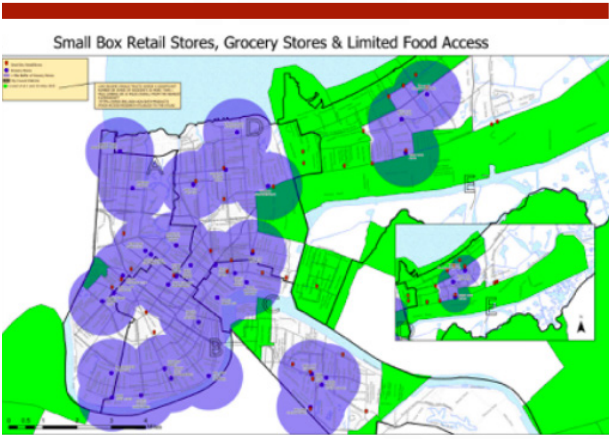
The number of existing small box discount stores exceeded twenty in the New Orleans area

CPC DIRECTED TO STUDY SMALL BOX DISCOUNT STORES

The Council passed a motion authored by Councilmember Nguyen directing the City Planning Commission (CPC), to conduct a study to appropriately classify, define and regulate “small box discount stores” to ensure greater diversity of food choices within New Orleans communities. The study was required to take place within 150 days of the passage of the motion on June 21, and a public hearing within 90 days.

At the time of the June 21 meeting, the number of existing small box discount stores exceeded twenty in the New Orleans area, many of which were in close proximity. This concentration had been proven

to negatively impact the plans of conventional grocery stores that offer fuller and more nutritional choices. The intent of this motion was to ensure greater diversity of food choices, increase health benefits, and encourage balanced development in neighborhoods. In its final study presented on Sept. 11, the CPC provided its recommended use standards, including requirements to provide fresh food and limitations on alcohol sales, proper restrictions (spacing and blockface), and recommendations as to the appropriate zoning districts where use should or should not be permitted.



Infrastructure, Utilities & Capital Improvements

INVESTIGATION INITIATED INTO ENTERGY ALLEGATIONS

The Council approved two measures initiating an investigation into Entergy New Orleans (ENO) relative to allegations of its use of paid actors in connection with the New Orleans Power Station (NOPS) proposal in New Orleans East. Motion M-18-196 expressed the Council’s intent to investigate the matter, and Motion M-18-197 authorized a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an independent investigator to conduct said investigation.

“Because we are the regulators of Entergy, we will be requesting any and ALL communications from them to comprehensively investigate this issue and ensure transparency for the public,” said Councilmember Moreno, who authored the motions. “We want residents to not only understand the process but review the process with us as we go along. They deserve to know the answers just as much as we do.”

The Council received the final investigatory report on Oct. 29, resulting in a special meeting on Oct. 31, at which the Council announced a **historic \$5 million fine for ENO** along with other required corrective procedures.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR S&WB ENFORCED

The Council adopted a resolution authored by Councilmember Giarrusso underscoring a letter the Council sent to the S&WB relative to its compliance with statutorily required quarterly reports.

“We will act to ensure these billing, manpower, and infrastructure issues are addressed,” said Councilmember Giarrusso. “Parts of the city have flooded three times within one year, including Mid-City neighborhoods and businesses across the street from a pumping station; clearly we need to put everything on the table. We are going to look at grey infrastructure, green infrastructure, and everything available to us to learn to live with water.”

The quarterly reporting requirement for the S&WB had been in place for approximately five years, meaning the Council should have had 20 reports to draw information and data from at the time of the regular meeting on May 24. However, Councilmember Giarrusso noted that **to date, the Council had only received two of those reports.**

We want residents to not only understand the process but review the process with us as we go along. They deserve to know the answers just as much as we do.



Councilmember Giarrusso and members of the City Council Public Works Committee

Health Care & Civic Services

COUNCIL APPROVES FUNDING ORDINANCES TO SUPPORT YOUTH PROGRAMMING

The Council approved a series of ordinances to appropriate to sponsor youth programming in New Orleans. Per the ordinance, funds were transferred to the Office of Workforce Development to sponsor youth participants from Algiers through the NOLA YouthWorks Summer Employment Program, to provide scholarships to individuals participating in the Midnight Basketball Program and to provide additional workforce development services for New Orleans youth.

LAUNCH OF FREE SWIMMING LESSONS PROGRAM FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

On June 4, District “B” Councilmember Jay H. Banks held a press conference alongside the New Orleans Fire Department (NOFD), EMS/Office of Homeland Security, NOPD, Helis Foundation and Dryades YMCA to announce the launch of a free swimming lessons program that was made available to all the city’s first responders.

Councilmember Banks initiated the development of the program following the heroic action of NOPD officer Brian Frank, who risked his life rescuing a woman from her car after she tried to drive through a flooded underpass. Officer Frank dove into the flood waters without the slightest hesitation, even though he was unable to swim. The Council recognized Officer Frank with a special proclamation at its meeting on May 24, during which Councilmember Banks committed to helping him and other first responders willing to risk their lives for the safety of others.

“I am extremely excited to announce this incredible program to provide swimming lessons for our city’s first responders,” said Councilmember Banks. “When I heard Officer Frank’s story, I was amazed to learn that he did this incredible and awe-inspiring thing, in spite of the fact that he never learned how to swim. I knew immediately that we had to do something to help and to express our gratitude.”

COUNCIL REVISES PUBLIC COMMENT CARDS

In advance of its regularly scheduled meeting on June 7, the Council revised its public comment cards to request reflection of a speaker receiving compensation for their testimony. Cards for both public comment on agenda items and zoning matters were updated.



Pelicans forward Lance Thomas at the Joe W. Brown Recreation Center during Midnight Basketball courtesy of NBA.com



Councilmember Banks speaking at a press conference to announce the new swimming and safety training program for first responders at the Dryades YMCA

The new public comment cards required the following:

- Provide Signature line for speaker to affirm that their statements are true and correct;
- Provide a check-box to acknowledge whether the speaker is receiving any type of compensation for their comments or attendance;
- Update the land use and committee card to appear more professional;
- Limit the General Matters Card to only one agenda item.

“To protect the public, our public processes, and - critically - the First Amendment Rights of all citizens, we need to bring as much transparency as possible to the Council Chambers,” said Councilmember Moreno. “We want all participants to know if any testimony is motivated by or in exchange for some type compensation and not by genuine interest in our democratic process. These changes help secure and elevate public comment for the engaged public, not for actors or special interests.”

“we need to bring as much transparency as possible to the Council Chambers... We want all participants to know if any testimony is motivated by or in exchange for some type compensation..”

Historical & Cultural Preservation

HONORARY STREET NAMING PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

The Council passed an ordinance amending the City Code to establish an honorary street naming process and provide approval criteria, application fees, and requirements. The creation of an honorary street naming dedication program enabled the City to commemorate individuals who have made significant contributions to the community and humanity. The new program allowed these citizens to be celebrated, without imposing the substantial burdens associated with modification of City’s Official Street Map.

Honorary street naming does not replace the official street name or require re-addressing of the street. It simply allows for a portion of a street to be renamed in commemoration of an exemplary citizen who meets certain criteria established by the Council. Requests for the renaming of City streets must be submitted to CPC.



Homer Plessy Way in New Orleans

COUNCIL RENAMES PORTION OF PRESS STREET IN HONOR OF HOMER PLESSY

The Council unanimously voted to approve an ordinance to rename a portion of Press Street, between Chartres Street and St. Claude Avenue, as Homer Plessy Way in honor of the New Orleans native who challenged the status quo of a racially segregated South. Homer Adolph Plessy, well-known as the plaintiff in the historic Plessy v. Ferguson United States Supreme Court case, fought segregation by refusing to ride in a Jim Crow streetcar designated for black passengers. The Supreme Court Decision upheld racial segregation and established the doctrine of “separate but equal.”

With this dedication, the entire City of New Orleans and the millions of visitors who travel to this popular area of the city each year will remember Homer Plessy and his instrumental role as a civil rights pioneer.



The Council with family and friends of Fats Domino

CAFFIN AVENUE RENAMED AS HONORARY ANTOINE “FATS” DOMINO DRIVE

The Council welcomed family members of the legendary Fats Domino to honor the New Orleans musician’s great life, legacy and impact on the city. Andrea Domino Brimmer, Adonica Domino, Antoinette Domino Smith, Anola Domino Hartzog and other members of the Domino family gave a presentation and received a proclamation from the Council prior to the adoption of the resolution to rename Caffin Avenue as Antoine “Fats” Domino Drive.

GENERAL MATTERS SPEAKER CARD (please print clearly) Date: _____

Presiding Officer: _____
I would like to speak regarding the following item: _____

Agenda Item & Page Number (motion, resolution, ordinance, order of business or report): _____

Support Oppose Info. Only

Name: _____
Address: _____
Representing: _____
Remarks: _____

(Please see speaker time rules on reverse of card)
Your signature required on the back hereof is certification that your statement is true and correct and an opportunity to acknowledge whether or not you have been compensated in exchange for your statement or attendance

Speaker Rules (Council Regulation 4)

1. A speaker can request to speak on each Agenda Item upon which a vote is to be taken.
2. Public comment is limited to a total of six (6) minutes per item upon which a vote is to be taken, with individual speakers limited to no more than three (3) minutes per item.
3. A member of the public wishing to speak on more than one agenda item (not including land use matters), shall limit his or her remarks to a total of six (6) minutes per meeting.
4. All items that a member wishes to address shall be itemized on (a) speaker cards, on which all items shall be listed, with the time to be allocated to each item specified in increments of not less than one (1) minute per item.
5. If multiple speaker cards are submitted on one agenda item, preference will be granted to members of the public who have not spoken previously during the meeting, either during general public comment or on another agenda item.
6. The Presiding Officer, in their discretion, may allow a speaker to combine remarks on multiple items up to speak to them during one appearance at the podium. The Presiding Officer shall have the sole authority to grant a speaker's request to have, speak, appear, or stand time to another speaker.

The provisions of this regulation do not apply to land use matters on the agenda, which are covered by the provisions of Rule 10.2(B).

I hereby affirm that the written or oral statements I give before the City Council or any Council Committee thereof will be true and correct. By signing my signature below, I acknowledge all information presented is of my own volition and true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Speaker: _____

Please check if you are a paid representative or receiving any type of compensation or thing of value in exchange for speaking or attending today.

As part of that new honorary street naming program, the newly renamed Antoine “Fats” Domino Drive will serve as a landmark for New Orleans residents and visitors alike to remember the true King of Rock and Roll, who passed away in October of 2017 at the age of 89.

LAND USE MATTERS & COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS (please print clearly) Date: _____

Presiding Officer: _____
I would like to speak regarding _____

In Support In Opposition Info. Only

Name: _____
Representing: _____
Address: _____
Remarks: _____

(Please see speaker time rules on reverse of card)
Your signature required on the back hereof is certification that your statement is true and correct and an opportunity to acknowledge whether or not you have been compensated in exchange for your statement or attendance

Speaker Rules- Land Use Matters (Zoning Dockets, HDLC, VCC, NCDAC Appeals and Design Review Dockets) (Council Rule 10.2(B))

A speaker can request to speak on any land use items on the agenda.
Public comment is limited to no more than 5 speakers on each side of the issue, no more than 3 minutes per person.

A speaker may assign any remaining time to another speaker, provided that person has filled out a speaker card, but no speaker may be allowed to speak for more than 3 minutes.

The provisions of this Rule do not apply to general matters on the agenda, which are covered by the provisions of Regulation 4.

I hereby affirm that the written or oral statements I give before the City Council or any Council Committee thereof will be true and correct. By signing my signature below, I acknowledge all information presented is of my own volition and true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Speaker: _____

Please check if you are a paid representative or receiving any type of compensation or thing of value in exchange for speaking or attending today.

COUNCIL TAKES STEPS TO REMEDY ISSUES WITH STR PROGRAM

The Council unanimously approved motions spearheaded by Councilmember Palmer to modify the City’s STR program,

which was approved by the Council in December 2016 and implemented April 2017. As of May 20, 2018, there were 4,554 active STR licenses in New Orleans. These motions gave the Council and the CPC the opportunity to review and revise the existing regulations as needed.

The approved proposal resulted in the following:

1. Directed the CPC to conduct a study on STRs within 120 days,
2. Created a nine-month Interim Zoning District (IZD) prohibiting the issuance of some STR licenses in certain zoning districts, and
3. No longer prohibited the issuing new commercial STRs except on first floor of a multi-story building allowing for residential uses.

“My colleagues and I are committed to finding a balance on how we keep the STR program but address the concerns of historic neighborhoods,” said Councilmember Palmer. “I campaigned on this issue, heard from my constituents and I am adamant about continuing open dialogue and discussions moving forward. This legislative package includes a process for a hearing to inform the public of developments of the study, gather their feedback and ultimately create a new STR law.”



Councilmember Palmer introducing the zoning change to temporarily ban new short-term rentals in New Orleans courtesy of NOLA.com

Every citizen and every guest experiences Canal Street at some point. It has languished in disrepair for decades, and we must tend to it and restore it to its vitality and grandeur with deliberate haste.

CPC DIRECTED TO STUDY REVITALIZATION OF HISTORIC CANAL STREET CORRIDOR

On May 24, the Council approved M-18-200 directing the CPC to engage in an in-depth study on initiatives to revitalize Canal Street. The goal of the study was to receive findings on why previous recommendations



Photo of blighted property on Canal Street courtesy of WDSU

were not able to be implemented and to identify ways to incentivize the use of upper floors on buildings along Canal Street, many of which have remained vacant for years. Through the motion, the Council also asked the CPC to examine whether encouraging the use of upper floors of STRs along the Canal corridor, between the Mississippi River and Claiborne Avenue, could spur revitalization of the area. Specifically, the Council asked the CPC to study whether this would attract more diverse and upscale retail on the bottom floors of these

properties and possibly relieve the demand for STRs in residential neighborhoods.

“Canal Street is our grand boulevard,” said Councilmember Williams. “Every citizen and every guest experiences Canal Street at some point. It has languished in disrepair for decades, and we must tend to it and restore it to its vitality and grandeur with deliberate haste.”

Resilience & Environmental Sustainability



NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REAUTHORIZED FOR ADDITIONAL YEAR

The Council reauthorized the Neighborhood Conservation District Advisory Committee (NCDAC) for one additional year from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, with previous guidelines and requirements on NCDAC membership and procedures remaining in effect. The Council created the NCDAC in September 2014 to provide rules, procedures, and applicable timelines to govern Council action relative to applications for permits for demolitions of existing structures in a Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD).

COUNCIL AIMS TO CREATE JOBS AND DIVERSIFY THE CITY'S ENERGY PORTFOLIO

In June, the Council took initial steps toward creating a community solar program, making solar energy more accessible to renters and low-income residents. The Council also approved steps by Entergy New Orleans to install five megawatts of a planned 100 megawatts of solar capacity on city rooftops, and to move up by a full year the installation of advanced “smart meters” that residents can use to monitor, and potentially reduce, their electricity use. The Council received public comment on the draft rules over the next several months leading up to consideration of the final set of rules at the end of the year.

“Bringing increased renewable resources to meet our energy needs isn’t just environmentally sound, but is also an affordable solution to our electricity needs,” said Councilmember Moreno. “New, sustainable resources reduce pollution, create new jobs and industries, and diversify our energy portfolio while making power more affordable for ratepayers over the long-term.”

Notable Orders Of Business



Gov. John Bel Edwards addressing the Louisiana Legislature at the start of its special session in February courtesy of NOLA.com

OPPOSITION OF SENATE BILL 462

The Council adopted a resolution opposing Senate Bill 462 and any state law that sought to strip zoning power from municipalities and parishes. If passed, the bill would have allowed the state government to preempt the Council's ability to promote the future development of affordable housing.

In recent years, New Orleans has struggled with a shortage of affordable housing options for low and moderate income families due to significant

statewide cuts to federal housing programs. In order to combat the current crisis, municipal intervention by the Council was deemed increasingly necessary. The Council stressed the need to combat this issue and produce economically integrated housing developments through the implementation of policies and zoning laws. The provisions listed in Senate Bill 462 would have greatly hindered the Council, and other Louisiana municipalities, in accomplishing this goal. As a result, Governor Edwards ultimately vetoed Senate Bill 462 on May 26, representing a huge victory for New Orleans and the entire State of Louisiana.

"This resolution goes way beyond the issue of affordable housing," said Councilmember Williams. "We know what's best for the people of our city because we are amongst them every day. It's imperative that city officials are able to make decisions on behalf of their constituents without being held hostage by state lawmakers."

COUNCIL APPROVES INCREASE IN PARKING CITATION THRESHOLD FOR BOOTING CARS

At the regular meeting on April 19, the Council unanimously passed a parking citation ordinance that raised the threshold for booting cars in New Orleans. Ordinance No. 32,236 represented a joint effort by Councilmember Brossett and State Senator J.P. Morrell to amend the City Code to increase the threshold for booting or "immobilizing" a vehicle due to unpaid parking citations from one to three.

Since 2009, the City's booting statute of just a single ticket had proven an extreme and unsustainable cost burden. Councilmember Brossett's efforts to remedy the previous law were widely applauded by local residents, many of whom had suffered the high costs of booted cars without ever having known they had received a ticket.

New Orleanians deserve better than the harsh and unfair treatment they've received under the previous law.

“This policy has been allowed to go on in New Orleans for far too long, and I’m proud to take this step with my former colleague Senator Morrell to remedy the situation,” said Councilmember Brossett. “New Orleanians deserve better than the harsh and unfair treatment they’ve received under the previous law.”

ORDINANCE PASSED TO STREAMLINE ALCOHOL PERMITTING PROCESS

The Council passed an ordinance by former Councilmember-At-Large Stacy Head amending the City Code to modify regulations for the issuance and application of alcohol permits. The approved measure represented a replacement to a by-request ordinance authored by the Landrieu Administration and introduced by Councilmember Head, which required liquor license-holding businesses to install surveillance cameras that would be shared with the NOPD among other changes.

The replacement ordinance no longer included the camera requirement and pertained solely to alcohol permitting in an effort to streamline the issuance of liquor licenses. With this change, the Department of Safety and Permits became responsible for the distribution of licenses, in lieu of the Department of Finance. The Department of Safety and Permits already issued the bulk of City licenses and permits, with alcohol permitting among the last to be brought under its jurisdiction. This ordinance signified a rational and amendment to the City Code, bringing liquor licensing into the City’s One Stop Shop.

COUNCIL HONORS LATE NEW ORLEANS CULINARY MATRIARCH ELLA BRENNAN



Members of the Council with the Louisiana Restaurant Association and Brennan family on June 7

At the regular meeting on June 7, the Council honored the life and legacy of culinary legend Ella Brennan. Members of the Brennan family were in attendance to receive a proclamation initiated by Councilmember Moreno and signed by all members of the Council. Mrs. Brennan, a lifelong New Orleanian, broke every boundary in the male-dominated restaurant business where she worked since 1946, and consistently served as an ambassador of the city and its indigenous cuisine to the rest of the world.

“Ella Brennan was a towering figure in New Orleans culture and shattered so many glass ceilings in a historically male-dominated industry,” said Councilmember Moreno. “Her commitment to

excellence and her indomitable work ethic were just two of her extraordinary qualities. Further, Ms. Ella’s legacy of mentorship is evidenced by the multitude of successful culinary entrepreneurs cultivated under her loving and attentive eye. New Orleans has lost a giant and a gem, and we will all miss her deeply.”

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MEETINGS MOVE TO COUNCIL CHAMBER

The Council adopted a resolution requesting that all Civil Service Commission meetings be held in the Council Chamber at City Hall to allow greater engagement with the community and address pressing hiring challenges. At the time, meetings of the Commission were held on the 9th floor of the Orleans Tower building located at 1340 Poydras Street.



Councilmember Williams with Felicia Kahn in 2017

The updates to the Council Chamber from the much-needed renovations during the first part of 2018 greatly enhanced the space as a public forum for the community. Therefore, the Council concluded that it should be utilized by the Commission to more efficiently and transparently perform its vital functions of recruiting and retaining the highest-quality workforce and addressing workforce-related issues within City departments and agencies.

COUNCIL RECOGNIZES FEMALE RIGHTS ADVOCATES

At its regular meeting on July 26, the Council took time to formally honor the late Felicia Kahn for her life's devotion to the cause of progress and human

rights. The Councilmembers mourned the loss of their dear friend Felicia Kahn, a political activist, mentor and icon who spent nearly seven decades of her life fighting for equal rights in Louisiana and across the United States. Additionally, the Council recognized representatives of Emerge Louisiana for their work to help cultivate talented female leaders for public office in New Orleans. Emerge offers an in-depth, six-month, 70-hour training program to aspiring women leaders to provide them with cutting-edge tools and necessary training to run successful political campaigns.

NEW ORLEANS WELCOMES KING AND QUEEN OF SPAIN IN CELEBRATION OF TRICENTENNIAL

On June 14, Councilmembers joined Mayor LaToya Cantrell and other City officials and representatives in welcoming King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain to the City of New Orleans. The historic visit, which took place in conjunction with the City's Tricentennial celebration, included a private meeting with Governor John Bel Edwards, a welcome reception hosted by the Mayor at Gallier Hall, a visit



Councilmember Moreno greets Queen Letizia of Spain

St. Louis Cathedral and the Cabildo, a performance from Mardi Gras Indians and jazz clarinetist Dr. Michael White, and more.



New Orleans City Council

LEGISLATIVE ACTION 2018

3rd Quarter



Crime Prevention & Public Safety

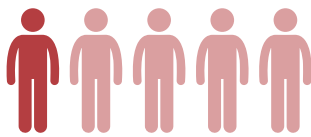
NEW LAW REDUCES NEW ORLEANS TRAFFIC ARRESTS

The Council unanimously passed an ordinance to clarify the duties of the NOPD Traffic Bureau and update existing requirements relative to traffic arrests and the issuing of citations. Ordinance No. 32,311 amended the previous law to allow for citations, as opposed to required arrests, when dealing with certain traffic offenses.

With this change, NOPD officers were no longer required to arrest drivers for suspended licenses and other violations, allowing them to put more time and resources toward hard crime. However, drivers who commit serious offenses such as driving under the influence, hit and runs and reckless driving are still arrested per Louisiana state law.

“This ordinance moves our city forward with policies that make sense, and in order to do that, we need to stop jailing people just because they’re having issues with their driver’s licenses,” said Councilmember Moreno. “We want a department that’s focused on preventing violence and property crimes, and this will enable them to do that.”

Allowing them [NOPD officers] to put more time and resources toward hard crime.



ONE IN FIVE

said they witnessed a murder

STUDENTS AND COUNCILMEMBERS SPEAK OUT AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

As the first special order of business on Sept. 20, the Council welcomed student leaders from InspireNOLA Charter Network to speak on the devastating effects of gun violence in their schools and surrounding communities following the shooting death of 15-year-old Eleanor McMain student Chance Smith. According to an Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies survey of children living in Central City, one in five said they had witnessed a murder, four out of ten had seen someone shot, and more than half said that someone close to them had been murdered. (Example Image)



FOUR OUT OF TEN

had seen someone shot

Following the order of business inside the Chamber, the Council joined hundreds of high school students, teachers and advocates from across the city for a peace rally on the front steps of City Hall. Students and Councilmembers spoke on their own personal experiences with gun violence and stressed the need for reforms and partnerships. Councilmember Palmer suggested the students who gave testimony form an advisory committee to serve as allies to the Council to ensure ongoing collaboration in the fight against gun violence.



MORE THAN HALF

said that someone close to them had been murdered

“Seeing hundreds of young people from across the city coming together to raise awareness about gun violence and gun safety inspires me and should give us

all hope that we can change the status quo,” said Councilmember Palmer. “This is an opportunity to urge everyone in our communities to keep fighting for change and the right to be safe from gun violence.”

COUNCILMEMBERS HOST “CHILDREN OF CENTRAL CITY” FILM SCREENING & PANEL DISCUSSION

Councilmembers Moreno and Banks, in partnership with the United Way of Southeast Louisiana, The Times Picayune, Tulane University, Ashé Power House Theater, Louisiana Institute for Children in Families, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, and New Orleans Family Justice Center, held a special screening of the powerful documentary: “The Children of Central City.” In tandem with a powerful series in the Times Picayune, this event helped to raise awareness about the tremendous impact trauma has had on generations of New Orleans children throughout all neighborhoods.

To ensure momentum was maintained, the Council adopted Resolution R-18-310 to request the building and implementation of trauma-informed systems within the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) system to include public, private, parochial, and charter school sites. Through partnerships with leaders in this space such as the New Orleans Family Justice Center, Tulane Violence Prevention Institute, Louisiana Center for Children’s Rights, Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies, Children’s Bureau of New Orleans, and countless others, the Council hoped to immediately begin to address the needs of the city’s children.



Eleanor McMain Secondary School students protesting gun violence at the peace rally outside City Hall

Economic Development & Business Development

COUNCIL AUTHORIZES NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

The Council approved an ordinance to establish a new economic development district near the Southeast corner of Howard Avenue and Broad Street. In April, Drive Shack announced its \$29 million plan to transform the former Times-Picayune building on Howard Avenue into a golf entertainment complex with more than 300 new jobs. The Broad Street Sports Entertainment and Dining Economic Development District is governed by the Council and serves to contribute to the ongoing economic development and growth of this rich and diverse area of the city.

Drive Shack announced its \$29 million plan to transform the former Times-Picayune building on Howard Avenue into a golf entertainment complex with more than **300 NEW JOBS.**

CPC INCORPORATES SMART HOUSING MIX RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council approved Motion M-18-320 directing the CPC to incorporate certain recommendations and initiatives contained in the Smart Housing Mix Ordinance Study. Specifically, the motion provided recommended CZO text amendments to capture three potential mandatory inclusionary zoning initiatives: establish a mandatory inclusionary zoning overlay district, create a new mandatory inclusionary base zoning district, and create a mandatory inclusionary zoning planned development classification.

The Council requested the Smart Housing Mix Study

in 2016 through Motion M-16-490, which directed the CPC to examine the creation and implementation of a Smart Housing Mix Ordinance that would leverage market rate development activity to build and preserve lower-priced housing. The Smart Housing Mix seeks to expand affordable housing in developing neighborhoods by ensuring a percentage of new units are affordable for the average worker while also providing developers with incentives to build those units. The Council is expected to vote on the CPC's final recommendations regarding the Smart Housing Mix in 2019.

COUNCIL PASSES ORDINANCE TO IMPROVE COMPLIANCE WITH DBE REQUIREMENTS

The Council unanimously approved an ordinance to strengthen compliance for Disenfranchised Business Enterprise (DBE) participation in professional contracts awarded by the Council. The ordinance aligned the Council with DBE requirements that already existed for contracts awarded by the City, and helped ensure citywide inclusion and opportunity so that all could benefit from business generated by the City of New Orleans.

"I believe strongly in building a more equitable New Orleans where everyone has the opportunity to compete and win business in order to create jobs and grow wealth," said Councilmember Moreno. "I am so proud to move this ordinance forward to promote equity within our own house, the City Council. This measure will equalize and codify goals previously applied to the executive branch and ensure DBEs in New Orleans have the opportunity to grow and compete by working with us on the Council."

JOINT RESOLUTION WITH JEFFERSON PARISH ADOPTED TO PROMOTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

The Council adopted Resolution R-18-332, a joint endeavor with Jefferson Parish Councilmember Cynthia Lee Sheng, encouraging the RTA, the City of New Orleans Office of Transportation, Jefferson Parish

Department of Transportation Administration, and Jefferson Transit to work collectively to address the need for regional transit routes. Through the resolution the Council affirmed its commitment to support a regional transit strategy that allows New Orleans citizens greater access to job opportunities and reduces multiple fare costs and excessive transfers.

Infrastructure, Utilities & Capital Improvements

COUNCIL SUPPORTS COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

At the regular meeting on July 26, the Council heard a presentation from the New Orleans Complete Streets Coalition on the data-driven and equity-focused Complete Streets Policy that aims to enhance safety, health, sustainability, and the equitable distribution of biking, walking, and transit improvement projects for all New Orleanians. Following the presentation, the Council presented a proclamation to Bike Easy and adopted a resolution expressing its full support and commitment toward the implementation of the Complete Streets Policy and ensuring an equitable, connected transportation network within the City of New Orleans.

"As we continue to work toward improving our streets and roadways, this legislation puts in place a requirement that every street improvement project must include safety features for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians," said Councilmember Palmer. "The Complete Streets program will also provide data to help us create a more comprehensive citywide transit plan that's safe and convenient for everyone who lives in New Orleans."



Complete Streets Coalition members Robert Hening Bell and Dan Favre of Bike Easy, Coretta Lagarde of American Heart Association, and Dr. Jeanette Gustat of Tulane University presenting to the Council




COUNCIL APPROVES
MOTION M-18-401
 BY COUNCILMEMBERS
 BROSETT & GIARRUSSO
 INITIATING RFQ
 PROCESS TO RETAIN
 LEGAL, TECHNICAL &
 FINANCIAL CONSULTING
 SERVICES RELATIVE
 TO SEWER, WATER &
 DRAINAGE ISSUES.

MEASURE PASSED TO PROTECT CITY DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

The Council unanimously approved an ordinance to prevent harmful materials from entering into city drainage systems. The law focused on preventing the obstruction and depositing of harmful materials (including construction/demolition debris, hazardous liquids, refuse/garbage) into catch basins and drainage canals, and increased penalties to serve as a greater deterrence for interfering with the free flow of drainage.

This critical step brought New Orleans closer in line with stricter requirements and penalties for dumping in surrounding parishes.

“We are all responsible for improving quality of life in New Orleans,” said Councilmember Giarrusso. “These changes provide additional tools to the city to ensure that not only do our public spaces look good, but our drainage system functions as well as possible.”

*We are all responsible
for improving quality
of life in New Orleans*

COUNCIL INITIATES RFQ PROCESS TO OBTAIN S&WB CONSULTANTS

The Council passed a motion initiating a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to retain legal, technical and financial consultants to advise and represent the Council on matters involving the S&WB. Motion M-18-401, which was unanimously approved by the Public Works Committee on Sept. 17, represented yet another step taken by the Council to remedy ongoing issues within utility.

“This Council has taken great strides in battling various issues within the S&WB, but there’s much work yet to be done,” said Councilmember Brossett. “This motion will finally provide us with the critical expertise we need to review, address and alleviate ongoing concerns and ensure the utility is better equipped to serve the needs of the city’s residents.”

Health Care & Civic Services

SHIFT CHANGE PRESENTS ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN SERVICE INDUSTRY

As a special order of business on July 12, the Council heard a presentation from Shift Change highlighting new initiatives to help combat sexual harassment in the service industry. Shift Change is a local non-profit organization engaged in sexual violence prevention, response, and education for service industry professionals.

According to a 2017 report from the University of New Orleans, “leisure and hospitality” employed roughly one of every seven workers in the area (approximately 88,900 people). As the industry continues to grow and expand to sustain increased levels of tourism, so has the need for the types of services provided by Shift Change. Since local experts Caroline Richter and Mark Schettler founded the organization in 2018, Shift Change had grown to include veteran members of the New Orleans food and beverage community and was nationally recognized for its comprehensive personalized sexual harassment training.

COUNCIL ADVOCATES FOR TRAUMA-INFORMED SYSTEMS IN SCHOOLS

The Council unanimously adopted two resolutions by Councilmember Moreno advocating on behalf of New Orleans youth suffering the adverse effects of trauma. Traumatic experiences in childhood can have long-

term impacts on a child’s ability to learn, putting them at heightened risk for mental health and substance abuse issues, as well as juvenile delinquency. Therapeutic techniques, such as cognitive behavioral therapy, have proven to decrease symptoms of violence-induced mental health disorders by an average of 50 percent in the first three months of treatment, according to Tulane University’s School of Medicine. As expressed by Resolution R-18-310, which was adopted by the Council on July 6, these systems are vital and should be implemented throughout all OPSB schools to promote the well-being of students, ensure their success, and protect them from further harm.

On Aug. 9, the Council heard from Rachel Gassert and Heather Kindschy of the Louisiana Center for Children’s Rights (LCCR) on the need for trauma-informed approaches for kids in the juvenile justice system, and presented them with a proclamation for their work in criminal justice reform. Following the presentation, the Council adopted a corresponding resolution requesting the Children and Youth Planning Board examine issues surrounding Childhood Trauma and provide recommendations.

Therapeutic techniques, such as cognitive behavioral therapy, have proven to decrease symptoms of violence-induced mental health disorders by an average of 50 percent in the first three months of treatment

RESOLUTION ADOPTED AFFIRMING COUNCIL SUPPORT OF REGIONAL TRANSIT

The Council adopted a resolution encouraging the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA), New Orleans Office of Transportation, Jefferson Parish Department of Transit Administration, and Jefferson Transit to work collectively to address the need for regional transit routes. Steady job growth, particularly in the healthcare industry, had fueled an even greater demand for transit connectivity between job hubs such as the University Medical Center in New Orleans and the Ochsner Medical Center in Jefferson Parish. As a result, it had become increasingly imperative to establish regional connectivity, inclusive of Orleans and Jefferson Parishes, to build a qualified workforce, promote energy conservation, establish consistency with other transportation projects, enhance quality of life, and improve access to opportunity for all.

This initiative represented ongoing efforts by the Council to further integrate and streamline transit routes. In September 2016, Councilmember and former Transportation Chair Brossett authored a resolution supporting



Photo courtesy of NORTA.com

the reinstatement of the Inter-Parish Day Ride Program to ease the burden on commuters who had been required to pay separate fares since the program was discontinued following Hurricane Katrina.

“While I am disappointed that it’s taken the City this long to get to this point, I am proud to finally see my efforts come to fruition and to ease this unnecessary burden for our residents,” said Councilmember Brossett. “I look forward to seeing the positive impacts, including increased access to jobs and opportunities that have been inaccessible for too many years.”

FIRST STEP APPROVED FOR NEW MILLAGE TO SUPPORT SENIORS

The Council unanimously approved Motion M-18-388 announcing its intention to call an election at which the voters of New Orleans would be asked to approve authorizing a special millage to support services for

senior citizens. At the election on March 30, 2019, New Orleanians will be asked to authorize the Council to annually levy a special ad valorem tax not to exceed two mills upon all taxable property situated within the boundaries of New Orleans, effective Jan. 1, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2024. The millage would go directly to senior services and the homestead exemption would apply - meaning the first \$75,000 of the home’s value would be exempt to minimize the burden for the city’s poor and ensure they were not over-taxed.

“This is so long overdue,” said Councilmember Williams. “Our seniors have stretched a dime and made the most out of a shoestring budget for a very long time. We can no longer push this off to deal with other seemingly more pressing matters. The values, discipline and character exemplified by our senior citizens is something we should all strive to live up to and emulate. If that were the case, we wouldn’t have half the issues we have here in the city today. I believe the people of New Orleans will do the right thing and step up for our seniors next March because a vote for our seniors is a vote for all of us.”



Photo courtesy of the New Orleans Council on Aging

Historical & Cultural Preservation

COUNCIL COMMITS TO PROTECT FREE SPEECH

Following the decision, and later retraction, of Kenner Mayor Ben Zahn to ban Nike products, the Council adopted a resolution expressing its unequivocal support of the First Amendment. Per the resolution, the Council vowed to uphold the constitutional right to free speech even in times when individual standpoints might differ. The First Amendment right to freedom of speech belongs not just to those in a majority



“Here in New Orleans, we believe our kids can wear whatever sports apparel they want. Moreover, we believe in our 1st Amendment rights; that the Government has no role in prohibiting or chilling speech or attire some politicians don’t like. We believe in just, humane, and effective policing that guarantees equal rights to all – regardless of race, color, or creed – policing that does all it can to avoid unnecessary and unwarranted deaths. Only by continuing to push for these reforms will our faith in our police department grow and our City become safer. “

-Council Vice President Helena Moreno

opinion, but to every American. Resolution R-18-402 stated that all booster clubs would be allowed to purchase, utilize and wear their desired brand of clothing while at any New Orleans facility.

“It is truly disappointing that someone would want to deny children the opportunity to participate in safe, structured, specialized activities because he wants to make a political statement,” said Councilmember

Banks. “Most public recreation facility activities are paid for by the parents, booster clubs, and other supporters of children who use the facility and paid for out of their own pockets. No child’s development should be used as a pawn in political chess games, that is way out of bounds. This is the United States of America, not Russia; our citizens should be free to purchase whatever they want to.”

Resilience & Environmental Sustainability

ST. JOHN DRAINAGE PROJECT MOVES TOWARD COMPLETION

The Council unanimously passed an ordinance authorizing the Mayor of New Orleans to enter into a CEA between the City, the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to facilitate the completion of the Bayou St. John Drainage Project.

In 2016, the Council authorized the \$7 million project for Bayou St. John as part of a larger mitigation program to reduce flooding in the area. Those program funds were dispersed among eight neighborhoods throughout the city in order to implement various drainage projects, and help the city find a better, more sustainable way of managing its water.

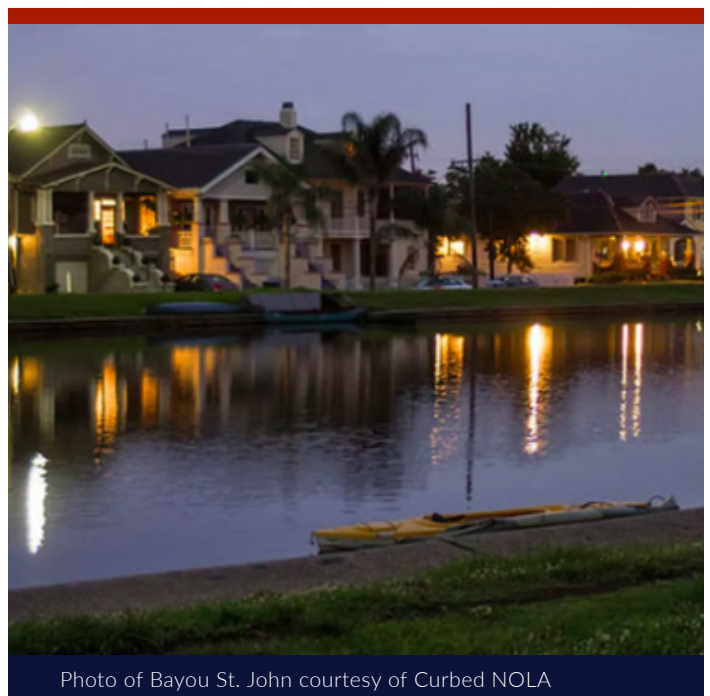


Photo of Bayou St. John courtesy of Curbed NOLA

FIRST SMART AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

On July 31, the Council convened its first Smart and Sustainable Cities Committee meeting chaired by Councilmember Williams. The committee members are Councilmembers Moreno, Nguyen, Banks and Giarrusso.

The creation of the committee emerged earlier this year when then UCTT Committee Chair Williams announced New Orleans' engagement with the Smart Cities Program. The Smart Cities initiative holds the promise of making New Orleans a city of the future with the most advanced technology, infrastructure and integrated services imaginable. Since the initial announcement, New Orleans has received global and national attention and praise for its smart and sustainable city initiative. The City has formed a sister-city relationship with San Antonio, which is already doing some groundbreaking work on Smart City grid modernization and distributed energy resources.

Over the course of the past year, the Council has already moved the ball forward on a number of projects that helped jumpstart the Smart City initiative, including a decision to direct Entergy to accelerate the advanced metering infrastructure deployment by a full year. At the Council's direction, ENO submitted a grid modernization plan, which represents a cornerstone of any successful Smart City program.

At the opening of its first meeting, Councilmember Williams said, "As chair of this new committee, I will work with my colleagues to make sure we abide by some basic principles: 1) equity of access across neighborhoods, socioeconomic lines and age groups, 2) the pursuit and implementation of sustainable technologies, and 3) environmental health. Adherence to these themes will change how we communicate and effectively expand our connectivity to essential services. We are committed to working closely with our Mayor in pursuit of these efforts to make this a truly cooperative effort."



Notable Orders Of Business

COUNCIL DIRECTS ADMINISTRATION TO STUDY SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES

The Council approved a motion directing the Chief Administrative Office to execute a mandatory sexual harassment climate survey to assess the general awareness and knowledge of the City's sexual harassment policies.

Following reports that surfaced earlier this year, the Council has remained vigilant in its efforts to investigate, assess and remedy sexual harassment issues within City Hall.

On June 7, the Council became the first city government in Louisiana to adopt a comprehensive sexual harassment policy ordinance. Through that legislation, an investigation is now mandatory anytime a municipal employee reported a claim of sexual misconduct. Additionally, it will help the Council identify employee needs, gaps in policy awareness, and workplace expectations.

"I remain as committed as ever to continue to lead the charge to enact the highest standards and ensure our city government is one of the safest, most welcoming workplaces in the country," said Councilmember Moreno. "It is imperative that we gain an understanding of what exactly is going on here at City Hall - the public and our colleagues deserve it."

On June 7, the Council became the **first city** government in Louisiana to adopt a **comprehensive sexual harassment policy ordinance.**

RESOLUTION ASSERTS COUNCIL COMMITMENT TO EQUAL PAY

The Council adopted a resolution expressing its strong commitment to equal pay for equal work that formally directed the Civil Service Commission to execute a Pay Disparity Study. The resolution was a response to recent data including a 2014 Tulane University study that showed the wage gap between male and female full-time employees in New Orleans was approximately 21 percent, or \$9,567 less income for women and families in the city each year. The study also showed that families with female heads-of-household had an income of 48 percent less than families overall.

Per the resolution, the Pay Disparity Study would include the following: a review of the City's job classification system, an analysis of actual wages paid, a review of job categories and pay grades for comparable worth, recommendations on ways to address inequities, and proposed processes for employees to seek recourse within city government when pay discrimination is suspected. By tackling the issue of discriminatory pay systems within city government, the Council hoped to increase efficiency and productivity by attracting the most qualified employees, reducing turnover and fostering an environment of true gender equity.



New Orleans City Council

LEGISLATIVE ACTION 2018

4th Quarter



Crime Prevention & Public Safety

COUNCIL HOLDS HEARINGS ON MAYOR'S PROPOSED 2019 CITY BUDGETS

At the regular meeting on Nov. 1, Mayor LaToya Cantrell and members of her administration presented the proposed 2019 Capital and Operating Budgets for the City of New Orleans. The Council then held a series of public hearings to receive budget presentations from various agencies as well as feedback from residents beginning Nov. 9, and continuing the following week from Nov. 12 - 16.



Mayor Cantrell proposed that the City begin phasing out 20 of the 31 non-school zone cameras and turn off cameras in school zones outside of school hours in 2019. Mayor Cantrell also recommended increases in department budgets from the General Fund with \$36.4 million in additional funding to be distributed amongst 20 departments including public safety for specific initiatives in 2019.

“As Chairman of the Budget Committee, I am proud to welcome my former colleague Mayor Cantrell back to the Council Chamber to present the 2019 Operating and Capital Budgets,” said Councilmember Brossett. “The residents of New Orleans deserve efficient and sustainable government services, and this begins with the budget process.”



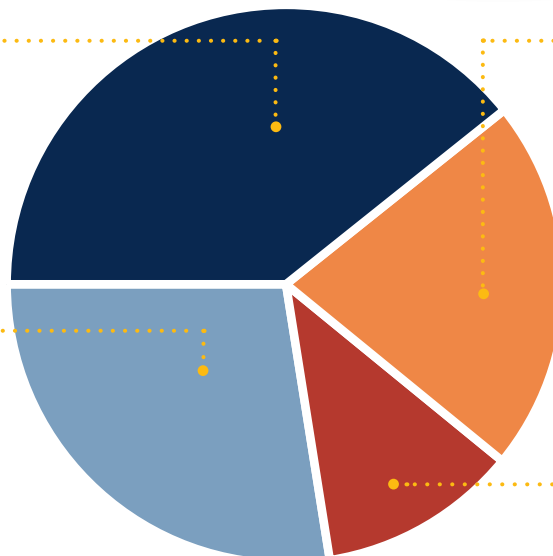
The presentation also highlighted several key increases in expenditures for 2019. Those included additional police recruits, adjustments to pension obligations and millage payouts for NOPD due to pay raises that were instituted in the beginning of 2018, pay raises for classified employees, funding to support the CleanUpNOLA initiative, additional personnel for New Orleans Emergency Medical Services (EMS), funding for new Mayoral initiatives such as the Office of Transportation, Office of Youth and Families, and Office of Utilities, and additional personnel and funding to the Coroner's Office for opioid case services. The full 2019 Annual Budget is available online at nola.gov.

\$14.2 MILLION PUBLIC SAFETY

NOPD, HOHSEP, EMS,
NOFP, and Coroner

\$9.9 MILLION INFRASTRUCTURE

Pay Raises, Finance, Property
Management, Parks & Parkways,
and City Planning Commission



\$7.7 MILLION QUALITY OF LIFE

Mayor's Office, Sanitation,
and City Council

\$4.2 MILLION COURTS

Criminal District Court
District Attorney, Municipal
and Traffic Court, and
Juvenile Court

COUNCIL LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE FEATURING CRIME DATA SYSTEM

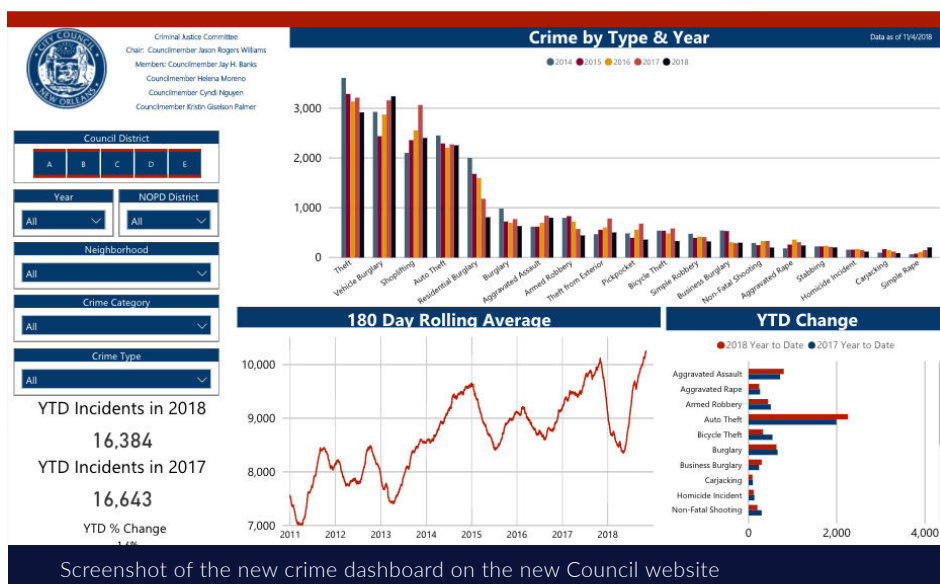
On Nov. 5, the Council held a press conference to announce the launch of its new website. The new site, council.nola.gov, marked a vast improvement to the site that it replaced. The website was designed and is maintained by public servants, replacing the privately hosted platform which operated on an outdated architecture. Council.nola.gov boasts a powerful search engine that gives the public easy access to legislative history, city laws and past meeting summaries. The website is mobile friendly and integrates seamlessly with the Council's meeting and agenda archive as well as the Council's legislative history.

The new site, council.nola.gov, marked a vast improvement to the site that it replaced.

Notably, the site features a new crime dashboard developed by City Council Public Safety Analyst Jeff Asher with input from Criminal Justice Chair Williams, which gives residents a glimpse into the City's criminal justice system. The dashboard includes a snapshot of the city's jail population and a chart logging major crimes from the NOPD's database of calls for service. With the crime tracker dashboard, anyone can now see New Orleans crime figures and evaluate trends in their area as they develop using open data provided by NOPD. Meanwhile, the jail population snapshot dashboard provides a one-of-a-kind look into who is currently in custody in New Orleans using data from the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office. This information is critical to showing the city's shrinking jail population and highlighting ways the system is succeeding and needs work.

"The public deserves absolute transparency as it relates to public safety and they should have unfettered, unfiltered access to the actual data that measures that effort," said Councilmember Williams. "Making information more accessible and well organized is not just a tenant of smart cities or of criminal justice reform, it is a common-sense measure for the public good. I'm excited that all residents will now have

quick and easy access to the information contained in the Crime Dashboard on the new Council website. Having a real baseline such as this can tell us where we are succeeding and where we are failing. Commitments to efforts at transparency by government departments like this one are necessary for a safer and healthier New Orleans."



Screenshot of the new crime dashboard on the new Council website

Councilmember Brossett provided the vision for the new website, working with Council Chief of Staff, David Gavlinski, and the City’s Information Technology and Innovation team to build the new site from scratch. The effort represents the culmination of a long-held goal to upgrade the Council’s web presence while maintaining its meeting archive. It also achieves the goal of bringing the website in-house, which provides for cost savings as well as the ability to roll out ongoing improvements directly to the public.



Councilmembers Brossett, Williams and Nguyen alongside Council Chief of Staff David Gavlinski, Public Safety Analyst Jeff Asher and partners at a press conference announcing the launch of the new Council website and crime dashboard

Economic Development & Business Development

TEMPORARY IZD ESTABLISHED TO CONSIDER ZONING REGULATIONS IN ALGIERS

The Council approved Motion M-18-438 establishing a new temporary IZD named the Algiers Riverfront IZD. Authored by Councilmember Palmer, the motion imposed a six-month height limit of 40 feet or three stories for new developments, prohibited gas stations and required developers of certain projects to apply for a conditional use permit. With this measure, the City pressed pause on developments along the riverfront from the Crescent City Connection Bridge to Federal City, allowing residents and the CPC time to work together to create a comprehensive vision for the future of Algiers.

“I started working in Algiers Riverview 25 years ago as a volunteer with neighborhood president, Beryl Ragas, to identify houses of seniors and disabled folks who needed help,” said Councilmember Palmer. “Through this process and over many years, I sat at hundreds of kitchen tables across Old Algiers and heard stories of disenfranchisement and exclusion. This temporary ban will allow the neighborhoods to determine if the current design guidelines are reflective of what the community wants, and recommend the appropriate changes if necessary.”

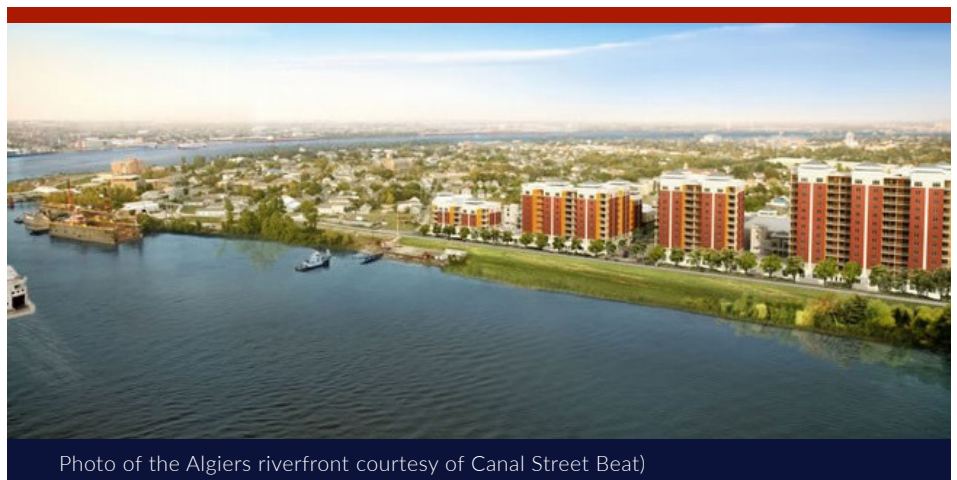


Photo of the Algiers riverfront courtesy of Canal Street Beat)

ZONING CHANGE APPROVED FOR 1152 MAGAZINE STREET PROPERTY

The Council approved a conditional use to permit an indoor amusement facility with standard restaurant, bar, and live entertainment at 1152 Magazine St. This change of use from a commercial hospitality laundry service to an interactive indoor amusement facility would improve walkability, increase visitors and spur economic development in a relatively underused area by helping connect the active part of the Central Business District to the active part of the Magazine Street commercial corridor.

“We worked very diligently with both the applicants and neighbors to come up with a plan that would work for both,” said Councilmember Banks. “The result is a good and sound policy designed to allow the business to operate and be respectful to those impacted. This project will bring jobs and opportunities for citizens right here in New Orleans where they can put their talents on display while earning a living to support themselves and their families.”

COUNCIL REQUESTS CPC PUBLIC HEARING FOR NEW MARIGNY HOTEL

The Council passed a motion directing the CPC to hold a public hearing for the consideration of a conditional use to permit a hotel at 501 Elysian Fields Avenue and 548 Marigny Street. If approved, it would become the first major hotel chain to break ground in the Faubourg Marigny neighborhood, spurring increased tourism and economic development within the area.

COUNCIL PROMOTES DIVERSITY WITHIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Council approved an ordinance to amend the City Code regarding appointments to the Economic Development Advisory Committee to promote diversity in community representation. The ordinance increased the number of nominating entities, augments requisite qualifications of membership, and established a schedule for submittal of recommendations to the Mayor and the Council.

The Economic Development Advisory Committee is comprised of 11 members appointed by various agencies that now include the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, the New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce, the Collaborative Community Initiative, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana, and the Asian Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana to ensure representation amongst the city’s various minority groups. Per the ordinance, each entity will submit a list of three nominees to the Mayor, who will then appoint at least one of which pending approval of the Council.



COUNCILMEMBER NGUYEN HOSTS INAUGURAL JINGLE ON THE BOULEVARD PARADE

On Saturday, Dec. 15 the first Tricentennial Jingle On The Boulevard Parade was held in New Orleans East. The parade was hosted by Councilmember Nguyen alongside various City officials and community partners to improve the quality of life for local residents and ensure a steady flow of tourism into New Orleans East and the entire city as part of its Tricentennial celebration. The inaugural event rolled from Crowder Boulevard to Lake Forest Plaza, and featured 12 floats and at more than 30 marching groups, including bands from John F. Kennedy High School, Fannie C. Williams Charter School and Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School.



Councilmember Nguyen and District "E" Chief of Staff Terrie Guerin riding in New Orleans East's first holiday parade

Infrastructure, Utilities & Capital Improvements

NEW LAW ENDS MANDATORY BIKE REGISTRATION

The Council passed an ordinance by Councilmember Palmer allowing residents to register their bike(s) voluntarily. With its passing, the new law effectively ended mandatory bicycle registration throughout the City of New Orleans on Oct. 18. Ordinance 32,413 also moved administrative duties from the NOPD to the Department of Safety and Permits.

"Bicycle registration was initially put in place to ensure the safe return of citizen's property, and we hope people will continue to utilize the program. This ordinance changes the registration requirement from mandatory to voluntary for privately owned bikes, while moving program administration to the Department of Safety and Permits. I always want our government to provide the maximum benefit to citizens, and I believe these changes will help accomplish that," said Councilmember Palmer.



Bicycle registration is still required by companies that own and/or rent bikes to the public.

While the ordinance removed the mandate to register privately owned bicycles, the Council still encouraged bike owners to utilize the program to increase the City's chances of recovering bicycles in the event they are ever stolen.

COUNCIL APPROVES USE RESTRICTIONS AND STANDARDS IN LAKEVIEW

The Council approved an amendment to the City's CZO for additional use restrictions and use standards to the "Middle Harrison Use Restriction Overlay District" in Lakeview. The additions were incorporated into the existing overlay, including the number and spacing of restaurants, delivery and trash collection hours, operating hours, and limitations on signage. Members of the Lakeview Civic Improvement Association attended the meeting on Nov. 1 to praise Councilmember Giarrusso's efforts in facilitating this legislative victory for District "A" residents.



Photo of a Lakeview neighborhood sign courtesy of Lakeview Civic Improvement Association

"What we're seeing here is the very best of citizenship," said Councilmember Giarrusso. "This represents a compromise between the neighbors, neighborhood association, and myself, and it reflects the hard work that's been done by all the involved parties."

What we're seeing here is the very best of citizenship," said Councilmember Giarrusso. "This represents a compromise between the neighbors, neighborhood association, and myself, and it reflects the hard work that's been done by all the involved parties."

FIRST STEP TOWARD MILLAGE ADJUSTMENT TO FUND PARKS AND RECREATION

The Council passed a motion announcing its intent to authorize an election on May 4, 2019, at which voters would be asked to approve authorizing the Council to levy a special ad valorem tax for the purpose of constructing, improving, maintaining and operating parks and recreational facilities. If approved, this "rebalancing of the millage rates" to improve the city's park system and public spaces would not result in any tax increase or additional cost burden to residents.

The proposed measure re-adjusts the millage rates for Audubon Park, the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC) and the Department of Parks and Parkways, while also ensuring dedicated local funding to City Park for the first time in the city's history. Audubon's proposed adjusted millage rate would be reduced to 1.95 mils from its current 3.31 mils, or decrease from approximately \$10.92 million down to \$6.59 million; NORDC adjusted millage would be increased to 1.95 mils from 1.5 mils, or from \$4.95 million to \$6.59 million; and Parks and Parkways' millage would be increased to 1.8 mils from its current rate of 1.5 mils. These adjustments would also allow

City Park to have a millage of .61 mils (nearly \$2.06 million), all without an overall increase in the millage rate for these parks and recreation-related services.

Referred to by the Council as an “integration of resources, assets, and people,” the ballot initiative aims to establish an inter-agency parks and recreation coordinating group comprised of the four park agencies to ensure close coordination of future capital and programming investments, and avoid duplication and overlap.

RTA #39 TULANE LINE EXTENSION TO OCHSNER INAUGURAL RIDE

On October 16, Councilmembers joined Mayor Cantrell and other New Orleans and Jefferson Parish officials for an inaugural ride to celebrate the RTA’s extension of its #39 Tulane bus line to reach Ochsner’s Main Campus on Jefferson Highway. The ride began at the S. Claiborne & Leonidas Bus Stop and concluded with a press conference at Ochsner on Jefferson Highway. The extension signified a collaborative effort between the Council, the City of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish to provide better access to work and medical care for residents across the two communities. Originally, the #39 Tulane line stopped just short of Ochsner’s Main Campus in Jefferson Parish. Following the inaugural ride, buses now travel beyond Mistletoe Street and S. Claiborne to Causeway Boulevard and Jefferson Highway. This provides easier access for Ochsner employees, as well as patients and their families.

The extension to Ochsner complements the Regional Ride program, which kicked-off a month prior. The program grants bus riders all-day access to both RTA and JeT bus lines for \$6, without having to buy separate passes. In addition, the service hours on the #16 South Claiborne line were extended to 24-hours to match the 24-hour service provided on the #39 Tulane line. This addition gave riders more ways to access the hospital and provided a much needed 24-hour transit corridor through Uptown New Orleans.

These regional efforts signaled the commencement of true regional public transit connectivity between the City of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish.

COUNCILMEMBER BANKS APPOINTED TO S&WB

At a special Public Works Committee meeting on Dec. 13, Councilmember Giarrusso announced the selection of Councilmember Banks to serve on the S&WB. The announcement followed the Dec. 8 election, at which voters approved the replacement of one of the Mayor’s appointments with a new board member appointed by the Council.



Councilmembers alongside New Orleans and Jefferson Parish officials at a press conference commemorating the RTA Tulane Avenue bus line extension

The change in leadership was presented as a way to increase accountability after the Aug. 5, 2017 flood event, address ongoing billing issues, decrease turnover of top executives and the high number of unfilled jobs within the plagued utility.

Councilmember Giarrusso said, “Councilmembers are among the closest elected officials to the public. The Council - as a result - must be responsive, accountable, and focused on the most pressing issues. Because we represent the people, it is the Council that fought water shut-offs, questioned the S&WB’s billing system, and identified the root causes of the most recent boil water advisory. This is exactly the type of activity expected of us. Instead of unilaterally selecting either a councilperson or a civil engineer, I want to set a precedent of publicly discussing the approach my colleagues and I believe is in the best interest of all New Orleanians. Therefore, I am inclined to appoint Councilmember Jay H. Banks, who recently served on the S&WB governance task force, to the S&WB.”

Councilmember Banks will have full access to the in-house Council engineer to support him on all technical matters. The Council engineer will, at a minimum, help to:

- Prepare CM Banks for every relevant S&WB meeting;
- Attend pertinent S&WB meetings with CM Banks; and
- Draft an executive summary of S&WB actions for the Public Works Committee, as needed, and post the summary on the Council’s website

According to Councilmember Giarrusso, this approach accomplished the best of all worlds by combining public accountability and familiarity with S&WB and its leadership with internal technical expertise and support to the appointee.

Health Care & Civic Services

“BAN THE BOX” ORDINANCE GETS SEAL OF APPROVAL EXTENDING FAIR HIRING PRACTICES IN NEW ORLEANS

The Council approved the “Ban the Box” ordinance authored by Councilmember Palmer prohibiting the City and City contractors from asking potential employees’ criminal history on initial job applications. The legislation, which was set to go into effect March 1, 2019, allows the Administration time to inform contractors and train employees on the new law.



Councilmembers Palmer and Williams at a press conference to discuss the “Ban the Box” ordinance on Sept. 12 courtesy of Gambit

In 2014, the City enacted a similar policy for classified and unclassified jobs in all City departments, boards, agencies, and commissions. Ordinance 32,382 codified this policy and extended it to all entities with a City contract, grant, or cooperative endeavor agreement. The City still conducts criminal background checks on all candidates and make final hiring decisions for people with records in light of other relevant information, including experience, the seriousness of any past conviction, when the incident took place and what has occurred in the applicant's life since then.

"I've heard personal stories from ex-offenders and their families who remind us that, for far too long our criminal justice system has placed its priorities in punishment and not rehabilitation. Ex-offenders should not serve a life sentence after serving time in prison. This new policy allows them a chance to be considered for employment based on their qualifications and experience related to the position they're applying for and not their past," said Councilmember Palmer. "

COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS HOSTS HUNDREDS OF LOCAL SENIORS AT ANNUAL THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

On Nov. 13, Councilmember Williams joined the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club to host the annual Thanksgiving luncheon for senior citizens. Volunteers served **more than 342 free Thanksgiving meals to local seniors** who were treated to performances by DJ Captain Charles, the Young PinStripe Brass Band and Zulu Tramps and a variety of games and activities. The Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club has put on this special Thanksgiving tradition for seniors for more than 20 years. This year's event was coordinated by longtime organizer Ms. Lena Stewart, who spearheaded the event for former Councilmember Nadine Ramsey from 2014 - 2017.

"I am so proud of the work my colleagues and I on the Council have done to finally start allocating some well-deserved and overdue resources to support our city's seniors this year," said Council President Williams. "As I've said before, we would not be where we are today if it weren't for their sacrifices, and I was so honored to have the opportunity to express my gratitude at this year's annual Thanksgiving luncheon."



Councilmember Williams and staff with hundreds of local seniors during the free Thanksgiving luncheon at Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club on Nov. 13

COUNCIL CREATES NEW QUALITY OF LIFE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS CITYWIDE RESIDENT CONCERNS

In December, the Council voted to authorize the creation of a new Quality of Life Special Committee to serve as both an outlet for the Administration to discuss legislative priorities and a public forum for residents' to express quality of life issues such as blight, illegal dumping, potholes, code enforcement, flooding, and more. Beginning on Feb. 27, 2019, the Quality of Life Committee will begin its quarterly meetings to discuss these and other problems that will allow the Council to come up with comprehensive solutions and track how issues cross neighborhood boundaries.

Historical & Cultural Preservation

PONTCHARTRAIN PARK PLAYGROUND REDEDICATED IN HONOR OF MCBURNETT JAMES KNOX

On Nov. 1, the Council welcomed former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial alongside family and friends of the late McBurnett James Knox, Jr. in support of a resolution to rededicate the Pontchartrain Park Playground as the "Pontchartrain Park McBurnett Knox Playground." McBurnett James Knox, Jr., also known as "Coach Mac," was a fierce and lifelong advocate for New Orleans youth until his passing in May 2015.

"Mac Knox taught us teamwork, leadership and character," said former Mayor Morial. "He shaped us as boys who understood that books came before balls and that win or lose, we did so as a team. He sacrificed so much and gave so much to ensure future generations boys and girls in New Orleans would have the opportunities they deserved. I'm deeply grateful to all of you on the Council for spearheading this effort and providing Coach Mac with this well-deserved recognition."

The newly dedicated Pontchartrain Park McBurnett Knox Playground, located at 6500 Press Dr. in the Gentilly neighborhood, ensures Coach Mac's great life and legacy lives on in the city he loved. It will also serve as a reminder to those who come after him to continue his work and never stop fighting for New Orleans' youth.



Councilmember Brossett with Marc Morial and community partners at the dedication of the McBurnett James Knox, Jr. Playground

Resilience & Environmental Sustainability

COUNCIL PUSHES FOR STRONGER ENFORCEMENT TO ADDRESS BLIGHTED POOLS

The Council passed an ordinance by Councilmember Giarrusso clarifying the severe risks blighted pools pose to the health, safety and welfare of residents and enabling the City to take necessary action to enter properties to alleviate dangerous conditions. This legislation was designed to protect the numerous children throughout the city who live in homes near neighboring blighted pools.

According to a NOLA.com article published Oct. 16, the City had identified **more than 60 blighted pools throughout New Orleans that had been cited for improper maintenance and unhealthy conditions.**

One such issue was the threat of mosquitos and associated illnesses such as West Nile, which was found to exist in the city this past summer. Per Councilmember Giarrusso's ordinance, all pools are now required to maintain functioning filtration systems to avoid stagnant water. Additionally, all pools must be protected by at least a six-foot barrier above the finished ground level and be kept in good and proper order. Any pools that do not meet these criteria will be subject to immediate remediation from the City to avoid harm to residents.

"This is not the only quality of life issue facing New Orleans, but it is an important one, and it affects neighborhoods across the entire city," said Councilmember Giarrusso. "It's time to start putting the interests of those who are living in and contributing to New Orleans over absentee property owners."

It's time to start putting the interests of those who are living in and contributing to New Orleans over absentee property owners.



Notable Orders Of Business

COUNCIL RECOGNIZES 7-YEAR-OLD FOR SPENDING HIS BIRTHDAY FEEDING THE HOMELESS

On Oct. 18, the Council recognized Shamar Thompson who made headlines when he decided to spend his seventh birthday feeding the city's homeless. Members of the Council were moved to tears by Shamar's story, and applauded him for wanting to give rather than receive at such an early age. When asked why he wanted to spend his birthday this year feeding those less fortunate, he simply replied, "Because they don't have anywhere to go and they don't have a car, or money or food." The Council welcomed Shamar and his family to present them with a special proclamation thanking and praising him for the incredible act of kindness.



Members of the Council with Shamar and his family prior to the meeting on Oct. 18

OCTOBER DECLARED YOUTH JUSTICE ACTION MONTH

The Council adopted a resolution declaring the month of October as Youth Justice Action Month in New Orleans. At its regular meeting on Nov. 1, the Council welcomed three local teenagers who presented on the critical importance of increased support services for New Orleans youth to reduce the alarmingly large percentage of African Americans in the juvenile justice system. Per the resolution, Youth Justice Action Month will be a time to celebrate, take direction from youth, and reaffirm the Council's commitment to the well-being and safety of New Orleans communities.

"I've said it a thousand times before, and I'll probably say it a million times again, but we can and will never arrest our way out of crime," said Councilmember Banks. "We have to invest the necessary resources into our young people to get them off the wrong path early on before it's too late. I applaud each and every one of you for the work that you're doing, and we're going to be right there with you every step of the way."

We can and will never arrest our way out of crime.

COUNCILMEMBERS SLEEP OUT TO END HOMELESSNESS

On Nov. 16, Councilmember Nguyen, Palmer and Banks slept outside in nearly freezing conditions to raise money and awareness for Covenant House New Orleans and the critical services they provide to assist the city's homeless children and teens. The Councilmembers joined more than 200 people for the annual "Sleep Out to End Youth Homelessness" with nothing more than a cardboard box and sleeping bag.

Covenant House provides a safe haven for the 4.2 million young people who face homelessness across the country each year. In Louisiana, 60 percent of the state’s homeless population lives right here in Orleans Parish. This year’s Sleep Out event in New Orleans marked the largest turnout since its founding and surpassed its initial fundraising goal of \$475,000 with \$516,000 donated for homeless youth.



Councilmembers Nguyen, Palmer and Banks and members of their staff participating in Covenant House New Orleans’ annual “Sleep Out to End Youth Homelessness” event

COUNCIL ADOPTS 2019 CITY BUDGET

On Nov. 29, the Council adopted the City’s 2019 Operating and Capital Budgets concluding the annual budget review process and establishing spending levels for the 2019 fiscal year. Mayor LaToya Cantrell initiated this year’s budget process when she appeared before the Council on Nov. 1 to present a proposed \$698.1 million general fund annual operating budget. The Council then held an efficient and rigorous budget review process to learn the needs of each department and listen to residents’ concerns. The amended operating budget adopted at the last regular meeting in November was a total \$701.9 million, representing a \$3.8 million increase for various new initiatives and programs.

\$3.8 million
increase for various
new initiatives
and programs.

“This \$3.8 million is an important number,” said Councilmember Brossett, who chairs the Council’s Budget Committee. “It represents the amendments proposed by City Council highlight the shared goals of both Council and the Cantrell Administration to ensure the residents of New Orleans have effective, efficient, and sustainable government services and programs that will improve their quality of life. Most importantly, there are key themes that emerge from these changes: increasing funding to the families and youth of New Orleans and prioritizing public safety initiatives.”

2019 Budget highlights include new funding for the following:

- STEM NOLA - \$50,000
- Louisiana Center for Children’s Rights - \$250,000
- Evening Reporting Center - \$110,000
- Children’s Bureau - NOPD Crisis Management Partnership - \$205,100
- Youth Intervention Center program - \$150,000
- Assisted Outpatient Treatment program - \$100,000

“This is a budget that prioritizes - not just by word, but by deed - the children of New Orleans,” said Councilmember Moreno. “I want to commend my colleagues and the Administration for lifting up our kids. We must continue to focus on breaking poverty cycles and ending community disinvestment in order to promote equity, safety, and prosperity for all New Orleanians.”

The 2019 Budget also provided additional funding for various City initiatives and programs. Those include:

- Doubling funding to the Early Childhood Education program (+\$750,000 bringing total allocation to \$1.5 million)
- Department of Public Works for catch basin cleaning - (+\$1,000,000 million)
- New Orleans Public Defender to maintain its budget despite decreased revenues (+\$300,000)
- Additional DBE and Supplier Diversity compliance officers (+\$254,764)
- New Orleans Adult Learning Center (+\$577,100)



The Council with Mayor LaToya Cantrell at a press conference following the adoption of the 2019 City Budget

Council Standing Committees

BUDGET, AUDIT, AND BOARD OF REVIEW COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

PUBLIC WORKS, SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE

TRANSPORTATION AND AIRPORT COMMITTEE

UTILITY, CABLE, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Council Executive Staff

DAVID S. GAVLINSKI, CHIEF OF STAFF

ERIC GRANDERSON, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

LORA W. JOHNSON, CLERK OF COUNCIL

CALVIN AGUILLARD, COUNCIL FISCAL OFFICER

THERESA BECHER, COUNCIL RESEARCH OFFICER

ERIN SPEARS, COUNCIL UTILITIES REGULATORY
OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF



NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL

©2019 New Orleans City Council
1300 Perdido Street, Second Floor West
New Orleans, LA 70112
(504) 658-1000
council.nola.gov

Additional copies of the New Orleans City Council Annual Report: 2019 Legislative Action are available in the Clerk of Council's Office, Room 1E09, City Hall.