



NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

2017

THE NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL



JASON ROGERS WILLIAMS
Council President,
Councilmember-at-Large



STACY HEAD
Council Vice President,
Councilmember-at-Large



SUSAN G. GUIDRY
District "A" Councilmember



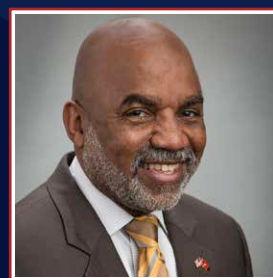
LATOYA CANTRELL
District "B" Councilmember



NADINE M. RAMSEY
District "C" Councilmember



JARED C. BROSSETT
District "D" Councilmember



JAMES AUSTIN GRAY II
District "E" Councilmember

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 TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW ORLEANS

Looking back on 2017, the City Council celebrated several milestone accomplishments on behalf of the entire City of New Orleans in the areas of crime prevention, public safety, economic and neighborhood development, health care, youth and education initiatives, cultural preservation, infrastructure improvements, land use, and more.

The Council prioritized the preservation of historic neighborhoods through the creation of local historic districts and passed several initiatives to ensure equal opportunities within the housing and job markets, such as the creation of an Equal Pay Advisory Committee. Increasing public safety was another high priority for the Council with the approval of a new pay structure for New Orleans Police Department officers that resulted in substantial pay raises to help attract recruits and prevent veterans from leaving the department. Furthermore, the Council decided to hire a public safety consultant to provide expertise and assess efficiency opportunities to ensure informed decision-making and make the City safer.

The Council took several major steps toward long-term sustainability for the environment and economy. In addition to establishing the Environmental Advisory Committee, the Council passed several green initiatives. One of those measures includes an ordinance requiring utilization of the public right-of-way to install and maintain electric vehicle chargers. The Council also established two critical funds for the City. Through a charter amendment approved by the electorate, the 'Rainy Day Savings Fund' will ensure a

dedicated amount of money within the City budget to provide immediate and ongoing disaster recovery assistance in times of severe weather or economic downturn. A second measure, known as the 'Judgment Fund,' will allow the Council to annually appropriate funds for the payment of long-standing legal judgments rendered against the City.

In the area of criminal justice reform, which proved a critical issue both locally and statewide, the Council took significant steps toward reducing the City's high rates of recidivism. The Policing Alternatives for Youth ordinance was passed to reduce the number of children unnecessarily placed into the criminal justice system as well as a bail reform measure to allow people who've been arrested for relatively minor crimes to be released without posting bail. The Council celebrated another monumental victory for our youth securing a \$1 million 2018 Budget allocation for early childhood education across the City. With these measures, the Council hopes to create generations of educated, prosperous New Orleanians by putting children on a track for success.

In presenting this 2017 Annual Report, we reflect on the progress we have made over the past year, setting the stage for the historic tricentennial celebration. Our accomplishments are made possible through the ongoing partnership and support of our citizens, local businesses, and neighborhood and community groups as we work toward the shared goal of making New Orleans a safe, enjoyable and prosperous place to live, work, and visit.

INTRODUCTION

This annual report provides the citizens of New Orleans with a legislative summary and recap of the City Council's work in 2017. The report highlights 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 2017 legislative report showcases the 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 non-profit groups. The Council's website, **www.nolacitycouncil.com**, is an 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, and keep track of legislative issues. The website also includes contact information for Councilmembers and staff so that citizens may directly express their concerns and interests to the Council.



1ST QUARTER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

CRIME PREVENTION & PUBLIC SAFETY

Council Passes Bail Reform Measure



The Council unanimously voted to amend the Code of the City of New Orleans relative to bail from the Municipal and Traffic Courts of New Orleans. The bail reform ordinance was initially designed to allow people who've been arrested for relatively minor crimes to be released without posting bail on a promise to appear in court.

Introduced by District "A"

Councilmember Susan Guidry, the ordinance was developed to address concern amongst various legal and civil rights groups that the existing bail system for minor offenses unfairly punishes impoverished defendants.



We'll no longer be paying to make people sit in jail, for crimes they've not yet been convicted of.

— Councilmember Guidry

"I think this will tremendously benefit the taxpayers of New Orleans," said Councilmember Guidry. "We'll no longer be paying to make people sit in jail, for crimes they've not yet been convicted of. I want to thank all those who supported us along this road over the last year. This shows the community and the rest of the country that we're on the cutting-edge of reform here."

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Fee Waiver Reform Passes

\$

501(C)

The Council voted to end the longstanding policy of waiving special event fees for nonprofit organizations. Previously, the Council routinely waived those fees, from parade licenses for second lines to usage fees for fairs and festivals, as well as alcohol permits.

Under this measure, smaller nonprofits without the federal designation have to pay full price for events. The newly developed amendments reduce many of the fees and allow for an automatic 50 percent reduction to be applied to fees for 501(c) organizations, public schools, and state non-profit corporations with federal employee identification numbers. This reduction applies to the following:

- NOFD Tent Inspections
- Special Event Alcohol Permits
- Special Event Mayoralty Permits
- Certificates of Occupancy and Use
- Road Race Permits
- DPW Permits for Mardi Gras
- Dumpsters
- Vendor Zones and Street Closures
- Occupational License Taxes for Circuses
- Concerts and Special Events
- Metered Street Parking Rental

Council Establishes Equal Pay Advisory Committee

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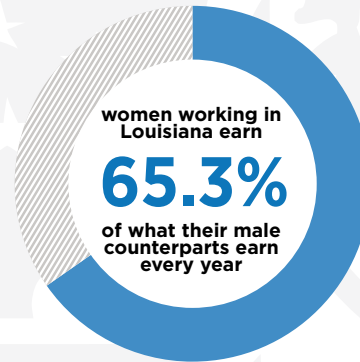
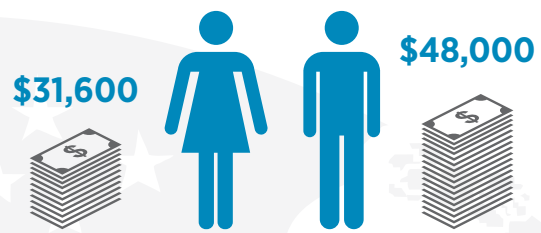
The Council unanimously voted to approve the creation of the Equal Pay Advisory Committee, which was spearheaded by District “D” Councilmember Jared Brossett and co-authored by District “B” Councilmember LaToya Cantrell. The Advisory Committee will provide advice, feedback, guiding principles, policies and subject matter expertise to the City Council on matters relating to pay equality, wage discrimination and poverty in New Orleans.



The committee will tentatively consist of nine members. The advisory committee shall be appointed as follows:

- 1 Each Councilmember shall appoint one member to the advisory committee;
- 2 The Director of the Office of Workforce Development shall serve on the committee or select a designee; and
- 3 The Director of the Civil Service Department shall serve on the committee or select a designee.

The median annual pay for a woman holding a full-time job in Louisiana is \$31,600, while the median annual pay for a man holding a full-time job is \$48,000. Therefore, women working in Louisiana earn only 65.3 percent of what their male counterparts earn every year. This data ranked Louisiana 50th out of all the states, including the District of Columbia, for pay inequality.



Addressing wage disparity and pay equity has long been a priority for District “D” Councilmember Brossett. In 2013, then State Representative Brossett co-authored Act 374, which created the “Equal Pay for Women Act.” In 2015, he authored, and the Council passed the first living wage law in the history of New Orleans. In November 2016, he began working with the City Attorney and the Law Department to consider various options the City has regarding equal pay legislation.

“From living wage to equal pay, I am committed to addressing wage discrimination and pay equity,” said Councilmember Brossett. “Pay inequality isn’t just a women’s issue; it is a family issue. This committee will serve to remedy the city-wide consequences of wage discrimination.”



Council Approves Airport Concession Contracts



The Council passed an ordinance pertaining to the New Orleans Aviation Board (NOAB) and the Louis Armstrong International Airport following a presentation from airport representatives including Jacob Stephens, Assistant City Attorney at New Orleans Aviation Board and Edgar Chase of Chase Catering & Concessions.

The ordinance authorized the Mayor, acting through the NOAB, to enter into competitively bid lease agreements with the two highest-scoring food and beverage concessionaires.

The NOAB awarded global restaurateur, HMSHost, a 10-year contract to operate food and beverage spaces in the airport’s North Terminal. Sales for the new contract were projected to be \$300 million over the course of 10 years. HMSHost will bring



Photo courtesy of NOLA.com

“People travel the globe to experience the rich culture our city has created around food, and I’m proud that our airport will now reflect that.”

— Councilmember Brossett

several new dining concepts to the airport in collaboration with local partners for an authentic New Orleans experience that speaks to the City’s renowned food and beverage culture.

“I’m excited to see the addition of these incredible local and global restaurateurs, which will bring a world-class cuisine to a world-class airport,” said District “D” Councilmember and Chair of the Council’s Transportation and Airport Committee Brossett. “The restaurant scene in New Orleans is one-of-a-kind because it’s not just a scene but an ingrained way of life. People travel the globe to experience the rich culture our city has created around food, and I’m proud that our airport will now reflect that.”

INFRASTRUCTURE, UTILITIES AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Approval of Drainage and Additional Fire Protection Millage Rates



The Council unanimously voted to approve an ordinance relative to ad valorem taxes to levy drainage and additional fire protection millage rates for 2017. On Dec. 10, 2016, New Orleans voters approved two city-wide propositions including a new 2.5-mill property tax increase for fire protection services and renewal of an existing property tax for drainage services. The ordinance allows for the collection of taxes authorized by that vote.

The fire protection proposition will yield nearly \$9 million a year for 12 years, beginning 2018, and would not be subject to the homestead exemption. Revenue from the tax will help pay for tens of millions of dollars in legal judgments the City owes firefighters and their pension fund.

The Sewerage and Water Board (S&WB) proposition will renew an existing 4.66-mill property tax at a lower rate of 4.46 mills. This millage is dedicated to maintaining critical drainage services throughout the City.





Photo rendering courtesy of Christner Inc.

Master Plan Approved for Tulane University



The Council unanimously voted to approve the establishment of an Institutional Master Plan for Conditional Development for Tulane University's Uptown Campus.

The Council heard public comment from Patrick Morton, Chief Operating Officer of Tulane University, thanking Councilmember Guidry and her colleagues for their help in the process of developing this master plan, which took around a year to complete.

We look forward to seeing the University's continued growth in the future.

— Councilmember Guidry

"I want to thank the University for their work in the community, with my office, and the City on this plan," said Councilmember Guidry. "We look forward to seeing the University's continued growth in the future."

The Tulane University Master Plan provides a holistic and integrated assessment of the campus environment with the goal of coordinating the institutional mission with the physical development of the campus. Located at 6823 St. Charles Avenue, the campus is bounded by St. Charles Avenue, Loyola University New Orleans, Calhoun Street, South Claiborne Avenue, Audubon Boulevard, Willow Street, Broadway Street, Zimpel Street, Audubon Street, Freret Street and Audubon Place.



Tulane University

Additional Funding Approved for Bayou St. John Drainage Project



The Council approved an ordinance relative to the Bayou St. John Drainage project to add an additional \$76,050 in federal funds.

In July, New Orleans set out to embark on a \$115 million, three-year project aimed at upgrading drainage in eight neighborhoods. This reflected the largest effort to date to enact new strategies focused on retaining, as opposed to immediately pumping out, rainwater.

The federally funded projects are spread throughout the City and collectively represent the largest effort in recent history to improve New Orleans' drainage system outside of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project.



Photo Courtesy of Kari Dequine Harden / The Lens

These projects represent a pivotal transition by the City from using federal hazard mitigation funds to more generalized efforts aimed at improving drainage for large areas.

Council Approves Canal St. Ferry Terminal Demolition



The Council approved the demolition of the Canal Street Ferry Terminal located at the foot of Canal Street and extending to the Mississippi River. RTA acquired the ferry operation in 2014 from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development after Orleans and Jefferson Parish voters decided two years earlier to discontinue toll collections on the Crescent City Connection.

In response to expressed public sentiment, a resolution authored by District "B" Councilmember Cantrell was passed by the Council formally stating the Council's commitment to providing the appropriate pedestrian protections for the project. The resolution represented a formal pledge from the Council to work with the Mayor, RTA and

state delegation to acquire the necessary additional funding for the pedestrian bridge, which was ultimately secured in December of 2017.



Artist rendering of the RTA Canal St. Ferry Terminal courtesy of The New Orleans Advocate

Measure Passed to Increase Access to Affordable Housing



The Council approved Zoning Docket No. 7/17, which requested an amendment to incorporate recommendations provided in the City Planning Commission's (CPC) Affordable Housing Impact Statement (AHIS) Study in the City's Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance.

Specifically, the amendment requires Affordable Housing Impact Statements (AHIS) for all applications seeking density bonuses and to require the CPC staff to provide a density review of the AHIS relative to said density bonuses. The proposed text change affects all properties in New Orleans seeking a density bonus.

In 2016, the City Council passed Motion M-16-167 directing the City Planning Commission to conduct a Public Hearing and study on how affordable housing impact can be assessed as part of land-use and building applications.

The study's key findings were as follows:



- Data collection can be used in tracking real-time housing supply information.
- AHIS can serve as an accountability tool for programs and policies implemented to address affordable housing.
- AHIS can be included as part of a building permit application and does not require additional fees since the information requested is typically available at the time of submission.
- Data collection can assist nonprofits and private developers with making decisions based on accurate data.
- A quantitative analysis, where the data comes from the property owner or the applicant, is more appropriate for project or development based affordable housing impact statements.
- A qualitative analysis typically conducted by City staff is more appropriate for policy or regulatory-based affordable housing impact statements.
- A quantitative analysis is useful for projects that are seeking incentives or are required to provide affordable housing units.

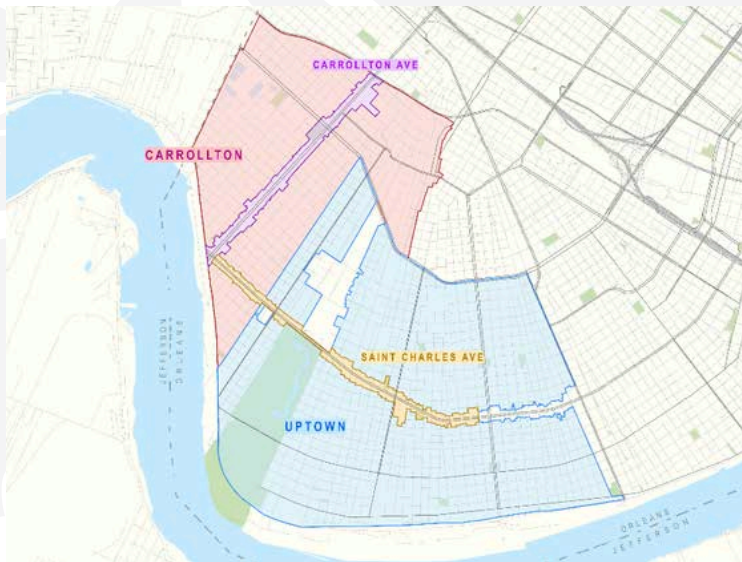
It's no secret that New Orleans is in the midst of an affordable housing crisis," said Councilmember Brossett. "Now is the time to act. Our residents are living paycheck to paycheck just to pay rent among other housing expenses. By implementing the changes in the study and the use of affordable housing impact statements, I hope to bring equity to the housing stock in New Orleans."

The amendment reflects ongoing collaborative efforts between the Council and the administration to address the City's affordable housing crisis.

Council Establishes Uptown and Carrollton Neighborhoods as New Orleans Historic Districts



In January of 2017, the City Council approved the ordinance creating the Carrollton and Uptown Local Historic Districts, which granted the Historic District Landmarks Commission (HDLC) limited jurisdiction, or “partial control,” over demolitions within the boundaries of the districts. The exceptions to that ordinance included St. Charles and South Carrollton Avenues which have “full control,” meaning all exterior changes that are visible from the public right-of-way are under the jurisdiction of the HDLC.



Map of Carrollton (red) and Uptown (blue) Historic District boundaries courtesy of Biz New Orleans

The Historic District Landmarks Commission (HDLC) is charged with safeguarding the heritage of the City of New Orleans through the preservation, protection and regulation of buildings, sites, monuments, structures and areas of historic interest or importance within the City. Through the creation of these local historic districts, demolition requests in Uptown and Carrollton are heard only by the HDLC, thus streamlining the process for demolition.

“I am pleased that the HDLC will begin regulating the new local historic districts on March 1 as we begin to shift demolition review

from Neighborhood Conservation District Advisory Committee (NCDAC) to HDLC for part of the City,” said District “A” Councilmember Guidry. “This shift from the current NCDAC procedures will reduce the cost of applications as well as remove steps from the permitting process while ensuring that our historic building stock receives thoughtful review when being considered for demolition.”

Development Approved for Bayou Treme Center for Arts and Education



The Council unanimously approved a zoning docket, spearheaded by Councilmember Brossett, for the development of the Bayou Treme Center for Arts and Education.

After Hurricane Katrina, three non-profit organizations have collaborated to renovate several properties on the former St. Rose of Lima campus into a variety of mixed-use spaces. The former church property will become a performance venue, and two old schoolhouses are being revamped as a home for a charter school and as office space, and studios for businesses and artists.



**BAYOU
TREME**
— CENTER FOR —
ARTS & EDUCATION

An incubator for growth.

The Seventh Ward campus in Council District “D” will include the following three-part program:

1 Performing Arts Hub:

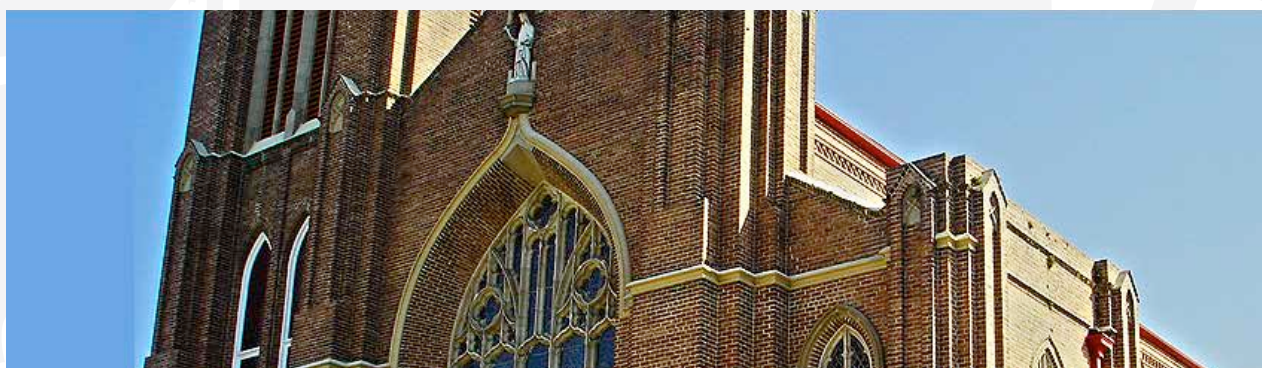
The development will be anchored by a performing arts hub operated by Southern Rep Theatre, New Orleans’ acclaimed theatre production company with a mission to deliver programming for youth.

2 Early Childhood - 8th Grade School:

The three-story schoolhouse at 2539 Columbus Street will be renovated for the Waldorf School of New Orleans, a nonprofit school operating in the City for 15 years that integrates academics with the arts, culture and community.

3 Shared Office

Space: The two-story schoolhouse at 2533 Columbus Street will be renovated into shared office spaces targeting small businesses, entrepreneurs and nonprofit organizations.



The church itself, which is now being repurposed into the Bayou Treme Center for Arts and Education, rekindles the sentiment of community ownership that was lost in the church’s closing. The deconsecrated St. Rose de Lima Church building will house incubators in a space that is already associated with teaching. There was great excitement within the surrounding communities upon hearing that the beloved church would surface once more as a positive force within the neighborhood.

Creation of Mid-City and Parkview Historic Districts



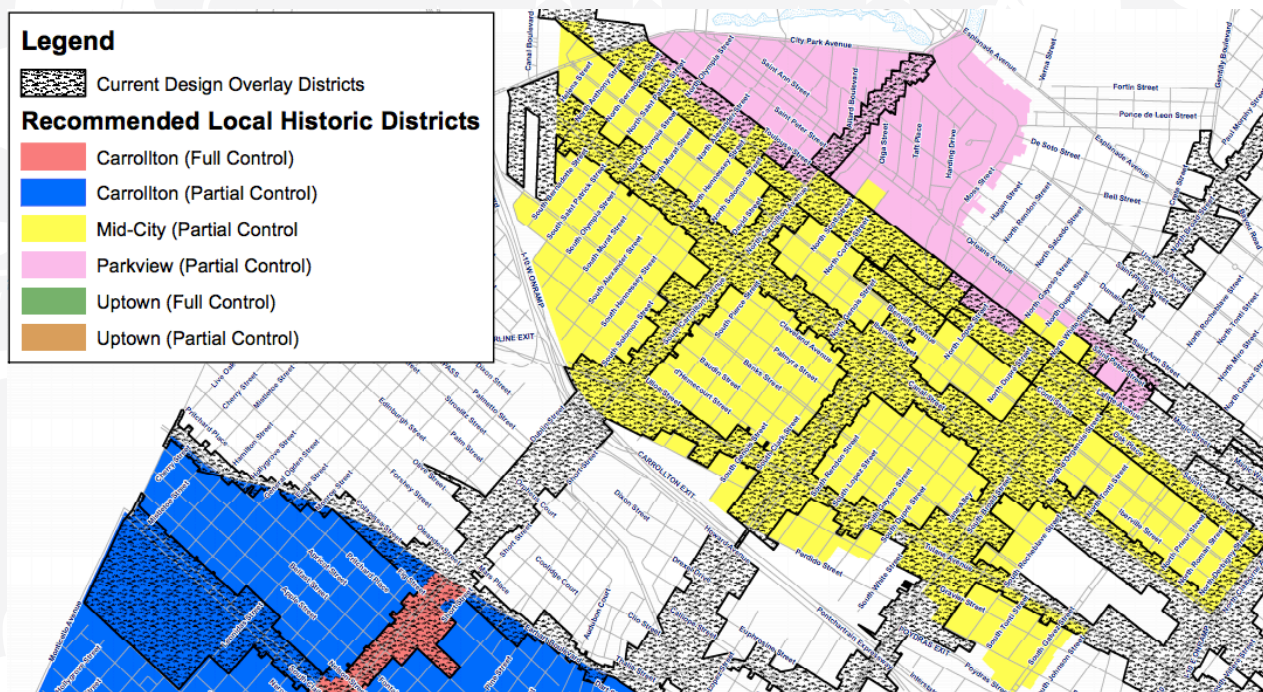
The City Council voted to create the Mid-City and Parkview Local Historic Districts, which granted the Historic District Landmarks Commission (HDLC) limited jurisdiction, or “partial control,” over demolitions within the boundaries of the districts.

The Mid-City/Parkview Historic District Study Committee recommended new construction review for the Mid-City District, but the Mid-City Neighborhood Organization polled residents and determined that they would

prefer demolition review only. After carefully scrutinizing the reports and surveys on the matter in September, the City Planning Commission (CPC) concluded that the designations should be created and that the HDLC should be granted limited jurisdiction, or “partial control,” in both the Mid-City and Parkview Districts. Partial control grants authority over demolition requests but not over renovation or construction permits.

The Mid-City Local Historic District came up for a vote at the meeting on Feb. 23 and was passed unanimously. Shifting demolitions oversight away from the Neighborhood Conservation District Advisory Committee to the HDLC represented ongoing efforts by the Council to streamline the permitting process and maintain the quality of historic neighborhoods. Historic districts safeguard

the heritage of the City by preserving and regulating historic landmarks and historic districts, which reflect elements of its cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history. In addition, they strengthen the City's economic base through stimulating the tourism industry, improving property values, fostering economic development and encouraging long-term growth.



Suggested boundaries for the Mid-City (yellow) and Parkview (pink) Local Historic Districts

The Mid-City Historic District is bounded by Bienville Street to the I-10 Pontchartrain Expressway and City Park Avenue to North Derbigny Street. The Parkview Local Historic District includes parts of Moss, St. Louis and North Rocheblave streets, City Park, Esplanade and Orleans avenues.

Council Establishes Environmental Advisory Committee



The Council unanimously voted to set up an Environmental Advisory Committee of technical experts and community leaders to advise the Council on policy to forward the City's resiliency and climate action strategy.

"I'd like to thank the partner organizations and my colleagues on the Council that worked with me to create this Environmental Advisory Committee," said District "C" Councilmember Nadine Ramsey, who spearheaded the effort. "It will provide the

Council with valuable technical advice on issues such as waste reduction, recycling and electric vehicle use."

The Council heard comments from members of the public applauding the creation of the committee. Among them were LifeCity CEO Liz Shephard, who worked with Councilmember Ramsey to promote America Recycles Day and now serves as chair of the committee.

NOTABLE ORDERS OF BUSINESS

Remembrance of Former Chaplain Reverend Dr. Norwood Thompson, Jr.



The Council honored the memory of Reverend Dr. Norwood Thompson, Jr., who served as New Orleans City Council Chaplain longer than any other in Council history. The Reverend, who passed away on Feb. 8, 2017, began each Council meeting with a strong voice of faith and unity.

A fierce advocate for the African-American community in New Orleans, he served as chair of the MLK Holiday Planning Commission, which was developed to prompted a city-wide celebration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his efforts to cease racial discrimination throughout the United States.

Reverend Norwood inspired the Council to use each day as an opportunity serve with grace and spread God's love, serving his final meeting as the chaplain in December 2016.



"We will always remember how he shared his spirit of inclusion and unity with us and all New Orleanians," said Councilmember Head.

Recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness



The Council issued a resolution recognizing February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM). Christy Kane of Louisiana Appleseed, Jennifer Taylor-Collins of the New Orleans Family Justice Center, and Tarsha Magee of the Algiers Technology Academy spoke to the Council on the severity of the issue and their efforts to raise awareness and promote programs that prevent abuse in teen and 20 something relationships.

According to the American Psychological Association, approximately one in five female high school students report being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner. Through a survey of at least one Louisiana parish and 900 public school students, 93 percent of teens reported thinking dating violence was a moderate to very severe problem.



approximately

1 in 5

female high school students report being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner

The resolution, authored by Councilmember Ramsey, encouraged New Orleans schools to promote age-appropriate instruction to grades 7-12 about healthy relationships and conflict resolution, to prevent teen dating violence through education.

Council Adopts Resolution Opposing Immigration Bans



The Council voted to adopt a resolution opposing the Presidential Executive Order, "Protection of the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States," issued on Jan. 27, 2017.

This is a moment in history when an international and welcoming city such as New Orleans should not be silent.

— Councilmember Ramsey

The resolution, introduced by District "C" Councilmember Ramsey, requests that the President rescind the order, which suspends immigration for 90 days from seven primarily Muslim countries deemed to have ties to Islamic terrorists.

The resolution was developed in light of worldwide sentiment, the federal court's decision to stay the order and incidents such as the rally outside City Hall on Jan. 29, at which citizens joined the growing nationwide protest against the Trump Administration's freeze on refugee and foreign national travel to the United States.

"The United States has made similar mistakes in the past, which should not be repeated," said Councilmember Ramsey. "This is a moment in history when an international and welcoming city such as New Orleans should not be silent."

2ND QUARTER

APRIL | MAY | JUNE

CRIME PREVENTION & PUBLIC SAFETY

Council Passes Bicycle Safety Measures



The Council voted to pass an ordinance, as part of a series of ordinances authored by District "D" Councilmember Brossett, to enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety. The ordinance prohibited motor vehicles from operating in bicycle lanes and put limitations on motor vehicle operators when passing bicyclists, requiring them to exercise caution. Additionally, the measure prohibited any harassment toward bicyclists.

The ordinances were initially proposed at a City Transportation Committee meeting in August after a year-long study by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Advisory Committee. The study produced four key findings, including a need for transparent local crash data and a coordinated attempt



This represents an important first step toward making New Orleans a safer city in which cyclists feel comfortable and protected.

— Councilmember Brossett

across all City departments and agencies regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety.

According to statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there are 703 traffic fatalities in Louisiana each year. Additionally, 13.8 percent involve pedestrians, making it the fifth-highest rate in the country. The ultimate goal of this ordinance was to increase safety measures and therefore,

decrease the rate of cyclist and pedestrian injuries and deaths.

"As a community, we must remember that all roadway users have a responsibility to use

public roads safely and conscientiously," said Councilmember Brossett. "This represents an important first step toward making New Orleans a safer city in which cyclists feel comfortable and protected."

Resolution Adopted Condemning Incarceration of Crime Victims



The Council adopted a resolution, authored by Councilmember-At-Large Jason Williams, urging Orleans Parish District Attorney

representation," said Councilmember Williams. "Not only does this discourage people from calling the police but it's deeply inhumane."

We need to change the habits of our community and pay attention to our research, which shows jailing is not always the solution.

— Councilmember Gray

Leon Cannizzaro to end the practice of incarcerating domestic violence and sex crime victims on material witness warrants.

On April 27, 2017, Court Watch NOLA presented its annual report to the City Council Criminal Justice Committee. The report provided an analysis of aggregate trends in the Orleans Parish criminal justice system through an examination of the various factors and procedures involved in subject cases. One section of the report included data on the number of victims of sexual and domestic violence that the District Attorney jails to try and force to testify.

"Material witnesses are not automatically by law given a lawyer, and there are cases where these individuals, having never committed a crime, are sitting in jail without

The resolution mentioned the significant precedent for making this change, as district attorneys in other jurisdictions have discontinued issuing material witness warrants for all victims.



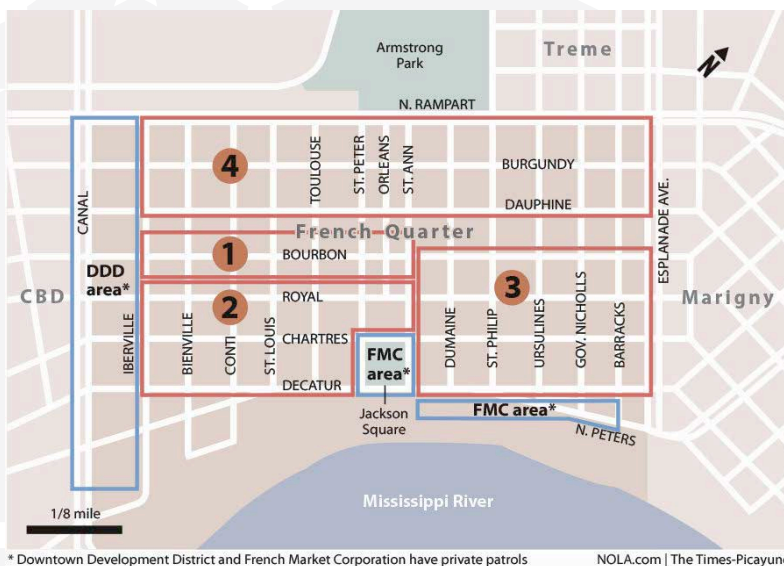
Orleans Parish Criminal Court building

"Prison isn't always the answer. We need to look at the research and closely examine the data on every issue related to the criminal justice system," said District "E" Councilmember James Gray. "We can't just say that we're tough on crime if our behavior consistently shows otherwise. We need to change the habits of our community and pay attention to our research, which shows jailing is not always the solution."

Council Approves French Quarter Safety Measures



Following the French Quarter Economic Development meeting on May 4, 2017, the Council passed an ordinance that authorized the Mayor to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the City, New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) and French Quarter Management District (FQMD) for the provision of financial resources that enhance public safety, services and infrastructure in the French Quarter.



* Downtown Development District and French Market Corporation have private patrols

NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

FQMD patrol map courtesy of NOLA.com

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Conditional Use Permit Approved for Lafitte Greenway Outdoor Bar



The Council approved a conditional use permit for an outdoor bar to be constructed at 501 North Genois Street along the Lafitte Greenway. Business partners and owners of local establishments including the Bulldog, Velvet Cactus and Camp Bow Wow, presented their plans to the Council, which received unanimous praise and support.

District "A" Councilmember Guidry, whose district the project falls under, applauded the gentlemen for their local businesses and thanked them for the positive impact they've had on the surrounding communities.

The plans include a one-story, elevated structure, which will include a mezzanine, nine parking spots, more than 60 bicycle parking spots, an off-street loading space, a dumpster pad and three 230-square-foot covered outdoor seating areas.



Photo rendering courtesy of Robert Becker via The New Orleans Advocate

This measure reflects ongoing efforts to promote bicycling throughout the City following the decision to implement New Orleans' first-ever bike share program, which launched in December of 2017.

Council Grants New Orleans Delta Foundation's Request for a Community Center



NEW Orleans Delta FOUNDATION



The Council unanimously approved the New Orleans Delta Foundation's proposal requesting a community center located at 1949 Duels Street and 2741 Saint Anthony Street. The City Planning Commission staff recommended approval for the proposal at the meeting on May 9.

The Foundation expressed its hopes to convert three buildings that suffered damage and were left vacant following Hurricane Katrina into a multipurpose community center. The center will include education and outreach centers as well as an administration building.

The New Orleans Delta Foundation was formed in 1988 to formulate, develop and sponsor projects and endeavors that focus on youth empowerment. The organization is comprised of more than 500 members from the New Orleans metropolitan area.

The Council's decision to approve the community center, alongside its approval of the SBA St. Bernard Avenue Overlay District, spurred redevelopment and ensured the continued growth and success of the historic Seventh Ward.

Council Adopts Resolution in Support of New Orleans Public Belt Transfer



PORT NOLA
THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS



The Council unanimously adopted a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the transfer of the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad to the Port of New Orleans in exchange for port-owned properties along

This swap will give our port a competitive edge over other ports while giving our public greater access to the Mississippi River. Everyone wins.

— Councilmember Guidry

the Mississippi riverfront. The resolution allowed the Mayor to negotiate the initial terms of the transaction, seek any and all approvals from other public or private bodies, and take any and all other actions to facilitate

the transaction, subject to final approval of the terms and conditions by the Council.

Previously, the City of New Orleans owned the Public Belt Railroad Commission. The transfer of ownership to the Port of New Orleans and its properties would facilitate a critical element of the Port's competitive advantage and ensure future growth in trade and commerce. The transfer also would allow the Public Belt greater access to capital, the potential for greater financial investments and greater opportunity to be a regional service and asset.

The transfer of the Governor Nicholls Street and Esplanade Avenue Wharves from the Port to the City would provide public access to the riverfront along the three-mile stretch from Crescent Park to Spanish Plaza. Officials at the Port worked with hospitality partners to secure the \$15 million needed to convert the wharves into public park space.

"I want to commend you all for the collaborative spirit," said Councilmember

Cantrell. "Our ability to listen to all sides and parties is monumental for the growth and survival of our city. This is truly a win win WIN in my opinion. At the end of the day, we got the best deal for all of our people."

Councilmember Williams referred to the City's relationship with the railroad as having a \$100 million asset that provided no real return or benefit. With this deal, New Orleans now has a \$100 million asset with economic opportunity and tangible value.

"There's not enough time or words to explain just how excited we are about this," said District "A" Councilmember Guidry. "New Orleans was built to be a port city. The port is vital to our existence and continued growth. The Public Belt Railroad is a crucial part of the port and was created to serve it. This swap will give our port a competitive edge over other ports while giving our public greater access to the Mississippi River. Everyone wins. Thank you all so much for the tireless work it required to pull this off."

Council Honors 2017 Essence Festival Organizers



The Council adopted a resolution honoring the 2017 Essence Festival and Mrs. Michelle Ebanks, President of Essence Communications Inc. In her role as president, Ebanks leads the number one media and communications company dedicated to African-American women.

The internationally renowned Essence Festival, one of the largest annual live events in the world, attracts more than 540,000 attendees to New Orleans during the July Fourth holiday weekend. Each year, the festival brings in the best performers and entertainers from around the country, as well as a series of seminars created to empower African American men and women.

Tourism leaders said Essence Festival and all that surrounds it generates an economic impact of approximately \$200 million to Orleans Parish.



"Essence Festival is so much more than the incredible musical talent it brings to our city," said District "C" Councilmember Ramsey. "It's an experience that brings us together as a family. The fact that you've been able to keep it here in New Orleans and keep it steadily growing every year is a huge testament to you all."

INFRASTRUCTURE, UTILITIES AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Demolition Permit Approved for Former Nora Navra Library



The Council passed a motion approving the Neighborhood Conservation District Advisory Committee's request for a demolition permit for the property located at 1902 St. Bernard Ave.

The motion allowed the demolition of the former Nora Navra Library, which will be replaced with a new \$3.3 million, 7,800 square foot library. The original 2,500 square foot library was constructed in 1954 and was severely damaged during Hurricane Katrina.

The new space will include adult and children reading areas, computer workstations, meeting rooms, staff offices and break rooms. The energy-efficient building will also feature a hurricane resistant exterior, high-efficiency HVAC systems, insulated roofs and walls, LED lighting and ADA accessibility. Funding for the new library came from Disaster Community Development



Mayor Mitch Landrieu, center, leads the breaking of ground for the new public library in the 7th Ward. Photo Courtesy of Curbed NOLA

Block Grant (D-CDBG), FEMA public assistance and City bond funds.

The City broke ground on the new Nora Navra library on March 7, 2017.

Council Authorizes Redesign of Duncan Plaza



The Council approved an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a 20-year Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City and the Downtown Development District (DDD) in order to re-design, re-develop and operate the public space located across from City Hall.

Having gone largely unused for 60 years, Duncan Plaza will receive an estimated \$5 million redesign in an effort to make the park a more vibrant and modern downtown green space. Following this redevelopment, the park will be utilized for events such as concerts, outdoor movie screenings and community fairs while continuing to serve as a space for public demonstrations, given its proximity to City Hall.



Duncan Plaza. Photo Courtesy of Vegasjon, Wikimedia Commons

Council Adopts Resolution Promoting Equal Access to Reproductive Services



The Council adopted a resolution affirming its commitment to making public health a top priority through the promotion of policies that ensure access to a full range of reproductive health services and eliminate disparities for low-income and minority women.

This resolution also committed the full support of the Council for state legislation that allows comprehensive,

age and developmentally appropriate sex education to be provided to all students in Orleans Parish.

Additionally, the Council pledged to support legislation to ensure that New Orleans public school students participate in surveys that assess risk behaviors to aid in the development and accountability of local programs.

Plans Approved for New Facility to Accommodate Mentally Ill Inmates



The Council passed a motion to advance a proposed 89-bed expansion of the Orleans Justice Center to accommodate the mentally ill inmate population. The Council considered two alternative plans: directing the City Planning Commission (CPC) to conduct a public hearing regarding the construction of a new facility versus retrofitting the fourth floor of the existing jail to halt expansion.

Society does not have a plan for serving the mentally ill, and we need one. Jail is not mental health treatment.

— Councilmember Williams

The Council passed an amendment, introduced by Councilmember Guidry, that directed the CPC to also include into its study, the option of taking away and/or re-purposing the 89 beds currently located in the jail to accommodate for the beds added as part of the new facility. With this amendment, the Council reached an agreement and passed the motion advocating for the construction of the new building for mentally ill detainees.

The City Council passed an ordinance in 2011 which allowed Sheriff Marlin Gusman to build the 1,438-bed jail. That ordinance stated the jail should accommodate inmates with substance abuse and mental health treatment needs, with the exception of those with the worst, "acute" conditions. However, since its opening in September 2015, the jail lacked the necessary space to care for mentally ill prisoners. As a result, the City housed 39 mentally ill prisoners at a state prison in St. Gabriel. The Sheriff's Office administrator and court-ordered compliance director, Gary Maynard said that the new building would allow them to bring the inmates back to New Orleans.

"We must develop a plan that aligns our work and our words to end the current practices of over-incarceration plaguing our City and state," said Councilmember Guidry. "We owe it to our community to look at all the options and all the alternatives before coming to a conclusion on this issue."

The new facility would be built as an extension of the current complex located in the First Municipal District, bounded by Interstate 10, South Broad Street, Perdido

Street, and South Jefferson Davis Parkway, which is on the lot between Phases I and II of the prison complex.

"We have a moral obligation and a consent decree that requires we humanely house the inmates at the Orleans Justice Center

who have mental health needs," said Councilmember Williams. "Society does not have a plan for serving the mentally ill, and we need one. Jail is not mental health treatment. Phase III must not and will not become the treatment center for the City of New Orleans."

Council Passes Low-Barrier Homeless Shelter Ordinances



Former Veterans Affairs hospital site. Photo courtesy of The New Orleans Advocate

The Council voted to approve a series of ordinances about the redevelopment of an area within the former Veterans Affairs hospital site in downtown New Orleans into a new low-barrier homeless shelter.

The first ordinance authorizes the Mayor to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City, the Downtown Development District (DDD) and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. This agreement would enhance public services available to the City's homeless population through collaboration in the design, remodeling, operation and funding of a low barrier shelter.

Additionally, two separate ordinances were passed allocating state and federal funds toward the estimated \$1.5 million a year project.

"I am very excited about the culmination of the low-barrier shelter," said District "B" Councilmember LaToya Cantrell. "Years of hard work have gone into its creation. Thank you to the New Orleans Police Department and Emergency Medical Services, who've worked tirelessly to make this low-barrier shelter a reality."

The new 100-bed shelter will be constructed on the floor above the resource center at 1530 Gravier St. and will be accessible 24/7. Furthermore, entry will be permitted without sobriety tests or admission fees, and it will allow for longer stays than traditional shelters.

Creation of New Overlay District to Promote Affordable Housing for Seniors



The Council established a new overlay district named the “SBA St. Bernard Avenue Overlay District” to promote affordable housing for senior citizens. It encourages high-quality development on the St. Bernard Avenue corridor and would apply to all non-residentially zoned properties on blocks with frontage on St. Bernard Avenue from North Claiborne Avenue to Broad Street.

The new district permits height, parking and any other applicable bonus measures for high-quality, affordable housing development within its parameters to

encourage and promote affordable housing for elderly residents.

The Council’s decision to pass this motion was in line with the City’s Housing for a Resilient New Orleans Strategy. Housing for a Resilient New Orleans is a five-year strategy that harnesses the growing strength of the local economy and confronts the challenge of providing affordable housing choices for all New Orleanians through the following core principles: equity, collaboration and openness.



“Creating the St. Bernard Overlay District further guarantees that the Seventh Ward will maintain its reputation as one of the great New Orleans’ neighborhoods. This overlay district will promote the development of affordable senior housing and stimulate the redevelopment and vacant and blighted property.”

“I’m very excited to see this pass today, not only for the service it will provide our senior citizens but the continued advancement and progress of this critical sector of our City. We’re constructing the remodeled Nora Navra Public Library and the Sacred Heart mixed-use development is just a few blocks down.”

— DISTRICT “D” COUNCILMEMBER JARED C. BROSSETT

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

New Orleans Chapter of the Links Recognized by the Council



The Council recognized the New Orleans (LA) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated in celebration of its 60th anniversary. Founded in 1946, the women’s volunteer service organization is committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the cultural and economic survival of African-Americans and other persons of African-American ancestry.

The New Orleans (LA) Chapter of the Links serves as a volunteer service organization

committed to providing life-changing community service throughout the Metro New Orleans area. The New Orleans chapter is a part of the Southern Area of The Links, Incorporated, which includes Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and the Bahamas.

The women have extended their outreach to include national and international endeavors and developed programs that nurtured the

visual and performing arts, along with other programs, to address the issues of the times.

introduced the group as the first order of business at the meeting on April 6.

District "C" Councilmember Ramsey, a proud member of the Links organization since 1990,



Council Celebrates 31st Season of Southern Rep Theatre



The Council received a presentation from Southern Rep Theatre celebrating its 31st season. Lauren E. Turner, Producer of Artistic and Community Engagement, and Managing Director Jenny Windstrup spoke to the Council on the theatre's Community Table Engagement Initiative.

Southern Rep is an award-winning, critically-acclaimed regional theatre company that produces bold world premieres, the best of Broadway and off-Broadway, and classic plays. Founded in 1986, Southern Rep's mission is to develop and produce new plays that reflect the diversity of the City, to provide its people with professional theatre of the highest artistic quality and achievement and to establish a creative working environment that nurtures theatre enthusiasts.

As New Orleans' only year-round professional theatre, Southern Rep strives to enlighten,



educate, and entertain audiences and further extend that service through educational and outreach programs. Southern Rep's School to Stage Pipeline gives students between the ages of 4-18 the chance to explore and engage with live, professional theatre, participate in their own productions and pursue their dreams.

More than 18,000 children and counting have experienced the joy and magic of theatre through Southern Rep Arts Education Programs.

Resolution Adopted to Support Funding for Hollygrove Greenline Project



The Council adopted a resolution by District "A" Councilmember Guidry in support of an application to the State of Louisiana for a Recreational Trails Grant to fund phase two of the Hollygrove Greenline.

A five-year project, the Greenline officially opened in March 2017. Located in a low-lying district of New Orleans between Carrollton Avenue and the Jefferson Parish line, the former rail bed now conveys stormwater to nearby outfall canals.

This program provides the opportunity to generate innovative solutions for issues facing motorized and non-motorized trail users and will encourage projects that work in partnership with trail-user groups, volunteer groups, the business community, and local, state, and federal agencies.

"My resolution to support a grant application to fund phase two of the Hollygrove Greenline trail was unanimously approved by the Council," said Councilmember Guidry. "If



Photo rendering courtesy of the Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design

successful, I look forward to working with partners in the Hollygrove neighborhood, the administration, and the

Sewerage and Water Board to leverage our initial investment in phase one, to complete phase two and eventually to extend the trail through the entire neighborhood to the Parish line."

NOTABLE ORDERS OF BUSINESS

Local Business Owners Recognized for Tornado Relief Efforts



The Council recognized local business owners and community representatives for their generosity in supplying thousands of dinners in the wake of the devastating EF-3 tornado that touched down in New Orleans East in February of 2017.

Some of those recognized by the Council included Claude Davis of Zatarain's, Justin Kennedy of Parkway Bakery, Eddie Rashad of Discount Zone, Phyllis Lucy of Deanie's Restaurant, Larry Miller of Compère Lapin, Lenora Hingle of Lenora's Grill and Michael and Suzette Dummett of Big Shirley's.

"The people of New Orleans are the real heroes in all of this," said District "E" Councilmember Gray. "Before federal and state officials mobilized, or any official assistance reached New Orleans East, citizens were on the ground in our communities helping family, friends and neighbors out of this crisis. Thank you for demonstrating once again that together we can and will overcome anything that comes our way."

April Declared as Fair Housing Month



The Council adopted a resolution by District "D" Councilmember Brossett, which recognized April as Fair Housing Month. April was designated as Fair Housing Month throughout the U.S. to celebrate the anniversary of the passing of the Fair Housing Act and in remembrance of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This resolution reflects the City's efforts in recent years to move toward a more affordable and equitable housing market. In partnership with City officials, the New Orleans Housing Authority submitted the nation's first Assessment of Fair Housing to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, making New Orleans a model for other communities.

The resolution encourages the Council to pursue public policies that increase equal access to quality housing and diverse neighborhoods for all residents citywide.

"Nearly 50 years after the Fair Housing Act was passed, it remains a powerful tool in fighting discrimination," said Councilmember Brossett. "It helps ensure that every person has a fair chance at decent housing without prejudice. It's important that we recognize what this legislation represented and that we continue to be committed to this cause."

Fair Housing Act... helps ensure that every person has a fair chance at decent housing without prejudice.

— Councilmember Brossett

Housing discrimination and living patterns remain a challenge in the City of New Orleans, with a recent study of New Orleans neighborhoods finding that 44 percent of African-American mystery shoppers were treated less favorably than their white counterparts.

Council Recognizes District “B” Graduating High School Students



The Council acknowledged an exemplary group of graduating students from District “B” schools with the annual citizenship award. These students were selected throughout their district for serving as exemplary models of academic achievement, community service and leadership.

The students honored by the Council include the following: Lucy Galloway, Madison Keller, Jemiya Jacob, Benjamin Calico, Josyel J. Fung, Tiara Langston, Mattie Zimmer, Alexander Dupuy, Victoria Suazo, Eddie Hoffman, Ronia Barnes, Michael Smith, Jane Thomas, Colin Price, Kaliya Myles, Destiny Letterman, Mariyah Antill, Jasmine Stalks, Nolen Lofton, Monteja’ James, Mia Robertson, Adelia Obioha, Anna Mermilliod, Angelle Roche, Tyler Davis, Kenneth Ballard, Teranisha McGuire, Toi Robinson, Claire Labbe, Jordan Williams, Karriem Bennett, Kajon Foster, Nakeitha Williams and Devin Starks.

“These 34 students are the future leaders of New Orleans, and hopefully with their help, we can continue to improve as a City,” said



*2017 Citizenship Award recipients
Madison Keller and Lucy Galloway*

Councilmember Cantrell. “To the students and their families, thank you for your hard work and continued leadership.”

NOLA Star Life Day Established to Honor EMS Workers



The Council adopted a resolution establishing the first Monday in the third week of May as **NOLA Star Life Day** to honor EMS staff for the tireless work they do for the people of New Orleans in their greatest times of need.

These men and women provide a vital service in connecting residents and visitors to high-quality, pre-hospital emergency care in addition to transporting patients to hospitals throughout the City.

The resolution gives special recognition to EMS workers for the exemplary service they provided to the homeless population and



the important role they played in assisting those affected by the 2017 New Orleans East tornado.

New Orleans Teens Visit City Hall for Inaugural Teen Takeover Day



Local teenagers shadowed Councilmember Brossett as part of Teen Takeover Day at City Hall on June 2

On June 2, 2017, the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC) hosted its inaugural City Hall Council Takeover Event. At the day-long event, teens participated in a pinning ceremony and job shadowing opportunity at City Hall.

The NORDC “City Hall” Council initiative is a civic program that offers young people hands-on experience to learn how public policy is shaped on a local level and actively engage with local government. Through the program, teens participated in community mapping exercises, developed and presented proposals and produced service events throughout the city.

During the City Hall Takeover Event, teens attended a welcome ceremony led by Mayor Mitch Landrieu and received certificates and pins for their participation and dedication to enacting change in their communities. Following the ceremony, teens were able to job shadow Councilmembers, where they witnessed firsthand the work environment, processes and skills in practice, the value of legislation and public service career options.

3RD QUARTER

JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER

CRIME PREVENTION & PUBLIC SAFETY

Council Passes Youth Misdemeanor Crime Ordinance



The Council unanimously approved an ordinance to reduce the number of children unnecessarily placed into the criminal justice system. The Policing Alternatives for Youth (PAY) ordinance allows New Orleans youth who commit misdemeanor offenses to receive a warning or summons instead of being arrested.

Before the vote, Chief Judge Candice Bates-Anderson and attorney Ranord Darensburg of the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court gave a presentation to the Council in conjunction with the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights Executive Director Aaron Clark-Rizzio and Policy Director Rachel Gassert.



This is a great victory, not just for this Council, but for our youth and our entire community.

— Councilmember Guidry

Ordinance Calendar No. 31,954, also known as the PAY ordinance, was developed by Councilmembers Guidry, Cantrell and Williams as part of a multi-year collaboration with the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD), the City of New Orleans, the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights and other stakeholders, to establish a variety



Photo courtesy of the Lens

of responses to children engaged in minor misbehaviors. The ordinance applies to low-level misdemeanor delinquency or status offenses including truancy, running away and disturbing the peace.

PAY provides NOPD officers with guidelines and expectations regarding when and whether to take juveniles into custody, in addition to giving them the option to issue a warning or summons only. The policy was created to address numerous findings that showed children who were arrested, regardless of the nature of their crimes, were less likely to finish school and more likely to commit future crimes as adults. Additionally, the ordinance was designed to address the vast racial disparity that exists within the City's juvenile detention centers.

"This has been one of the most exciting moments of my career to bring this work

before the Council," said Councilmember Guidry. "We are calling this the PAY ordinance because we believe it will pay out big benefits to our families and community. We already have had this system in place for our adults, but for whatever reason, there has been nothing in place for the most vulnerable members of our community, our children. I am so grateful to the countless number of stakeholders that have worked alongside me over the past several years to address this issue. This is a great victory, not just for this Council, but for our youth and our entire community."

With the passing of the PAY ordinance, the Council took an important first step toward reducing recidivism and ensuring increased and equitable opportunities for success so that our youth may grow to be productive members of society.

Council Declares Annual Geaux Blue NOLA Day Celebration



The Council voted to establish the annual celebration of Geaux Blue NOLA Day in September to honor the men and women of the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD). Councilmember Guidry spearheaded the initiative, which took place on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017, as part of an annual day of recognition about the NOPD's vital role to the well-being of the community.

The specific date for future Geaux Blue NOLA Days will be set each year to accommodate

the numerous events, such as Geaux Blue Family Day, that are dependent upon donations of space and volunteers. However, the commemoration will always take place around Sept. 11 to recognize both NOPD officers and first responders.

Geaux Blue NOLA Day 2017 concluded with a memorial ceremony in front of police headquarters where the names of five fallen officers were added to the memorial wall.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Oretha Castle Haley Merchants & Business Association Honored with 2017 Main Street America Award



The Council recognized the Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard Merchants & Business Association (OCHBMBA) for having won the 2017 Main Street America Award for its work in restoring the neighborhood following Hurricane Katrina.

During the annual Main Street Now National Conference in May, the National Main Street Center awarded OCHBMBA for its exceptional work implementing the Main Street Approach to revitalize Oretha Castle Haley



*Photo of Dryades Market in 1943 at Dryades and Melpomene Streets
courtesy of the New Orleans Public Library*

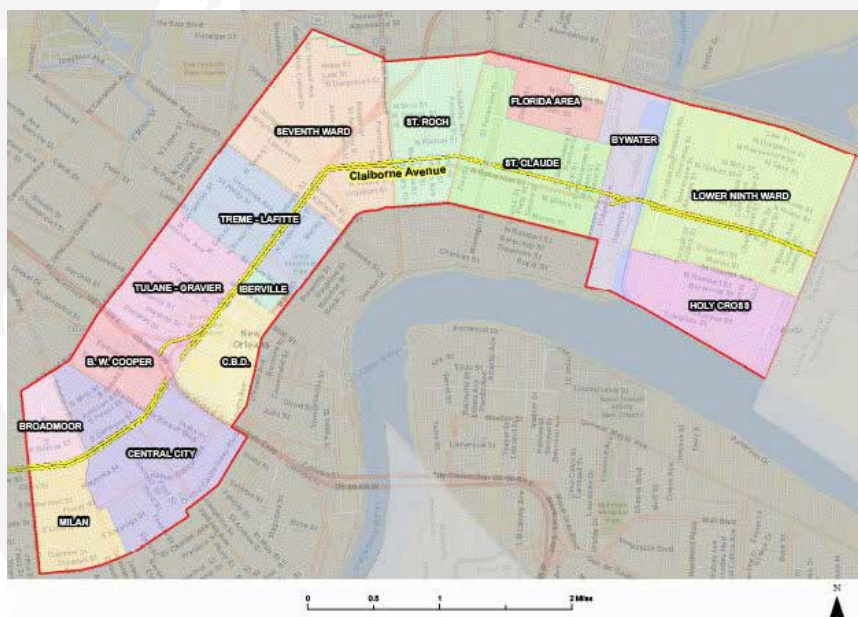
Boulevard in New Orleans. The 2017 GAMSA competition featured a strong group of semi-finalists from more than ten communities throughout the United States.

The OCHBMBA began its work in the 1990s when founding members first developed the strategic plan to revitalize the corridor. As a result of OCHBMBA's significant investment, the neighborhood has made an impressive comeback following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, formerly known as Dryades

Street, is on its way to once again becoming a beacon for culture, history, commerce and more.

"The use of public resource investment and private philanthropic investment in this area is something the rest of the country should emulate," said Councilmember Head. "We started with a lot of blight, very few homes, very few renters and almost no businesses. I have to say thank you to those who have worked tirelessly to make OC Haley what it is today - an incredible place to work and live."

Ordinance Passes to Authorize Claiborne Corridor Enhancement Measures



Map of the Claiborne Corridor, which stretches through the core of New Orleans, courtesy of the Network for Economic Opportunity

The Council unanimously approved an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Joint-Use Agreement between the City, the State of Louisiana and the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to provide for the lease of land and airspace to preserve and enhance the Claiborne Corridor. This measure secured control of

the site under Interstate 10 and allowed the DOTD to establish the Claiborne Corridor Marketplace and Cultural Innovation District in that area.

"We're invigorating a corridor that was once a thriving business hub before the existence of the Claiborne bridge," said Councilmember Brossett. "A person can't develop in life without taking chances. That being said, we pushed forward to make an investment in the people who came together in their

community to build it from the ground up, people who invested in themselves and have come to the government to ask us to, in turn, invest in them. It's like my grandfather used to say, nothing beats a failure like a try. This is a great victory for the Tremé and the entire City of New Orleans."

Council Approves City Partnership with NOLA Business Alliance to Develop New Economic Development Business Model



The Council passed an ordinance authorizing a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of New Orleans and the NOLA Business Alliance (NOLABA) for the development and implementation of a new business model for economic development.

"I believe there's a real need to institutionalize our systems and successful programs to maintain our current momentum in economic development," said Councilmember Williams. "This legislation will further guarantee that the need is met in New Orleans. As we move forward, I will be demanding data to share with the public to ensure progress remains on track and our intended goals are achieved."

The NOLABA is the official economic development agency for the City of New Orleans. Now an accredited economic development organization (AEDO), NOLABA was formed in 2010 at the instruction of Mayor Landrieu to reposition New Orleans as the ideal intersection of commerce and culture. ProsperityNOLA, which was developed by the NOLABA, was the first comprehensive development plan in New Orleans' recent history.



"I've often spoken on behalf of all New Orleanians having access to economic opportunity," said District "D" Councilmember Brossett. "I have had similar concerns along with my colleagues about this legislation, as this is a three-year commitment and we have a new administration and another Council coming in. After much discussion, I'm going to move to support this, but I will tell you, I hope to be back in this seat and I will watch NOLA Business Alliance closely, as I have done this term. NOLA Business Alliance has to do a better job with its investments in Algiers, in Gentilly, and many parts of New Orleans East, as well as with internal diversity."

This ordinance will enhance the NOLABA's ability to grow jobs and wealth in the City through private and public partnerships.

INFRASTRUCTURE, UTILITIES AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Council Passes Master Plan Amendments



The Council adopted the proposed text and map amendments to the City's Master Plan also known as the Plan for the 21st Century: New Orleans 2030.

Ordinance Calendar No. 31,917 to adopt the proposed text changes, and Ordinance Calendar No. 31,918 to adopt amendments to

the future land use map, were unanimously passed by the Council at the meeting on July 27. The changes in these ordinances were mostly uncontroversial and enjoyed broad support. The Council also adopted two motions (Motion M-17-411 and Motion M-17-412), which sent certain matters back to the City Planning Commission (CPC) for further

consideration. Following an additional public process at the CPC level, the items will return to the Council for final approval, modification or denial.

In April of 2008, the New Orleans City Council took on the task of reforming the City's system of land use and zoning and unanimously voted to amend the City's Charter to mandate a Master Plan, which was ultimately approved on Aug. 12, 2010.

Dozens of amendments were submitted and reviewed by CPC staff when the current amendment process was initiated in early 2016 with final recommendations from the CPC transmitted to Council on May 4, 2017.

At the meeting on July 10, 2017, the Council held a special Committee of the Whole meeting to receive public comments and discuss the proposed amendments before the formal vote on July 27.

HEALTH CARE AND CIVIC SERVICES

Second Annual New Orleans African-American Male Wellness Walk Presentation to the Council



The Council heard a presentation and passed a motion relative to the Second Annual African-American Male Wellness Walk (AAMWW). Motion M-17-506 waved all permit fees relative to the walk, which took place on Saturday, Sept. 30, at Joe W. Brown Memorial Park in New Orleans East.



Metairie Bank served as the first official bank sponsor of the AAMWW in conjunction with its original partner, New Orleans East Hospital. The New Orleans 2017 AAMWW Honorary Chairman was 2nd Congressional District Congressman Rep. Cedric Richmond.

Council Waves Building Permit Fees for Flood Victims



The Council unanimously passed an ordinance to waive certain fees relative to building permits necessary to perform non-structural repairs of buildings damaged by the severe flooding that occurred on Aug. 5, 2017. Effective through Dec. 31, 2017, this ordinance provided critical assistance to those still attempting to rebuild and recover in the wake of this disaster.



Photo of high flood waters in Mid-City courtesy of The New Orleans Advocate

"So many of our citizens suffered devastating effects to their homes and businesses as a result of this flooding and inadequate emergency response efforts," said Councilmember Brossett. "Eliminating this

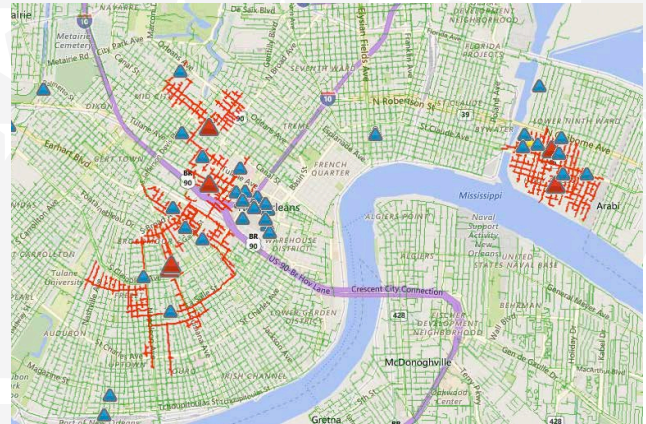
financial burden represents our continued commitment to helping these people get back on their feet."

Council Approves Entergy Reliability Resolution



The Council unanimously approved a resolution authored by District "D" Councilmember Brossett, which established a docket for the Council's investigation of Entergy New Orleans' (ENO) outages and reliability performance, distribution O&M staffing and scheduling, and the establishment of minimum reliability standards for ENO going forward.

"This resolution is the result of ongoing and tireless efforts by myself and my fellow Councilmembers to improve the reliability of service in District "D" and throughout the entire City," said Councilmember Brossett. "This represents an important step in addressing customer concerns and ultimately



An Entergy outages map following a June "power interruption" courtesy of NOLA.com

creating a more efficient and advantageous system."

Zoning Change Approved to Establish a CBD-3 Cultural Arts District



The Council approved a zoning change from a CBD-5 Urban Core Neighborhood Lower Intensity Mixed-Use District to a CBD-3 Cultural Arts District in the area bounded by Calliope Street, Dryades Street, Howard Avenue and Camp Street. The change was designed to promote commercial development and increase safety in the neighborhood.

This will deliberately and definitely bridge cultures, create an open dialogue and mutual respect between the communities

— Councilmember Cantrell

Currently inactive at the time, the zoning change was proposed to support the generation of projects like Art Walks and other new business endeavors in the area that would give the space purpose. Additionally, it would support nearby



Photo courtesy of GoNOLA.com

adjacent cultural facilities like the WWII Museum, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art and the Contemporary Arts Center.

The Art Walks that take place throughout the City each month represent some of the finest ways to enjoy the visual arts in New Orleans. The walk planned for this area will bring people together and provide opportunities to view the latest art exhibits and installations by local and national artists.

"This will deliberately and definitely bridge cultures, create an open dialogue and mutual respect between the communities," said Councilmember Cantrell.

Creation of the Carrollton Hollygrove Cultural District



Photo courtesy of the Preservation Resource Center

In February of 2017, the Council approved a measure led by Councilmember Guidry in coordination with the Preservation Resource Center (PRC) to create the Carrollton Hollygrove Cultural District (CHCD). Earlier in 2016, Councilmember Guidry engaged the PRC and neighborhood leaders to help incorporate some remaining undesignated portions of District “A” as the 23rd cultural products overlay in New Orleans.

With its creation, the vital and unique New Orleans neighborhoods within the new district now have access to cultural development and preservation financial incentives from which adjacent communities already benefit. The benefits include: exemptions from state and local sales tax for the sale of original artwork within the district, and state historic tax credits for eligible rehabilitation of historic structures located within the district.

The CHCD engages community stakeholders in activities designed to support the existing artistic endeavors and cultural production

within its boundaries while incentivizing the creation of new opportunities. This involves capitalizing on a secure network of existing cultural leaders, emerging artists and facilitators, and culture-supporting businesses. In tandem with supporting artistic expression, the CHCD promotes sustainable reuse of historic structures to maintain a strong physical sense of place in this community.

The CHCD includes the area bound by Jeanette Street, the Jefferson Parish Line, South Carrollton Avenue, and I-10. The Uptown-side of South Carrollton Avenue was previously within the boundaries of the Uptown-University Cultural District but was deemed more geographically and culturally consistent with the character of the CHCD by the state.

Council Reauthorizes Environmental Advisory Committee and Passes Electric Vehicle Charger Ordinance



Photo courtesy of Curbed NOLA

The Council reauthorized the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) for an additional year from Jan. 30, 2018, through Jan. 31, 2019. The EAC, initiated by Councilmember Ramsey, was established by the Council in early January of 2017 to help support the Council's Public Works, Sanitation, and Environment Committee. It provides feedback and subject matter expertise to the Council concerning all matters relating to the environment and sustainability.

On July 7, the Environmental Advisory Committee issued its final Electric Vehicle Report for the City. The report urged the City to take ten critical steps immediately to prepare for a surge of electric vehicle ownership in coming years. Among the major suggestions outlined in the report

were the curbside EV charging initiative, EV Ready new construction guidelines, "charge to charge" rights for EV charger owners, public City Hall EV chargers and educational outreach funding for residents and low-income communities.

Additionally, the Council passed an ordinance relative to the utilization of portions of right-of-way for the installation and maintenance of electric vehicle chargers. That ordinance established permit requirements and fees, standards of use, enforcement and penalties.

These measures further enhanced green policy, environmental stewardship and clean transportation throughout the City, ensuring long-term sustainability and resilience for generations to come.

Ordinance Passes to Establish "Rainy Day" Savings Fund



The Council passed an ordinance to call an election that would amend the Home Rule Charter of New Orleans to establish a Savings Fund that could only be used under certain conditions such as a declared emergency or a severe economic downturn.

The ordinance states that the savings fund would serve as an operating fund of the City, and would require that five percent of the five-year average of actual general fund expenditures be appropriated by the City Council, and deposited into said savings fund to be used only upon a majority vote when one or more of the following conditions had been met:

- 1 A City Council declaration of emergency due to act of God, riot, war, or a grave emergency which threatens widespread loss of life or grievous injury to health or property;
- 2 A City Council determination that a significant loss in City revenues due to an economic downturn of serious proportions has occurred or is occurring; and/or
- 3 A mandate by the United States Government that has been determined by the City Attorney to be in accordance with law.

At the Aug. 10 meeting, Jeff Hebert, Chief Administrative and Resilience Officer for the City of New Orleans, presented to the Council and answered additional questions regarding the fund. Per his presentation, the money would not be taken from any existing sources of revenue given the approximately \$60 million fund balance that exists already. As an example, Hebert said that having this fund would have allowed the City to help with immediate and ongoing disaster recovery assistance following the tornado that damaged thousands of homes and businesses in February.



Councilmembers Stacy Head, James Gray, LaToya Cantrell and Susan Guidry, joined Mayor Landrieu for a press conference to stress the need of the Rainy Day Savings Fund prior to the Nov. 18 election

"We have a woefully inadequate source of funding for drainage, which is why we can only afford to fix and not redesign and replace our current system," said Councilmember Head. "While spending money on increased tourism efforts through the CVB or NOTMC are great and important, none of that really matters if our City is underwater. This money will help us ensure that doesn't happen."

New Orleans voters agreed on the importance of the Rainy Day Fund and voted to establish it in the general election which took place on Nov. 18.

Council Approves Measures to Address Backlog of Unpaid City Judgments



The Council voted to establish a Judgment Fund to dedicate certain funds for the payment of legal judgments rendered against the City. In a separate resolution, the Council granted preliminary approval for the issuance of up to \$10 million of Taxable Limited Tax Bonds to service a large portion of the City's current outstanding unpaid judgments, which amount to approximately \$40 million.

"History has told us that these judgments will be a recurring expense and we have to

ensure our citizens that we will be legally and morally responsible for our obligations," said Councilmember Williams. "I think this is a step in the right direction for this Council in not continuing to kick a can down the road just because the law allows us to do so. We've seen those results for over a decade with the Sewerage and Water Board and in other areas, so this is one area where we can step up and finally do the right thing."

Council Recognizes Son of a Saint Organization



The Council welcomed Bivian "Sonny" Lee III and Lauren Darnell from Son of a Saint to applaud them for their work to enhance the lives of fatherless young men in New Orleans.

Sonny Lee serves as the founder and director of the Son of a Saint program, which helps provide mentorship and guidance to boys growing up without fathers around the New Orleans area. Lee, who was named GAMBIT's 2016 New Orleanian of the Year, told the Council he started the program six years ago and it continues to grow.

"I grew up fatherless, which is why I started this program for boys and young men facing similar struggles," said Lee. "But it doesn't stop with just the boys. We also support their mothers, brothers and their entire families. We have about 60 boys in the program, and they start with us at age 10 and are with us until they're 18. They become our family."

Son of a Saint equips young men with the tools they need to become productive members of society and requires that they maintain a minimum 2.7 GPA, complete four hours of community service each month and maintain good conduct at home, at school and within the Son of a Saint organization.



Photo courtesy of NOLA.com

The organization provides numerous services including mental health counseling, recreational activities, group mentorship sessions, travel opportunities, tutoring, scholarships and tuition assistance.

Son of a Saint hosted its fifth annual gala on Dec. 1, 2017, to raise funds and honor those who have excelled in the program.

"It is better to build strong children than to try and repair broken men," said Councilmember Williams. "Some programs around town say they're for the kids, but you look into the eyes of some of those kids, and you don't always see that. When you look into the eyes of any one of the boys in Son of a Saint, you see light and hope."

Council Holds Special Meeting and Receives Updates on Emergency Response Efforts from Mayor Landrieu and City Officials Following Summer Flood Event



Following the widespread flooding that occurred throughout the City on Aug. 5, 2017, the Council asked Mayor Mitch Landrieu and appropriate City representatives to attend its Aug. 10 regular meeting to speak on power station outages and turbine failures as well as the Administration's current efforts to address the threat of future flooding.

The Council held a special meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 8, to receive updates on the flooding which seriously impacted much of New Orleans. The final presentation of that special meeting from Jeff Hebert, Chief Administrative Officer, and Jared Munster, Director of the Department of Safety and Permits, was postponed to the regular meeting on Aug. 10 to allow time for public comment. Following the Mayor's address, Hebert and Munster gave their presentation to the Council on the City's response to the flooding event.

"I am not happy, as you are not happy, and rightly so about the misinformation that we received in an untimely fashion," said Mayor Landrieu. "As a consequence, I took very bold action regarding leadership changes. This is not our City's finest moment, but it will



Mayor Landrieu addresses the City Council at the meeting on August 10, 2017

not define who we are. We all have a lot to do in this area to restore public trust but the most important thing right now is to secure the City."

4TH QUARTER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

CRIME PREVENTION & PUBLIC SAFETY

Council Approves Pay Raises for New Orleans Police Department Officers



The Council approved a new pay plan for the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) that included comprehensive raises for most officers. The Council's action ratified the increases which were first approved by the New Orleans Civil Service Commission at its Oct. 10 meeting.



... men and women of the NOPD handle large crowds and life-threatening situations better than any other department in the world.

— Councilmember Guidry



POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Council adopted a series of motions relative to the new plan, which proposed a 10 percent raise in base pay for entry-level police officers, an additional 10 percent raise for detectives and a 10 percent raise for sergeants and lieutenants. Additionally, it replaces the current structure, which utilizes pay steps for Police Officer I, II, III and IV, with the creation of a "senior police officer" position.

This year, it was reported that the department was staffed at more than 300 fewer officers than in 2010. These measures will allow the NOPD to be more effective in keeping the residents of New Orleans safe through retaining its current officers and attracting more men and women to the department.

Following the death of Officer Marcus McNeil in the line of duty on Oct. 13, the

entire Council offered their support and condolences to Chief Michael Harrison, who was present to advocate on behalf of the pay plan ordinance.

"Regardless of any bad press or negative comments that may be out there, we have to say, overwhelmingly, that the men and women of the NOPD handle large crowds and life-threatening situations better than any other department in the world," said Councilmember Williams. "This [amendment to the] classified pay plan is the entire City and government's way of saying 'thank you' for the incredible work you do each and every day and the tremendous sacrifices you've made on behalf of the people of New Orleans."

Ordinance Passed to Clarify Certain Bail Requirements



The Council amended the Code of the City of New Orleans relative to bail to clarify timing requirements for initial appearances. This is an amendment to the bail ordinance that was unanimously passed by the Council in January 2017 and went into effect on April 23, 2017.

According to a 2015 Vera Institute of Justice report, New Orleans spent roughly \$6.4 million detaining people who were jailed only because they couldn't pay bills imposed upon them by the City's criminal justice system. This adversely affects both criminal defendants and the economy, as the cost of jailing those unable to afford bail, fees and fines often exceeds the amount of money collected.

As a result, Councilmember Guidry introduced the ordinance to ease bond requirements for certain defendants. For the municipal offenses outlined, the bail schedule directs

New Orleans spent roughly

\$6.4 Million

detaining people who were jailed only because they couldn't pay criminal justice bills

Cost of jailing often exceeds the amount of money collected.

that the defendant be detained until the initial appearance hearing, which is to be held no later than 24 hours after the time of booking. For all municipal offenses not specified in the ordinance, the bail schedule directs that the defendant be released on his or her own recognizance, without the requirement of posting any financial obligation.

Council Authorizes RFQ for Public Safety Consultant



The Council voted in favor of a motion authorizing the issuance and advertisement of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a public safety consultant. As stated in Motion M-17-526, public safety is a vital function of local government and is critical to the City's success. With its passing, the Council has expressed its intent to retain a public safety consultant to provide expertise and assess efficiency opportunities with the primary goal of making New Orleans a safer place.

"As our criminal justice agencies continue to evolve to a place where policies and overall culture align with national best practices, we need to take aggressive action to foster this growth and make responsible investments," said Councilmember Williams. "With this expert analyst, we will have the ability to gather and analyze data from all of our criminal justice agencies, learn how the data of one agency influences the next, and how that inter-agency information can be better communicated between silos."

With this effort, the Council hopes to institutionalize the need for evolution. It

represented a very large step toward a more collaborative process in which the Council works together and alongside other government agencies and community partners to ensure informed decision-making when it comes to spending public money.

"In regards to public safety, I fully believe in building upon the spirit of collaboration so that these decisions aren't coming solely from the Mayor," said Councilmember Cantrell.

"This will force us to work together as a team to make this City safer because we still haven't seen a real impact from the systems we have in place now. This represents a great step in the right direction for this Council and the entire City of New Orleans."

Councilmember Williams added, "We have a window right now in our state to push hard and make real strides in improving our criminal justice system. The people deserve better, the children of this city should be able to ride their bikes around our neighborhoods without fear."

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

New Meat Market Restaurant Coming to Mid-City



The Council approved a request for a conditional use to permit for a restaurant to be affiliated with Bayou Beer and Wine Garden. The building is in an HU-B1A Historic Urban Neighborhood Business District and an HU-B1A Use Restriction Overlay District located at 3301 Bienville Street at the corner of Bienville Street and North Rendon Street in Mid-City. The City Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposal as it is consistent with the Master Plan, the Plan for the 21st Century.



Photo courtesy of Google Maps

While the site was historically used for both residential and commercial purposes, the existing two-story wood structure had been vacant for several years. The applicant and property owner, Bayou Partnership, LLC, proposed to continue combined uses of the property by opening a butcher shop that would also operate as a restaurant (Bayou Meat Market) offering sandwiches and small plates on the menu. The market will be located on the first floor of the building in the front. The rear of the first floor and the second floor would be apartments.

"Make no mistake about it, commercial enforcement has to be a priority not just in this area but citywide," said Councilmember

Cantrell. "A lot of work has gone into this, and we will continue to work to ensure enforcement and accountability across the board. If there are any issues, I encourage residents to please contact the Council offices, and we will make sure that your concerns are addressed. We hope this becomes the great addition to the neighborhood that we intend it to be."

In addition to serving as a positive force for economic development in the area, the establishment will consequently make the surrounding neighborhood safer through the additional surveillance cameras that will be installed around the building.

Measure Passed to Support Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) International Marketing Plan



The Council authorized the Mayor to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the City and the Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) to provide funding, marketing, planning and support for an international tourism marketing plan.

The plan will assist in the opening of the new Louis Armstrong International Airport terminal, which will dramatically increase visitation to the City through a combination of more flights, larger aircraft and new destinations. District "D" Councilmember Brossett has been instrumental in the airport's recent expansion from the launch of British Airways' nonstop flights between London and New Orleans, to the approval of the \$993 million terminal expansion project.



NEW ORLEANS
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Funding and Operation Measures Approved for New Low Barrier Homeless Shelter



Former Veterans Affairs hospital site. Photo courtesy of The New Orleans Advocate

The Council authorized the Mayor to enter into a CEA between the City, the Downtown Development District (DDD), and the Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority to accomplish the valuable purpose of enhancing public services available to the homeless population.

The shelter will enhance public services for our homeless, and in turn, enhance the quality of life for all of us.

— Councilmember Cantrell

This agreement allows for collaboration between these entities for design, remodeling, operation and funding of the new low barrier shelter located on the

second floor of the former Veterans Affairs hospital on Gravier Street.

In September of 2017, City officials announced that Start Corp., a nonprofit organization based in Houma, had been selected to run the 100-bed facility. With nearly 500 people forced to sleep on the streets on any given night, Start Corp., in partnership with the DDD, Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and the City, will work to connect New Orleans' most underprivileged with not only shelter but an array of critical social services all in one spot.

"We have to meet people where they are," said Councilmember Cantrell. "The shelter will enhance public services for our homeless, and in turn, enhance the quality of life for all of us."

Additional Funding Approved for Moonwalk Project Renovations



The Council passed a motion to approve the Operating Budget of the French Market Corporation for the year 2017 with an additional \$1.1 million in funding for Moonwalk Project renovations. In summer of 2017, the French Market Corporation awarded Dynamic Constructors a \$2.95 million contract to renovate the Moonwalk on the City's waterfront.

The renovations include shade trees and wide staircases that lead to the Mississippi River. This additional funding will allow the overhauled Moonwalk to become the French Quarter's showcase piece for the City's 2018 tricentennial celebration.



Photo rendering courtesy of NOLA.com

Sewerage and Water Board Spokespersons Present Fourth Quarter and Annual Reports to the Council



Ryan Berni, Deputy Mayor of External Affairs for the City of New Orleans, and Jade Brown Russell, Attorney for the Sewerage and Water Board (S&WB), attended the Dec. 14 meeting to present the S&WB's Fourth Quarter and Annual Reports.

This is an opportunity to move forward together and get it right.

— Councilmember Ramsey

The presentation provided status updates on several areas of concern within the organization such as governance practices, customer service improvements, service assurance program, operational reform, City Council oversight, contracts and more. On customer service improvements, Berni said that while there were no concrete plans for additional customer service centers to supplement the one currently open on the West Bank, S&WB staff had been working with the City to determine whether or not



there were unused City-owned buildings that could be utilized as service centers. The presentation also detailed efforts to improve efficiency and reliability of practices through a variety of measures such as updates to the website, decreases to call wait times and further development of the S&WB Facilities Plan.

District "C" Councilmember and Public Works Committee Chair Nadine Ramsey expressed disappointment that no representatives of the S&WB had shown up to the last Public Works Committee meeting on Dec. 5, but expressed her gratitude to Berni and Russell for their presence at the regular meeting on Dec. 14. She added that in the future she hoped the Council wouldn't receive reports so sporadically and planned to introduce an ordinance providing a format and timeline to ensure they were received promptly (the S&WB reporting requirements ordinance was adopted by the Council on Jan. 11, 2018). "This is an opportunity to move forward together and get it right," said Ramsey.

"I'd love to know the explanation for continuing down the same path of trying to repair a 100-year-old system when millions have already been wasted trying to unsuccessfully repair it," said Councilmember Brossett. "FEMA money has been wasted and now taxpayers are footing the bill. This report and presentation represent ongoing

issues with an overall lack of answers from the S&WB, which does no justice for me, nor my constituents. Where are the engineers? The public deserves answers from individuals with subject matter expertise."

Berni and Russell assured that moving forward they would work with the Council and the S&WB to establish expectations, assess what information was needed, and determine who is most qualified to present on specific issues, to develop best practices and deliver better results.

On the state of the agency and its advancements at the time, Russell concluded by saying, "There's still work to be done but I think what's proven here is the great progress we're making to find resolutions to a lot of the major issues which have plagued the S&WB throughout the year. We have to embrace transparency because it's critical to our success and the success of our city. The S&WB will continue to evolve and innovate to better serve the people of New Orleans."

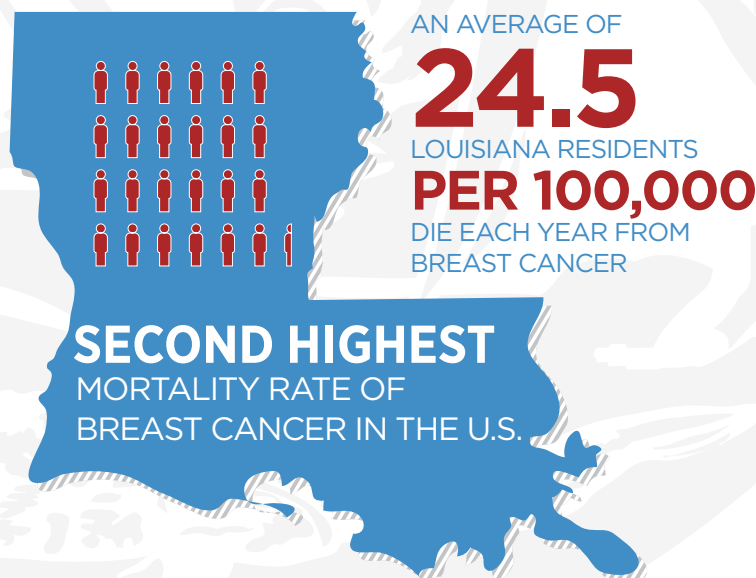
HEALTH CARE AND CIVIC SERVICES

Council Promotes Breast Cancer Awareness Month



The Council heard a presentation and hosted a panel discussion with breast cancer experts from various agencies in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which takes place throughout October. Panelists discussed the advancements in breast cancer detection and treatment, as well as the importance of regular check-ups.

Additionally, District "C" Councilmember Ramsey sponsored a breakfast and free mammograms provided by Woman's Hospital in front of City Hall for interested City employees.



The Council welcomed the following breast cancer advocates and experts:

- Dr. Denise Roubion-Johnson, Clinical Director, Louisiana Breast and Cervical Cancer
- Senator Diana Bajoie (RETIRED) Former Councilmember, District "B"
- Nedra Wardsworth, Specialist Community Health Advisor, American Cancer Society
- Lisa W. Plunkett, Director, Susan G. Komen New Orleans
- Dr. Corey J. Hebert, Doctors of Charity Co-Founder & CEO, Community Health TV
- Charlotte M. Parent, Assistant Vice President, Community Affairs/Network Navigation, LCMC Health
- Delia M. Young, Nurse Navigator, Surgical Oncology, University Medical Center
- Corinne Villavaso, CEO, Hannah's Klozet Foundation
- Dr. Dwight McKenna, McKenna General Medical Corporation

"As a breast cancer survivor, this is very personal to my staff and me," said Councilmember Ramsey. "Awareness is one of the most powerful tools in this fight. To combat breast cancer, we need to spread information and awareness not just during October, but throughout the entire year. I cannot stress enough the importance of knowing our risk and knowing our bodies, and I thank all of our amazing panelists for enforcing that message and shedding light on this very important issue."

According to the National Cancer Institute, Louisiana has the second highest mortality rate of breast cancer in the U.S. An average of 24.5 Louisiana residents per 100,000 die each year from this disease, while the national average was 21.5 deaths per 100,000.

"It is so important to highlight breast cancer awareness month," said Councilmember Guidry. "I had a very rare form of cancer, and I was fortunate to have beaten it many years ago. However, I remain vigilant by checking



in, talking to my doctor regularly and doing everything he asks me to do. Seeing your doctor as often as advised, staying on top of screenings and regularly conducting self-examinations are all vital in the fight against this disease."

Measures Passed to Prevent Drug Abuse and Distribution



The Council passed an ordinance and corresponding resolution to amend the Municipal Code of the City of New Orleans relative to controlled substances and the prohibition of distributing drug paraphernalia. These measures updated the City's laws governing drug paraphernalia, which previously banned syringes and needles for non-medical purposes. While the ordinance was primarily designed to protect needle programs and people using them, it also allows people with a prescription for medical marijuana to possess drug paraphernalia for that purpose — a measure that lines up with the state's in-progress plans for a medical marijuana program.

This came alongside a recent Orleans Parish Coroner's Office report, which showed the number of accidental drug-related deaths in New Orleans in 2016 exceeded the number of murders for the first time in recent history. Another report from the Louisiana



St Tammany Police Department. Photo of confiscated needles courtesy of The New Orleans Advocate

Department of Health and Hospitals showed the total number of Hepatitis C-related hospitalizations, often contracted from sharing injection needles, had tripled since 2010. With these measures, the Council hopes to more efficiently combat drug abuse and the spread of infectious disease in New Orleans through increased prevention and enforcement efforts.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Efforts to Limit Adult Live Performance Venues Receives Full Support of the Council



Councilmember-At-Large Stacy Head introduced a motion, which was unanimously approved by the Council on Oct. 26, to place limits on Adult Live Performance Venues (ALPVs) in the French Quarter. Motion M-17-552 set a cap of 13 clubs, the number currently operating, and limited them to one per block face in the Vieux Carre Entertainment District along Bourbon Street.

With this measure, the Council directed the City Planning Commission (CPC) to conduct a public hearing to consider amendments to the City's CZO to incorporate recommendations from the 2016 Adult Live Performance Venues (ALPV) Study.

"The Council took a step toward reducing the number and concentration of strip clubs



Photo courtesy of Change.org

in the French Quarter," said Councilmember Head. "However, it is not a panacea. We also need more effective and coordinated law enforcement to protect the vulnerable targets of sex traffickers."

St. Roch Drainage Project Receives Additional Federal Funds



The Council authorized the Mayor to enter into an amendment to a previously executed CEA between the City and the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness relative to the completion of the St. Roch Drainage Project through an additional \$114,038 in federal funds.

The St. Roch neighborhood project area includes a 26-city block section bounded by North Roberston Street, Franklin, St. Claude and Elysian Fields Avenues. The storm drain system is undersized and approximately half

of the streets within the project area have little or no existing drainage infrastructure. As a result, the neighborhood has historically suffered chronic flooding from even minor rain events.

For the St. Roch neighborhood, this project will greatly improve streetscape aesthetics and the quality of life for residents. The additional funding will significantly assist in its successful completion and implementation of the mitigation project.



St. Roch project area showing the blocks targeted for improvement. Courtesy of Nola.gov

NOTABLE ORDERS OF BUSINESS

Council Adopts 2018 Budgets



On Dec. 1, the Council adopted the Operating and Capital Budgets for the year 2018 in addition to the following related 2018 budget instruments:

- Capital Plan for 2018 projects to be funded for the remaining four years of the Five Year Capital Program (2019 - 2022)
- The Downtown Development District (DDD) 2018 Plan to provide additional capital, special services facilities and/or improvements for the DDD for the year 2018
- DDD 2018 Budget and Work Plan
- New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation's (NOTMC) Promotion Program
- Operating Budget of the New Orleans Aviation Board (NOAB)
- Operating Budget of the Delgado-Albania Plantation Commission
- Operating Budget of the French Market Corporation
- Operating Budget of the New Orleans Municipal Yacht Harbor Management Corporation (MYHMC)
- Operating Budget of the Orleans Parish Communication District (OPCD)
- Operating Budget of the New Orleans Building Corporation (NOBC)
- Operating Budget of the Algiers Development District (ADD)
- City Code amendment to increase notary fees
- Levy of fees on property located in special security and improvement taxing districts

"My colleagues and I approved a balanced 2018 budget that is focused on implementing the priorities that are most important to the citizens of New Orleans," said Councilmember Brossett. "Our focus continues to be on critical services, public safety, infrastructure, quality of life improvements and living wages for government employees. Additionally, this Council is making a significant investment in the children of New Orleans as we are allocating funds for an early childhood education pilot program. Though not perfect, the 2018 budget will adequately fund initiatives that will continue to move our city in the right direction."



Members of the Council joined Mayor Mitch Landrieu for the official signing of New Orleans' 2018 Operating and Capital Budgets on December 18, 2017

The adopted ordinances represent this Council and this Administration's last collaboration in balancing the City's budget. City officials who presented thanked the

Council for their cooperation and hard work over the years.

"The 2018 budget reflects eight years of work by the Mayor and Council to greatly reduce long-term debt, to cut waste and to improve the City's fiscal health," said Councilmember Guidry. "I am proud of the work that we have done, which is reflected in the best credit rating the City has ever had, a positive general fund balance and a dedicated rainy

day fund. This healthy fiscal position allows the Council to add to the proposed budget increased funding for catch basin cleaning and repair, increases in salaries for City employees and sheriff's deputies, and first-time funding of a pilot for early childhood education and of youth intervention services connected with the juvenile justice reform measure recently passed by our Council."

Council Approves Pension Reform Municipal Employees



The Council passed an ordinance authored by Councilmember-At-Large Stacy Head to amend the Municipal Code of the City relative to the New Orleans Municipal Employees' Retirement System (NOMERS).

The priorities for the reform included the following:

- A pension system to provide a reasonable retirement income for current employees and attract quality applicants to city employment
- Ensure that the system is adequately funded for current and future employees and avoid drastic benefit reductions in the future
- Immediately reduce the number of tax dollars spent on the pension system
- Use savings for other budget priorities

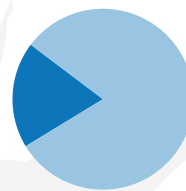
NOMERS and other legacy pension programs cost the City over \$116 million in tax dollars, which represents 19 percent of the City's general fund. The system is currently underfunded at 68.2 percent, which represents a decrease from over 100 percent about ten years ago.

This agreed-upon reform proposal was based on research by the Bureau of Governmental Research Supported by Business Council, Forward New Orleans Coalition, Citizens for a Better New Orleans and Vieux Carre Property Owners and Residents Association.

"This is another step toward a rational set of benefits with enhanced opportunity for upward development for city employees," said Councilmember Head. "It will ensure that the pension is healthy enough to meet the needs of this generation and generations to come."

NOMERS and other legacy pension programs cost
\$116 MILLION

19% OF CITY'S GENERAL FUND



2007

100%+ FUNDED

2017

68.2% FUNDED

Measures Passed to Alleviate City's Unpaid Judgments



Throughout 2017, the Council took several significant steps toward paying off outstanding unpaid judgments and legal settlements for those who have successfully sued the City. The Council voted to approve two ordinances and a resolution relative to the appropriation of necessary funds to the Department of Law to begin paying down the City's unpaid judgment backlog, which dates back at least 20 years and amounts to more than \$40 million.

At its meeting on Sept. 14, 2017, the Council unanimously approved a new fund to set aside \$2 million a year to pay off legal rulings and out-of-court settlements against the City and granted preliminary approval for the issuance of up to \$10 million of bonds to cover outstanding judgments.

The required minimum annual balance of the fund will be \$2,000,000 on Jan. 1 of each fiscal year and will be dedicated solely to assisting in the payment of legal judgments rendered against the City by state courts. Funds will come from revenues received from state court judgments issued in favor of the City supplemented by available revenues as needed to maintain the required balance.

The establishment of this "Judgment Fund" ensures payment to residents who have yet to receive the money they deserve and the implementation of a sustainable payment system moving forward.

Council Recognizes Heroic Xavier University Students



Xavier University Alumni Councilmember Brossett presented a special proclamation to a group of Xavier University students for their heroic act of saving a driver whose car had crashed into the Palmetto St. canal on Oct. 2, 2017.

Markevion Kennebrew, Moses Michael, Ronald Haroon, Demetrious Brown and another Xavier student selflessly sprung into action after a man smashed his sedan into a utility pole then crashed upside on the embankment of the Palmetto St. drainage canal along Washington Avenue in New Orleans.



*District "D" Councilmember Jared Brossett presented a proclamation to heroic Xavier students at the meeting on October. 12
Photo courtesy of NOLA.com*

New Hope Baptist Church Receives Council Approval for New Community Center



The Council approved a zoning change request from New Hope Baptist Church to build its new, 18,000-square-foot community center along Felicity Street in Central City.

The new two-story center will be situated on several lots along Felicity Street and will include a gym, classrooms, offices, and performance spaces. It will offer critical community services such as health programs, day care, adult education classes and more.



Rendering by Garrity & Accardo architects of the proposed community center at New Hope Baptist Church. Courtesy of the Uptown Messenger

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, Interim Chief of Staff
Lora W. Johnson, Clerk of Council
Calvin Aguillard, Council Fiscal Officer
Wayne T. Stratton, Director of Council Utilities Regulatory Office

NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL

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