

Friends,

First, I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season!

Second, as we approach the end of the year, I want to touch on the City Council's request for a national search for our new NOPD chief. I'll also explain the high points of next year's budget, drainage updates planned for Mid-City and Bayou St. John, new possible Residential Short-Term Rental regulations, as well as where to direct questions on issues outside of the Council's purview.

Best,

NOPD CHIEF

The entire City Council has joined together in calling for a national search for a new Chief of Police. The letter, sent to Mayor Cantrell on December 12, commits to working with the administration on a responsible and collaborative nomination process. The Council recommends a 4-step process:

1. Appoint an interim Chief after Shaun Ferguson's departure.
2. Launch a national search.
3. Create a selection committee to garner input from City Council and the public.
4. Confirm the nomination through the newly adopted Council confirmation process overwhelmingly supported by voters.

Please read the letter [here](#).

2023 BUDGET

On December 1, the City Council approved the 2023 budget for the City of New Orleans. This \$1.7 billion document presents a back-to-the-basics approach to government services with two "a" propositions. The first is the **"and"** proposition. There is too much emphasis on doing things one way or the other. In reality, residents want citywide balance in their quality of life. Here is what the budget focuses on:

- Public Safety AND Youth Services
- Affordable Housing AND Blight Reduction
- Major infrastructure projects AND fixing potholes, lights, and erecting signs
- Healthier Outcomes AND Economic Development

You can see highlights from the 2023 budget below. *Please note*: this does not encompass every program, partnership, department, or opportunity funded in the \$1.7 billion budget.

 <p>Additional Budget Priorities funded through general fund, fund balance, and American Rescue Plan</p>	<p>Criminal Justice IT \$30,000,000 Complete overhaul of IT systems & equipment for criminal justice offices</p> <p>Police Recruitment & Retention \$25,500,000 NOPD recruitment & retention programs</p>	<p>Public Safety Equipment & Tools \$7,500,000 NOPD Kevlar vests Crime lab & training academy equipment NOPD fire station alerting system NOEMS medical supplies & rescue tools</p>
<p>Youth Services \$14,700,000 Juvenile probation, parole & diversion E-sports equipment STEM NOLA innovation hub YouthForce NOLA career center Workforce development training for youth Pathways Youth programming Early Learning wage enhancements YouthForce NOLA internships NORDC budget restoration</p>	<p>Victim Assistance \$6,076,840 State DNA kits Decrease sexual assault backlog Trauma Recovery Center expansion Sexual trauma awareness & response funding Domestic violence AIR expansion Specialized victim outreach advocate</p>	<p>Public Health \$15,000,000 LEAD programming expansion Medical debt payments Maternal home health visits Unhoused population support Allocations to CASA New Orleans Health & hygiene needs for most vulnerable Complete funding for Covenant House Sobering center programming Right-to-Counsel funding</p>
<p>Blight Remediation & Beautification \$20,000,000 Blight abatement & grass cutting Combat title research backlog Eliminate illegal dumping backlog Augment Safety & Permits staffing Clear Parks & Parkways trimming backlog</p>	<p>Obligations \$19,000,000 Reduce judgment list City COI repayment Cost-of-living adjustment for retirees</p>	<p>Infrastructure \$35,700,000 Catch basin cleaning Sewerage & Water Board's substation Right-of-Way maintenance Citywide EV charging plan</p>

I view this budget as a down payment to address residents' needs. Most budgets are a conclusion - this budget is just the beginning.

That is a segue to the second "a" proposition – **accountability**. We expect every department and agency to show what they do for residents. With more money comes more accountability, and the Council will exercise quarterly check-ins on department and agency funding and prioritize understandable, accessible, and regular data shared with the public to improve transparency. Departments and agencies need to show their work to demonstrate what is being done publicly so residents can see how work is progressing in every part of the City.

[VIEW THE FULL BUDGET PRESENTATION HERE.](#)

DRAINAGE AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

Construction on the Bayou St. John Green Infrastructure Demonstration

project are officially kicked off. This project, owned and operated by the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO), will serve dual purposes:

1. Monitor quality and quantity management effectiveness
2. Educate the public on green infrastructure and stormwater management practices

The site, located on the open lot at the corner of South Norman C. Francis Parkway and Orleans Ave., was chosen because of its geographic prominence and the potential to benefit many people who visit the Bayou Saint John area regularly. Each green infrastructure facility will be illustrated through graphic diagrams, sections, stormwater storage volumes, and sketches on permanent display boards at the site.

Construction is slated throughout spring 2023.

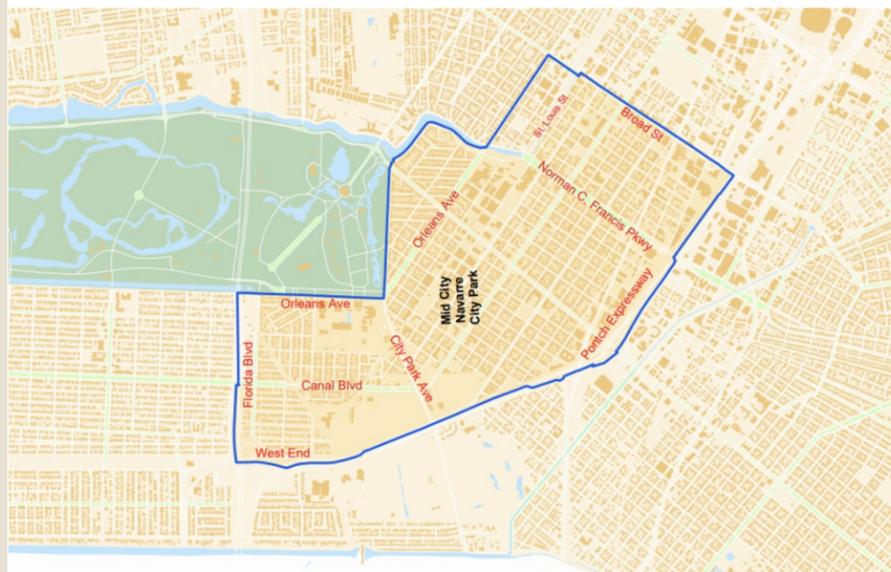


Relatedly, the Mid-City/Navarre/City Park H&H Drainage Study is slated to begin soon. This study focuses on the potential for future green and gray drainage infrastructure projects throughout the Bayou St. John area.

The scope of work will be as follows:

- AE will provide a hydraulic & Hydrologic study of the existing drainage system within the defined boundary
- An evaluation will be performed that will detail areas vulnerable to multiple rainfall events (1-, 2-, 5-, 10- and 25-year 24-hour storm events)
- AE will provide recommendations on locations and potential scope of works (both gray and green infrastructure) within the project area that may be implemented later to mitigate the results of the multiple rainfall scenarios.
- A detailed report will be provided by the AE detailing methodology, results, and recommendations

The study is estimated to take approximately one year once the contract is executed.



RESIDENTIAL SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS

In 2019, the City Council officially approved commercial and residential short-term rentals (STRs) regulations. One of the requirements to obtain a residential STR license was for the owner/operator to have a homestead exemption. In August, a federal appeals court ruled that the homestead exemption clause violated the rights of STR owners outside of Louisiana.

Now, the City has until **March 31, 2023, to pass new STR regulations**. The City Council, in tandem with the city's STR office and Safety & Permits, is working on regulations that fall within the judge's recommendations. Councilmember Vice President JP Morrell is taking the lead on this legislation.

I do not believe anything should be done in a vacuum. That is why I am pushing for several open meetings where the public can express their concerns.

New Orleans City Council
Joseph I. Giarrusso III — District A

