



MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT A COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH I. GIARRUSO III



Friends,

I want to update you on the vital work my office has been spearheading over the past few months. Last year was particularly difficult for so many people. I'm proud to represent such incredible neighborhoods, whose residents step up every day to help each other. While there are a number of important topics to be addressed, this newsletter will focus on West End Redevelopment, the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, crime and much more.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns at Joseph.Giarruso@nola.gov or 504.658.1010.

Best,

Joe

West End Redevelopment



Restoring West End has been one of my top economic development goals over the last several years. The once-active waterfront was home to famous restaurants and music venues, which were sadly devastated by Hurricane

Katrina.

Photo Courtesy of Crescent City Living

Now, after years of advocacy and work with Mayor Cantrell's administration, the redevelopment of West End is finally moving at full speed. City Council unanimously passed a [resolution](#) endorsing the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between Jefferson Parish, the State of Louisiana, and Orleans Parish earlier this month. Mayor Cantrell inked her signature on the CEA this week, cementing this administration's commitment to future economic development.

This CEA seeks to thoughtfully redevelop West End through continued partnership and public participation. To be clear, we will proactively seek input from nearby residents and business owners, as well as other stakeholders. Mayor Cantrell's administration has been working tirelessly on this along with Jefferson Parish Councilmember Jennifer Van Vrancken and State Representative Stephanie Hilferty, former City Councilmember Susan Guidry, as well as other officials, to redevelop this high-value property. This kind of teamwork shows how committed we all are to the re-establishments of this once-vibrant economic driver. It is an exciting opportunity for residents to help form a new hub of cultural, economic, and recreational importance in New Orleans.

Fight Against Crime

I teamed up with Councilmember Banks to co-author an opinion piece for Nola.com, highlighting what new priorities are needed to combat rising crime rates. Although crime is down nearly 20% in District A when comparing years to date 2021 to 2020, neighbors regularly express concern about crime.

In this op-ed piece, we've outlined specific practices, programs, and funding initiatives we believe will help stem rising violence. You can read the [full opinion here](#).

SWBNO Quarterly Report

Sewerage and Water Board (SWBNO) submitted their quarterly report to City Council on May 14. As a reminder, SWBNO is mandated by state law to report every quarter to City Council. For years, SWBNO did not report to the Council. The information in the reports is important for accountability.

To that end, we organized our requests under applicable sections in



the quarterly report for ease of presentation, so they focus mainly on billing and finance, customer service improvements, power, hurricane preparedness, and infrastructure.

First, some good news: Plans for a dedicated Entergy substation on the site of the Carrollton Water Plant are also underway. I have been meeting for nearly six months with SWBNO and Entergy on this. Mayor Cantrell and her office and Cm. Moreno have been active participants, too. Site development is expected complete by Spring 2021; SWBO estimates they'll come to City Council for project approval by August. In addition, SWBNO will be getting a new turbine in 2023 known as "Turbine 7," design work for this new power source is underway. I want to specifically thank Mayor Cantrell and her administration for prioritizing this important project. CBDG funding has been approved for the \$18-20 million upgrade.

We are still pressing for improvements to SWBNO's billing and infrastructure procedures. SWBNO reports they have a full staff of 60-meter readers, with 83 percent of meters read in March. Still, we daily receive emails and phone calls from constituents with questionable bills or incorrect estimates. Customer service processes require a fundamental change so all residents can receive equitable, accurate water bills. We also routinely track the infrastructure issues in District A.

This report and all quarterly reports are published on the [Public Works Committee page here](#).

NOLA Ready Alerts



NOLA READY
THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

The city is transitioning to a new NOLA Ready alert platform. If you have been receiving city alerts, such as weather alerts, you **MUST** transfer to the new alert vendor.

Text NOLAREADY to 77295 or visit [Emergency Alerts - NOLA Ready](#) to sign up.

If you were previously subscribed, you will continue to receive alerts temporarily. However, old subscribers will be phased out during the summer, as reminders are sent to create a new profile.

Cox & Harrah's Grants

The purpose of the program is to provide grant support to local organizations and projects that contribute to education, technology training, communications, and similar programs benefiting the youth of the City of New Orleans. Organizations and projects that meet a greater number of the Council's overall goals will be given greater emphasis.

You can find full criteria about each grant [here](#). Applications open June 1 and must be turned in by July 1. Please note: unlike past years, these grants will only be awarded once this year. Apply for the Cox Communications Community Grant [here](#). For the Harrah's Casino Community Grant, [click here](#).

Questions or concerns? Please don't hesitate to contact my office at (504) 658-1010 or email me at Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov and continue to follow along on my social media pages below.



New Orleans City Council
Councilmember Joseph I. Giarrusso, District A