



MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT A COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH I. GIARRUSO III



Hello Friends,

See below for a few quick updates on the City budget, D2Ds, Neighborhood Participation Programs, and campus construction in District A.

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

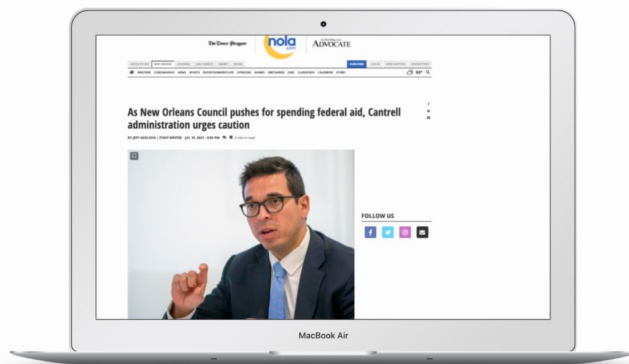
Best,

Joe

APR Spending

In addition to the general fund and tax receipts, the City is scheduled to receive over **\$350 million** from the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP). That money can not only be spent on revenue shortfalls from last year but the President and federal guidelines have provided guidance for spending those funds on public safety and infrastructure. These federal proceeds present an opportunity to strengthen necessary existing needs and begin work on a strategic and visionary plan for the City's future.

I look forward to working with everyone on developing a comprehensive plan for the spending. You can see my recent comments on the ARP money in a recent NOLA.com article [here](#).



Doubles to Dorms

The transformation of single-family and two-family homes to only accommodate students known as "Doubles to Dorms" is one of the most important issues facing residents in District A today. The City Planning Commission (CPC) recently reviewed our proposal to create an overlay that requires developers to create an off-street parking space for each increase in the number of bedrooms. An Interim Zoning District (IZD) with the same requirements is already in place for the university area.

The CPC ultimately denied the request, but several commissioners expressed support on a few of our ideas, including adding a homestead exemption and carving out affordable housing. My office has for months worked with neighbors and will continue to work with neighbors on a plan. City Council will ultimately vote on this proposal at a future meeting.

You can read more about the overlay, the D2D issue, or City Planning's report in this [Uptown Messenger article](#).



Neighborhood Participation Program Revisions

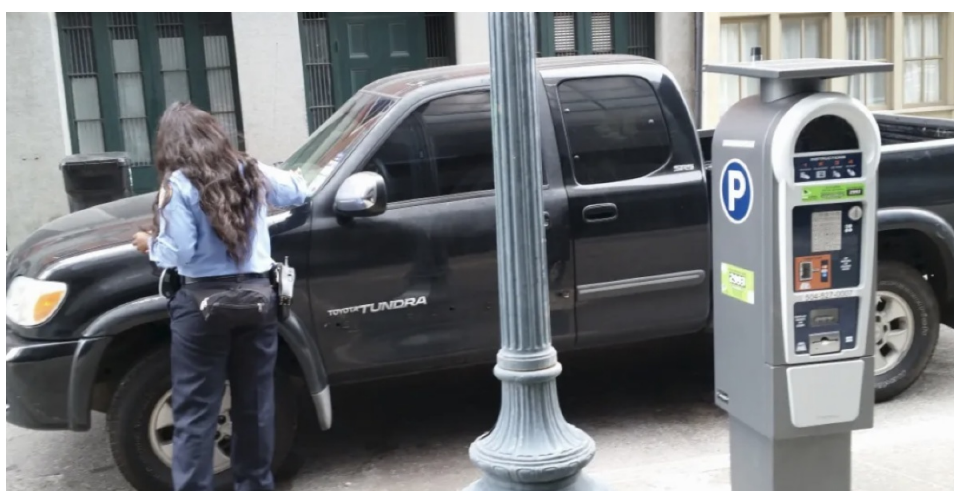
In non-emergencies, land use applicants who are seeking a zoning change or a conditional use must hold an in-person Neighborhood Participation Program (NPP) meeting. This allows neighbors and affected residents to give feedback, and applicants can answer questions and possibly revise plans based on neighbor concerns. The emergency protocol, enacted in March 2020, does not require an in-person meeting. COVID rules only require applicants to provide an email or phone number without requiring them to answer residents' questions. The COVID rules did not allow for meaningful neighborhood engagement or participation.



Therefore, I authored legislation that requires applicants to use teleconferencing, virtual, or other remote meeting formats to satisfy NPP requirements during a declared emergency. This allows neighbors to have their voices heard. The full City Council unanimously passed [this policy revision](#) at our July 15 meeting.

Parking Prohibited on Sidewalks

Please be courteous of your neighbors when parking along or near sidewalks. Do not park on sidewalks, and do not block sidewalk access with your vehicle. Parking on a sidewalk, as defined in Section 146-531 of the City Code, even if it is adjacent to your own property, can be a \$40 citation. Please remember that once Parking Enforcement is called for even one violation, they fan out into other streets to cite all violations. We generally do not receive notice of Parking Enforcement going to a neighborhood unless the relevant neighborhood group requests a sweep and, then we encourage communication with the neighbors.



New Nursing Building at Delgado

Construction has started on a \$38.6 million Ochsner nursing and allied health building at Delgado's City Park campus. The building, which will be called the [Ochsner Center for Nursing and Allied Health](#), will bring together Delgado's Charity School of Nursing and Division of Allied Health under one roof.

You can find details on the expansion [here](#). You can also read about the project in [Mid-City Messenger](#).



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.

