



MESSAGE FROM **DISTRICT A** COUNCILMEMBER **JOSEPH I. GIARRUSSO III**



Friends and Constituents,

As our city begins to safely and slowly reopen during COVID-19, I want to share some important updates, information and resources available to individuals and families across New Orleans.

Remember, you can always contact my office with any questions. You can also follow my Facebook and Twitter pages for all up-to-date information: @cmgiarrusso.

Stay strong. Stay safe.

Best,

Joe

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO), as mandated by the State Legislature, must submit quarterly reports to City Council. The quarterly and annual report of SWBNO was due May 1. In lieu of full reports, the Public Works Committee developed 12 narrowly-tailored questions focusing on four crucial categories:



1. Hurricane preparedness
2. Employees/Staffing
3. Finances
4. COVID-19 procedures

We sent SWBNO these question on April 27 in preparation for a May 27 Committee meeting. The answers we received on May 22 – the Friday of a holiday weekend – were procedurally and substantially deficient. As the Chair, therefore, I have postponed the May 27 meeting to June 11 to give SWBNO more time to provide complete and specific responses to inquiries from Councilmembers. You can watch this meeting via livestream on June 11 starting at 10 a.m. at council.nola.gov. We look forward to working alongside SWBNO, but as representatives of the people of New Orleans, we must ensure SWBNO becomes a more equitable and efficient utility.

As always, if you receive an abnormally high bill, please contact my office at 504-658-1010 or Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov.

LAKEVIEW COVID-19 TESTING

LCMC Health, the New Orleans Health Department, and Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center will be conducting free walk-up COVID-19 testing in Lakeview from **June 4 - 5**.

FREE COVID-19 TESTING IS COMING TO:

LAKEVIEW

Gernon Brown Rec Center
1001 Harrison Ave.

Thurs. June 4 - Fri. June 5

8am - 1:30pm or until maximum daily tests are reached

Anyone is eligible for a test. No ID or insurance required. Results are expected to be online or delivered within two to three days.

Anyone can receive a test, free of charge, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Gernon Brown Recreation Center, 1001 Harrison Ave.

JOINT PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Our office is partnering with Councilmember Kristen Gisleson Palmer's office for a joint Public Works and Transportation committee meeting.



Our goal is to understand how the City is implementing and adhering to the [Complete Streets](https://www.nola.gov/complete-streets) program, which was passed eight years ago. You can tune in on Wednesday, June 24 starting at 10 a.m. at council.nola.gov.

CLAIBORNE AVE. CONSTRUCTION

The Sewerage and Water Board of

New Orleans (SWBNO) has begun rehabilitating and repairing the Claiborne Avenue Pump Station, which includes work on the highway right-of-way.

The eastbound lanes of Claiborne Ave. Are now reduced to two lanes and re-routed onto a temporary roadway built on the neutral ground. Please heed all traffic directives, which will remain in place for the duration of this project.



The estimated project completion date is July 2022. To learn more about this project, [click here](#).

HARRAH'S & COX GRANTS UPDATE

The deadline for Harrah's and Cox grants have been extended and the new web-based applications are now live. Please remember to mark all final dates on your calendars:



1. Applications, instructions, eligibility criteria, and deadlines will be available on the Council's website at council.nola.gov (select Resources).
2. Applicants will be instructed to complete the application through the website. When the applicant submits the application, the application will be sent to the appropriate grant manager. For Cox grants, the grant manager is Chris Roberts (cwroberts@nola.gov), and for Harrah's grants, the grant manager is Donna Johnson (djohnson@nola.gov). Application and all required supplemental materials are due **by Wednesday, July 1, 2020**.
3. Each grant manager will review submitted applications for completeness. The grant manager will submit complete applications to the designated staffer(s) in the appropriate Council office(s) **no later than Monday, August 3, 2020**.
4. Councilmembers will review the applications and submit their selected grant recipients and the amount to be awarded to the grant manager **by Tuesday, September 8**.
5. Each grant manager will draft the appropriate legislative instrument (Resolution) to appear on the September 17 Council meeting agenda.

SNAP BENEFITS AT CCFM

You can stretch SNAP benefits further, with the help of The Crescent City Farmers Market! SNAP recipients qualify to shop with the Market Match program, which matched \$1 for \$1 at any Crescent City Farmers Market.

While typical markets are suspended due to COVID, you can use Market Match to purchase a \$20 fruit and veggie box from [Top Box Foods](#). Boxes are delivered to your home on Tuesday or Wednesday. For more information, please visit www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org.

Need assistance completing your application for SNAP benefits?
Market Umbrella can help!

Market Umbrella staff are available to assist you by phone with completing your online **application** on:

- Tuesdays from 9 am - 3 pm
- Fridays from 8 am - 2 pm

*MU staff are only able to assist with application completion. Determinations are made by DCFS on a case-by-case. MU staff will not have access to any information on approvals or pending applications.

Contact:
Allegro Hopkins
Food Access Program Manager
504-861-4488
allegro@marketumbrella.org

SNAP recipients qualify to shop with our Market Match program, doubling your buying power!

Home delivery boxes through our partner Top Box Foods are half price - only \$20 - with Market Match!

Preorder Purchases at Drive Thru Crescent City Farmers Markets are matched dollar for dollar up to \$20 to use on fruits and veggies!

For more info, visit crescentcityfarmersmarket.org
<https://cafe-cp.dcfsls.gov/selfservice/>

PUBLIC LIBRARY UPDATES

The New Orleans Public Libraries are now offering contactless pick-up and drop-off services.

Just follow the steps below to receive books, movies, and so much more from your neighborhood library. You can find more information and search the library's catalog at nolalibrary.org.

Contactless Materials Pick-Up & Drop-Off Instructions

Follow the steps below to enjoy our new contactless pick-up and drop-off service.

Step 1 - PLACE A HOLD - Explore our online catalog and place items on hold online or by calling any Library location.

Step 2 - CALL - Once you've been informed that your materials are ready for pick-up, call the location where you put the items on hold to receive location-specific contactless pick-up instructions. Materials will not be ready until after you call the location. Please note some items may take longer than normal to be ready for pick-up.

Step 3 - ENJOY - Late fines are not being incurred at this time so enjoy your materials a little longer than usual if you like.

Step 4 - RETURN - Return the materials to the Library by placing them in the return containers located outside.

Step 5 - REPEAT - Do it all over again. Place more items on hold and come see us again. We've missed you.

As always, if you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office at (504) 658-1010 or email me at Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov.



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