



## Joseph I. Giarrusso III

New Orleans City Council  
District A



Friends,

Now that Mardi Gras has passed, we are back to regular business. In this newsletter, I'll update you on recent changes to the Code Enforcement demolition process, an improved Code Enforcement dashboard, Blue Oak BBQ's conditional use request, several public meetings with City departments and agencies, the Joint Infrastructure Recovery Request (JIRR) program, and the Super Bowl LIX Supplier Diversity program.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Giarrusso III".

### CODE ENFORCEMENT DEMOLITION AMENDMENTS

For years, bad actors have used loopholes in the demolition process to prolong removal of blight. There was no absolute end date for ordered demolitions and Code Enforcement was not a single agency, allowing bad results because of lack of continuity in demolishing properties. To help further eradicate blight and prevent bad actors from cheating the system, I introduced two pieces of legislation to amend the process and to make Code Enforcement – now a single department – more robust.

My changes add finality: properties with a demolition order older than two years, that are not actively under renovation, will be demolished.

#### **There are three criteria for demolition:**

1. The demo order must be in place for two years;
2. The property must not have remediated all code violations identified in the demo order; and
3. The property is uninhabited.

Property owners must file the demolition order with the Clerk of Civil District Court. If the owner doesn't file that order, Code Enforcement will. The homeowner is responsible for demolition costs via a lien on the property.

The second piece of legislation requires Code Enforcement to modify their public-facing dashboard to include fines and fees levied for a blighted property, along with dates of administrative hearings and violations. The dashboard will also supply if a demolition order exists for the property and the date of demolition (if applicable). Code Enforcement has until July 1 to update **the existing dashboard** with these changes.

I want to thank Code Enforcement for working with us to craft these changes and my fellow Councilmembers for co-authoring them.

Blue Oak BBQ, located on Carrollton Avenue, is seeking to retain an outdoor expansion through a conditional use process. My office has been working with the applicants and nearby neighbors for months on long-standing concerns spurred by Blue Oak's success. While credibility and quality of life in the neighborhood have started to improve, many neighbors remain skeptical about Blue Oak and the long-term consequences of freely granting the proposed conditional use.

**Here's what I propose and what Blue Oak has agreed to as a test run:**

- Blue Oak withdraw its current Conditional Use request;
- Over the next six months, Blue Oak voluntarily abide by the provisos agreed upon by the neighbors, management, owners, and my office;
- Our office will facilitate a monthly meeting with stakeholders and email that group following each meeting to discuss that month's progress or lack thereof; and
- At the end of the six-month period, we will meet again with the stakeholders to review the original provisos and discuss our office filing a new application for Conditional Use.

As always, I will continue to work with all parties to ensure the residents and business both thrive.

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## UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETINGS

### SWBNO BILLING MEETINGS

Over the past six months, our office has received over 100 Sewerage and Water Board billing complaints. To that end, we have facilitated **three opportunities for District A residents to meet with SWBNO billing representatives** to dispute a bill.

Monday, March 18 at Loyola University New Orleans	5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	6363 St. Charles Ave. Danna Student Center, Octavia Room, 2nd Floor
Thursday, March 21 at Thurgood Marshall School	5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	4621 Canal St.
Thursday, April 4 at The Christopher Room	5:30 PM – 7:30 PM	6254 Vicksburg St.

# Sewerage & Water Board Billing Meeting

Have an issue with your SWBNO bill? Join us to speak to a SWBNO billing representative.

## Lakeview Area

Thursday, April 4 | 5:30-7:30PM

The Christopher Room

6254 Vicksburg St.

## Mid-City Area

Thursday, March 21 | 5:30-7:30PM

Thurgood Marshall School

4621 Canal St.

## Uptown Area

Monday, March 18 | 5:30-7:30PM

Loyola University, Danna Student

Center, Octavia Room, 2nd Floor

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### **DISTRICT A COMMUNITY MEETING**

Due to the success of last year's event, we will be hosting another District A community meeting where residents can speak directly with City staff on the issues that impact them directly.

Several City departments and agencies will be available to answer questions, hear concerns, and talk through issues: Department of Public Works, Sanitation, NOPD, Code Enforcement, Entergy, and Roadwork have already confirmed. SWBNO billing reps will also be on hand for bill disputes if you can't make any billing-specific meetings.

Monday, April 29 at  
Jesuit High School

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

4133 Banks St.  
Student Commons

# Community Meeting

Do you have questions for City departments or agencies? Come to our [District A Community Meeting](#) to hear directly from city representatives.

**Monday, April 29**

**6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Jesuit High School  
Student Commons  
4133 Banks Street**

## JOINT INFRASTRUCTURE RECOVERY REQUEST (JIRR) PROGRAM

The City uses the RoadworkNOLA website to keep residents informed about work happening on their block. In theory, any resident can visit the site, input their address, and see the overall scope and timeline of work. Until late last year, that information was incomplete.

Last year, I authored and subsequently passed legislation requiring streetwork contractors, project managers and RoadworkNOLA outreach managers to publicly list direct contact information. With new projects rolling out, that list has been updated. Linked below is the updated contact list. You can find the name of your neighborhood's project by searching your address or neighborhood on the [RoadworkNOLA site](#).

**UPDATED CONTACT  
LIST**

## SUPER BOWL LIX SUPPLIER DIVERSITY PROGRAM

In partnership with the NFL, the New Orleans Super Bowl LIX Host Committee launched the Super Bowl LIX Supplier Diversity Program. This is an opportunity for local, diverse businesses throughout Greater New Orleans to

compete for contracts related to the Super Bowl.

Committed to supporting minority, woman, disabled, LGBTQ+ and veteran-owned businesses, the program provides professional development, networking and subcontracting opportunities for members accepted into the program.

Please encourage any business wanting to be part of the Super Bowl LIX Supplier Diversity Program to visit [superbowl59suppliers.com](http://superbowl59suppliers.com), watch the information session and complete the application.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please email Chincie Mouton at [community@gnosf.org](mailto:community@gnosf.org).

## OPPORTUNITY YOUTH INITIATIVE

Delgado's Opportunity Youth Initiative is an incredible college support, retention/academic achievement-boosting program for 16–24-year-olds with an HISET or HS diploma. Through it, Delgado provides:

- **Tuition assistance** as needed for non-Pell eligible students, including undocumented incoming students.
- An **individual staff mentor** who will work with each student on an as-needed basis to access **a menu of resources that will empower the student to successfully combat any life setbacks** that may arise related to housing, transportation, childcare, food pantry & Rouse's cards, legal services, and much more.
- A **free laptop** for use throughout the duration of the program & an internet hotspot if the student does not have internet access at home.
- A **supportive community of peers** focused on completing their program successfully and seeing college through to graduation.
- **Free one-on-one tutoring and time management/study skill coaching are available** on an as-needed basis if students are experiencing difficulties in any classes or just with college.
- **Free books, materials, supplies, and kits** needed for classes.
- **Assistance in navigating class registration and financial aid.**
- **Post-program job placement assistance, resume prep, and interview prep.**

Applicants can access the application [here](#) - it takes approximately 10 minutes to complete, followed by a Zoom or in-person short 20-minute interview. Delgado decides on the scholarship award.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please email Liza Sherman at [isherm1@dcc.edu](mailto:isherm1@dcc.edu).

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



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