

# THE NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL 2004 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



P R O G R E S S  
D E V E L O P M E N T  
P R E S E R V A T I O N

*Cover photo credits:  
(Left) External Fuel Tank, Lockheed Martin  
(Center) Blue Heron, Gordon Austin, Sewerage & Water  
Board of New Orleans*



# 2004

was a monumental year for the New Orleans City Council.

As the legislative branch of local government, the Council conducted 24 regular meetings and eight special meetings, adopting 445 ordinances – many new laws for the City, 522 motions approving or ratifying the act of another party, and 330 resolutions generally expressing the will of the Council.

Fifteen Council committees held over 70 meetings, focusing on major challenges facing our City, such as finances, public transportation, economic development, education and housing.

The Council stood strong, with a bold commitment to progress and development, while preserving the qualities that make our City unique.

The strength of the whole Council is in the sum of its parts.

### *A summary of significant accomplishments and highlights in 2004 include:*

✍ Spearheaded the initiation of the \$260 million bond issue in the fall, receiving overwhelming voter approval of the Council's plan for the revitalization of NORD facilities for our children.

✍ Initiated ongoing relations with Governor Kathleen Blanco, marking the first time in memory that a sitting governor appeared before the Council.

✍ Strongly opposed the development of a proposed riverfront stadium, resulting in the abandonment of the project by the State and the proposed renovation of the Louisiana Superdome.

✍ Strengthened regional communications with



Jefferson Parish through Councilmember-At- Large John Young, then Council Chairman.

- Strongly opposed a proposed water park on state land next to Zephyr Field in Metairie, leading to the abandonment of the project by Jefferson Parish and state officials, in support of the planned development at Six Flags New Orleans.

- Ordered an \$11.3 million refund to customers of Entergy New Orleans.

- Initiated the development of the New Orleans Energy Efficiency Programs to reduce energy consumption and ratepayers' utility bills.

- Reaffirmed its commitment to public safety by sponsoring the first in a series of Crime Summits.

- Provided financial and political support for retention of military bases in New Orleans.

- Ensured the continuation of animal control services provided by the Louisiana SPCA for the health and safety of citizens and animals, leading the effort to provide critical funding for 2005.

- Monitored 2004 city finances to ensure more efficient and productive use of public funds.

- Approved pay raises for most city workers and a salary increase for members of the New Orleans Police Department in 2004.

- Adopted a \$620 million operating budget for 2005, with critical adjustments to more adequately meet the needs of citizens.

- Supported interim settlement agreement between the City and New Orleans Firefighters, at the forefront of the effort to provide funding to partially finance the agreement.

- Encouraged a broad-based revitalization of public housing properties by requiring the Housing

Authority of New Orleans to provide a long-range plan.

- Allocated \$14 million to fund immediate city participation in Phase I of the Housing Authority redevelopments of the Guste, Fischer and Florida Housing Developments.

- Monitored the timely development and opening of Phase I of River Garden, as part of the redevelopment of the former St. Thomas Housing Development.

- Established the Algiers Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District to assist with economic development in Algiers, especially retention of the military presence.

- Supported Riverfront Vision 2005 for the 25-mile long corridor and adjacent neighborhoods.

- Endorsed the New Orleans East Renaissance Plan.

- Established a new minimum hourly wage for city employees.

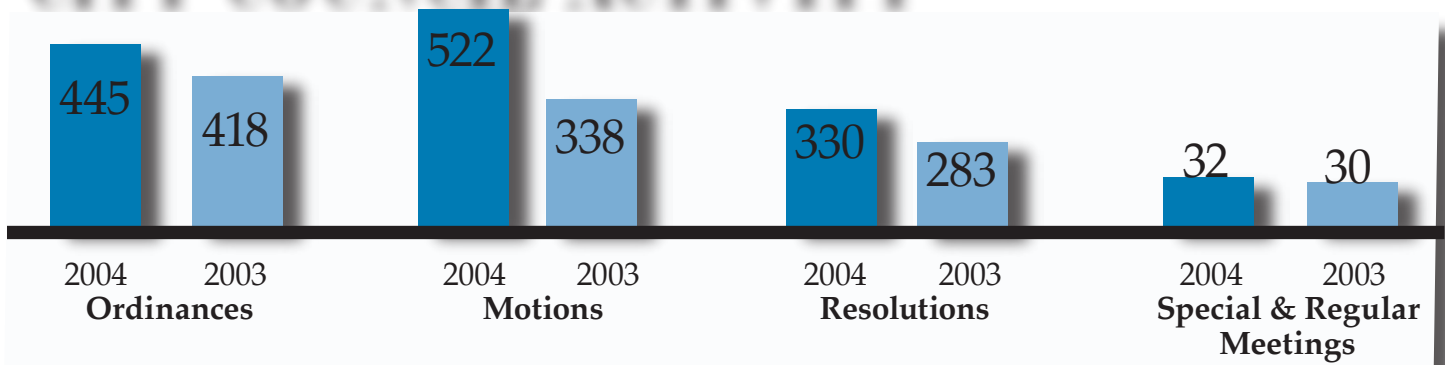
- Authorized the City's share of funding for a computer-assisted mass appraisal system for the Board of Assessors to establish fair and uniform values for properties.

- Supported the development of a comprehensive youth master plan of recreational and educational programs and services citywide for out-of-school time.

- Supported the creation of the South's first state-of-the-art high definition cinema production facility.

- Planned the renovation of the Council Chamber to include both physical and technological upgrades, as well as changes that will make the Chamber and televised meetings occurring therein more user-friendly to physically-challenged citizens.

# CITY COUNCIL ACTIVITY



📎 Sponsored the Eighth Annual New Orleans City Council Job Fair, seeking solutions to unemployment and underemployment in the community.

📎 Held the first citywide Back-to School Supplies Giveaway, providing 1,200 bags of basic school supplies for children.

📎 Continued recognition of outstanding city employees.

📎 Hosted first Cultural Attire Day on April 15, in recognition of the heritage and cultural identity of Councilmembers and staff.

📎 Victorious in two sports challenges against the Mayor's Office, continuing the Council's two-year winning streak in friendly sports competition with the Administration.

*Together, with all citizens, we move New Orleans forward.*

## \$260 Million Bond Issue

The Council spearheaded the effort to place a \$260 million bond issue on the November 2nd ballot (Resolution R-04-648). With a critical emphasis on the children of our City, voters gave overwhelming approval to the Council's plan for revitalization of NORD facilities citywide. A Council-appointed Citizens Recreation Advisory Committee will make recommendations on the expenditure of \$10 million earmarked for the acquisition of much-needed equipment and improvements to NORD facilities citywide.

In addition to street improvements and renovation of parks and recreational facilities, the bond issue provides funding for the renovation of public libraries and other public facilities. Plans are currently underway for a physical and technological upgrade of the Council Chamber, a project also funded through the bond issue.

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# CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS





# STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Marking the first time in memory that a sitting governor appeared before the Council, Governor Kathleen Blanco emphasized her commitment to partner with the Council to build a strong New Orleans. Governor Blanco was accompanied by Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu, President Pro-tem, Senator Diana Bajoie, and Clerk of Civil District Court Dale Atkins.

Recognizing the economic impact of the Morial Convention Center Phase IV expansion and the Louisiana Superdome in District B, the Council urged an expeditious regional discussion of the proposed riverfront stadium. The Council's strong opposition to the stadium contributed to that plan's demise and resulted in the proposal to renovate the Louisiana Superdome (*Resolution R-04-574*).

Jefferson Parish Councilmember-At-Large John Young, then Council Chairman, also emphasized his Council's willingness to work with New Orleans to prosper the regional economy.

Strongly opposing a proposed water park on state land next to Zephyr Field in Metairie, the Council requested that Jefferson Parish and state officials delay action until a regional discussion on the project's feasibility was convened (*Resolution R-04-572*). Citing the fact that there are five water parks within 90 minutes of New Orleans, the Council questioned whether the Greater New Orleans area could support this water park, in addition to one planned by Six Flags New Orleans in District E. The Council's opposition led to the abandonment of the project by Jefferson Parish and state officials, in support of the planned development at Six Flags New Orleans.



*Jefferson Parish Councilmember-At-Large John Young*

*Governor Kathleen Blanco (center) addresses the Council with Clerk of Civil District Court Dale Atkins and Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu.*







# PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety continued to be the highest priority of the Council.

The Council held its first in a series of Crime Summits, exploring in depth the comprehensive and challenging issues of crime and violence in New Orleans. Testimony from elected and appointed officials, experts, and other participants in the Criminal Justice System offered suggestions on making New Orleans a safer city.

To assist in strengthening the New Orleans Police Department through recruitment and retention of officers, the Council approved a \$2,000 increase in their salaries (*Ordinance No. 21,577 M.C.S. and Motion M-04-411*).

In an effort to remove guns from city streets,

the Council contributed over \$1,900 in economic development grant funds in support of the Fifth Annual Greater New Orleans Gun Buy Back, where guns of citizens are exchanged for cash and then destroyed by the New Orleans Police Department. Further, a \$3,000 economic development grant aided the Crimestoppers Hotline, which offers rewards for information to assist in solving crimes (*Motions M-04-467, M-04-468, M-04-478, and M-04-484*).

The Council supported the initiation of several new crime prevention districts, including Lakewood Crime Prevention and Improvement District (*Resolution R-04-564*) and Lakeshore Crime Prevention District



(*Resolution R-0-4-563*) in District A, and Kenilworth Improvement District (*Resolution R-04-562*) and Lake Oaks Subdivision Improvement District (*Resolution R-04-589*) in District D.

The Council urged the Legislature to adopt House Bill 147 and House Bill 1222 to provide severe felony penalties for the illegal carrying of guns at Mardi Gras parades (*Resolution R-04-304*).

The manufacture or sale of compounds containing Angel's Trumpet, the plant being used dangerously by some as a recreational drug, is now prohibited (*Ordinance No. 21,622 M.C.S.*).

The Council authorized a lease with the Orleans Parish Communications District for portions of Julia Street from Banks Street to City Park Avenue, Gasquet Street, LaSalle Street, Palmyra Street, and Virginia Street for the development of a new complex to house the 911 system and offices of Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security (*Ordinance Nos. 21,694 and 21,703 M.C.S.*).

A Levee and Drainage Easement Agreement with the Pontchartrain Levee District for the construction, operation and patrol of a flood protection levee was authorized to benefit the citizens of Greater New Orleans and the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. A portion of the flood protection levee will be constructed by St. Charles Parish (*Ordinance No. 21,764 M.C.S.*).

Following the threat of flooding from hurricanes, the Algiers Levee was rebuilt and raised from seven to nine feet by the Corps of Engineers to prevent flooding in Tall Timbers and other areas of Algiers in District C. To also alleviate flooding and improve drainage on this major evacuation route, the General DeGaulle Drive drainage ditch was dredged.

Recognizing the critical nature of the first minutes following a heart attack, the Council ordered Automatic External Defibrillators for City Hall (*Motion M-04-485*).

*New Orleans Police Department Honor Guard.*





# MONITORING CITY FINANCES

For the long-term financial health of New Orleans, the Council has the critical job of monitoring city finances.

Throughout 2004, the Council, through its Budget, Audit, and Board of Review Committee, vigilantly monitored the \$605 million operating budget and \$32.5 million capital budget to ensure the efficient and productive use of city funds (*Ordinance Nos. 21,347 M.C.S. and 21,354 M.C.S.*).

For 2004, the Council approved pay raises for most city workers and established a new minimum wage of \$6.00 per hour for City employees. In response to a Council request to provide better increases for the lowest paid city workers, a 5% pay increase was given to classes of employees with entry level salaries under \$20,000, and a 2.5% increase to those with entry level salaries over \$20,000 (*Ordinance No. 21,577 M.C.S. and Motion M-04-411*).

Recognizing the urgency of the City's funding shortfall for the Louisiana SPCA and that the health and safety of citizens and animals were on the line, the Council expressed its intent to provide the additional \$300,000 required to continue operation of the animal control program in 2005 (*Resolution R-04-866*).

Supporting the interim settlement agreement between the City and New Orleans Firefighters, the Council spearheaded the effort to explore funding to finance the agreement, following the Louisiana Supreme Court's decision to uphold lower courts' judgments that the City owes over \$100 million in back pay to firefighters.

For 2005, the Council adopted a \$620 million operating budget and a \$69.8 million capital budget (*Ordinance Nos. 21,782, 21,783 and 21,781 M.C.S.*). Following numerous budget hearings, the Council adjusted the budget from \$613 million, as recommended by the Administration, to \$620 million to ensure the continuation of vital city services for citizens. Council budget adjustments included the restoration of \$1 million in funding to the New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation, an additional \$350,000 to the \$850,000 Louisiana SPCA budget to assist in protecting the community from vicious dogs, and additional funding to the Council on Aging and Total Community Action for food distribution programs, including those for seniors. In addition, the Arts Council of New Orleans' budget was restored to \$275,000.

To make New Orleans a safer and better city, the Council committed to exploring new revenue sources in 2005.

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# REGULATING PUBLIC UTILITIES

In time for peak summer electricity usage, the Council ordered Entergy New Orleans (ENO) to refund \$11.3 million to customers, following a multi-year investigation into both the costs passed on to ratepayers through the Fuel Adjustment Clause and the power purchasing practices of Entergy (*Resolution R-04-66*).

Through its Utility, Cable and Telecommunications Committee, the Council initiated the development of the New Orleans Energy Efficiency Programs (NOEEP) designed to reduce energy con-



sumption and bills of ratepayers, potentially reduce peak energy loads on the City's energy system, and encourage more efficient use of energy in an environmentally friendly manner (*Resolution R-04-594*). Six key programs -- Energy Education and Awareness, Residential, Low-Income Weatherization, Small Commercial, Large Commercial and Industrial, and Emergency Energy Price Assistance -- are designed to provide assistance to participants who make energy efficiency improvements to homes and businesses.



District E: The first Return to Flight External Fuel Tank is shipped to Florida from Lockheed Martin for the next space shuttle launch.



# RETAINING THE MILITARY

With the looming threat of losing military bases in New Orleans due to the reorganization of defense installations by the U.S. Department of Defense, the Council urged surrounding parishes, state leadership, the business community and civic leaders to join in the creation of a federal city plan to convince the Department of Defense and the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to retain military bases in our City (*Resolution R-04-167*). The Council granted \$50,000 in economic development

funds to assist the Mayor's Military Advisory Committee in accomplishing its Base Realignment and Closure Strategy (*Motion M-04-195*). It also dedicated a portion of incremental sales tax to an Algiers Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District to provide additional funding.

The military contributes over \$4.5 billion to the Greater New Orleans economy and \$12 billion to the state economy annually.

*The Council hosted its annual recognition of the men and women of our armed forces at its Annual Military Day ceremony.*





# ADMINISTERING GOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES

District D Councilmember Marlin N. Gusman resigned in November 2004, having been elected to fill the unexpired term of the Office of Criminal Sheriff. David B. Payton was appointed interim District D Councilmember to serve during the period until the vacancy was filled by a special election in April 2005 (*Motion M-04-813*). Mr. Payton served as Executive Assistant/Legislative Aide to Mr. Gusman since October 2000. He replaced Mr. Gusman on the Board of the City Park Improvement Association (*Motion M-04-816*), the Council's Election Code and Reapportionment Committee, and the Education Committee, and was also appointed to the Youth Recreation Committee (*Motion M-04-815*).

Taking Mr. Gusman's place on other committees and agencies upon which he served, Councilmember Renee' Gill Pratt was appointed Chair of the now all-female Budget, Audit, and Board of Review Committee (*Motion M-04-815*); Councilmember John A. Batt, Jr. was appointed Chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee (*Motion M-04-815*); Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr. was appointed Chair of the Special Remote and Evening Meeting Feasibility Study Committee (*Motion M-04-819*); Mr. Batt was also appointed to the Utility, Cable and Telecommunications Committee (*Motion M-04-815*); Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis was appointed to the Public Works Committee (*Motion M-04-815*); Councilmember Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson was appointed to the Council's Special Competitive Selection Committee (*Motion M-04-817*); Mr. Batt was also appointed to the Sewerage and Water Board (*Motion M-04-816*); Ms. Gill Pratt was also selected to

serve on the Revenue Estimating Conference (*Motion M-04-820*).

The Council proudly hosted the 2004 Annual Conference of the Executive Board of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana.

A computer-assisted mass appraisal system for the Board of Assessors will enable assessors to establish fair and uniform values for properties in the community. At a cost of \$1.2 million, Phase I of the Cole Layer Trumble System will be implemented (*Ordinance Nos. 21,777 and 21,778 M.C.S.*). The Council authorized payment of the City's pro rata share of the system's cost.

The Council Ground Transportation and Parking Committee issued a Request for Proposals from consulting firms for the revision of City Code Chapter 162, Vehicles for Hire (*Motion M-04-735*).

A new Board of Directors for New Orleans Access Television is providing training in the growing film and video industry, including a series of seminars with movie producers and directors, to aid members of the public interested in working in the film industry. As the access television system continues to grow with more programming, plans are underway for the addition of at least one more access channel.

A new computerized audio system in the Council Chamber provides ease of listening and better quality audio of meetings.

At the request of the Council, a Los Angeles firm that designs sets for television newscasts has developed a plan for the renovation of the Council Chamber, to be funded by the 2004 bond issue.

*NORD's Norman Playground in Algiers, District C.*







District B: The Council's strong opposition to a proposed riverfront stadium contributed to that plan's demise and in its place, the proposed renovation of the Louisiana Superdome.



# FOSTERING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**In District A**, three educational institutions will experience growth:

The \$150 million development plan for a Tulane University satellite campus at Uptown Square includes married and graduate student apartments, a conference center and garage, an administrative building, and the Newcomb Nursery and Child Care Center. Tulane is spending \$1.5 million to make enhancements around the site, including drainage improvements, the widening of Perrier Street, and the placement of a traffic light at the intersection of Leake Avenue and Broadway Street. The project creates 600 construction jobs and 200 University jobs (*Ordinance No. 21,544 M.C.S.*).

The Council cleared the way for the construction of a gymnasium by Stuart Hall School for Boys near Carrollton Avenue.

Ecole Bilingue, a private elementary school, was established at 938 Calhoun Street on property owned by DePaul-Tulane Behavioral Health Center. The "French immersion" school, which accommodates 50 students, builds foundational French language and speaking skills (*Ordinance No. 21,666 M.C.S.*).

**In District B**, the Council supported the collaborative effort to revitalize Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard. Ground-breaking was held for the \$6 million renovation of the site of the former Handleman's Department Store at 1824 through 1832 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard. The Handleman Lofts will house 24 affordable family apartments on the upper two floors, with retail or office use on the ground floor and mezzanine. Millennium Square will provide 18 affordable apartments for seniors through the conversion of three additional buildings.

The revitalization of Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard was also marked by the opening of the Central City Branch of the Hope Community Credit Union and the Fifth Annual Holiday on the Boulevard, held at the Ashe' Cultural Center.

The Piazza d'Italia was rededicated, following a \$1.6 million restoration. The Piazza was built in the late 1970's, in tribute to the heritage of our local Italian-American community.

After almost 40 years, the Canal Streetcar line returned to full service, restoring major streetcar service to the City. The line includes a fleet of 24 vintage-style streetcars equipped with air-conditioning, ADA-compliant wheelchair lifts, and other modern features.

Harrah's New Orleans Casino began construction on a 450-room hotel on Poydras Street across from the Casino. One hundred of the 450 rooms will be suites. The \$150 million project is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2006.

A Wal-Mart Supercenter opened in the Lower Garden District. The 200,000 square-foot store brought approximately 700 new jobs to the City, as part of the redevelopment of the site of the former St. Thomas Housing Development.

The Lead-Safe House on Foucher Street provides a safe, lead-free environment for families, while their homes are being abated.

The restoration of the 4200 block of Magazine Street was evidenced by the establishment of diverse new businesses. Renovators have transformed the block into a great place to live, dine and shop.

The opening of the New Orleans Grandparent Housing Association provides economic development opportunities, housing, counseling and entrepreneurial programs for grandparents who have the sole responsibility of raising their grandchildren. The facility addresses a major and growing need, as 57.7% of grandparents in Central City raise their grandchildren. The project was developed through a joint effort of the Shalom Zone Community, Inc. and First Street Methodist Church.

For the 13th year, the Care Unlimited/Project Chance Annual Back-to-School Parade, Health and Education Fair, and School Supply Giveaway were held.

Twelve million dollars in revenue bonds financed a multi-phase redevelopment plan for Canal Street from Claiborne Avenue to the Mississippi River (*Ordinance No. 21,587 M.C.S.*). A catalyst for economic development, the plan includes landscape and sidewalk improvements to assist pedestrian traffic, encouraging the public to explore what Canal Street in the Central Business District has to offer.

The Council unfortunately was forced to initiate litigation against Harrah's New Orleans Casino for its failure to timely develop its second floor as per lease requirements (*Motion M-04-472*).

**In District C**, the lease of Edison Park at 311 Bourbon Street provides commercial food, beverage and retail services, amending the agreement between the French Market Corporation and New Orleans Musical Legends, Inc. A sublease between New Orleans Musical Legends, Inc. and Café Beignet was also approved (*Ordinance No.*





**District A: The Council approved a \$150 million development plan for a satellite campus of Tulane University at Uptown Square.**



21,429 M.C.S.). Edison Park, also known as Legends Park, features tributes to legendary local musical artists Al Hirt and Pete Fountain. Efforts are underway to honor Fats Domino. A \$20,000 economic development grant will assist the effort (*Resolution R-04-129*).

To encourage economic development in Algiers, a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement was authorized with the Algiers Development District on behalf of the City and Algiers Development District No. 1, a State-defined district from which dedicated sales taxes are generated for a ten-year period (*Ordinance No. 21,481 M.C.S.*). A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Algiers Economic Development District No. 1 and the State was also authorized to provide for the collection of matching state sales and use taxes dedicated to the Algiers Economic Development Fund.

An "Artists Community," where land and buildings are used as a meeting place, retreat or exhibition center for the exchange of ideas between artists and members of the professional arts community, as well as the general public, was approved as a permitted use in the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, allowing "A Studio in the Woods" in Lower Coast Algiers to add new facilities for artists and to improve public access (*Ordinance No. 21,766 M.C.S.*).

A new zoning district for the French Quarter now allows multi-use retail, office, residential and hotel development, while minimizing industrial and commercial uses, in the area bounded by North Peters, Conti and Iberville Streets, and the Mississippi River floodwall, adjacent to the rail corridor (*Ordinance No. 21,806 M.C.S.*). The map change cleared the way for the development of a 60-room hotel at 111 Iberville Street, renovation of existing historic buildings at 100 Conti Street and 110 Bienville Street, and construction of a new four-story building at 200 N. Peters Street (*Ordinance No. 21,807 M.C.S.*).

The creation of a citywide Arts and Cultural Overlay Zoning District was approved as part of the City's Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. The District preserves small-scale commercial establishments and mixture of daytime and evening uses, as well as promotes new uses, including a limited number of small-scale (up to 4,000 square feet) live entertainment venues, in neighborhood business or mixed use areas that are compatible with the character of nearby residential neighborhoods (*Ordinance No. 21,813 M.C.S.*).

The Frenchmen Street Arts and Cultural Overlay District was established for all properties along Frenchmen Street between Royal Street and Esplanade Avenue, including the extensions of Frenchmen Street to the properties along the 1400 block of Decatur Street and along the down-river side of the 400 block of Esplanade Avenue (*Ordinance No. 21,814 M.C.S.*).

The Jackson Square Artist Set-Up Area was estab-

lished around Jackson Square for "A" permit holders from the hours of 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (*Ordinance No. 21,787 M.C.S.*).

**In District D**, in response to a fire that destroyed the company's physical plant, the Council urged the Mayor's Office of Economic Development to provide appropriate incentives, including a low-interest, non-recourse city loan of up to \$75,000 in economic development or Urban Development Action Grant repayment funds to facilitate the redevelopment of Advanced Commercial Contracting, Inc. (*Motion M-04-344*).

A \$75,000 economic development grant to the University of New Orleans Foundation aided in the creation of the South's first state-of-the-art high definition cinema production facility at the Nims Center Studio New Orleans (*Motion M-04-329*).

Construction began on the Pontchartrain Park Community and Senior Center. The 5,000 square-foot multipurpose center will house activities and facilities for seniors.

**In District E**, the 15-month revitalization project for Lincoln Beach commenced with a \$1 million environmental cleanup and demolition of several outdated structures on the site. The nearly \$8 million restoration project, scheduled to open in the fall of 2005, will include a playground, fishing pier, beach volleyball courts, nature trails and space for concert facilities.

The first anniversary of the opening of Six Flags New Orleans was commemorated with the renaming of a section of Lake Forest Boulevard between I-510 and Michoud Boulevard to Six Flags Parkway (*Ordinance No. 21,579 M.C.S.*).

Pull Apart of Atlanta, a seller of discount auto parts, will bring 25 new jobs to the district (*Ordinance No. 21,750 M.C.S.*).

Phase I of the I-10 Beautification Project was completed at one of our City's gateways in New Orleans East. Phase II of the Project, in cooperation with the Regional Planning Commission and the State, was accepted.

**Citywide**, due to rising gas prices, meter fares for taxicabs and disabled-friendly taxicab trips were increased by \$1 to add a gasoline surcharge per trip for a period of 90 days, subject to review and further consideration by the Council and its Ground Transportation and Parking Committee (*Ordinance No. 21,810 M.C.S.*).

The fee for paratransit services provided by the Regional Transit Authority increased from \$1 to \$2 on January 2, 2005. This is the first increase in over ten years. An ADA-certified passenger, as well as a personal care attendant, will ride free-of-charge. Previously, an ADA-certified passenger's fare was 40 cents, and an attendant's fare was \$1.25 (*Resolution R-04-792*).





District C: A concert presented by *A Studio in the Woods* was held at the historic Algiers Courthouse. Photo by Debbie Tausier.



# REVITALIZING NEIGHBORHOODS

Reaffirming its commitment to affordable housing, the Council led the effort to ensure the comprehensive revitalization of public housing in New Orleans, requiring a strategic long-range plan for redevelopment by the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO).

Through an innovative Council strategy to avoid the need to borrow funds for which there was no identified source of repayment, the Council allocated \$14 million to immediately participate in Phase I of the HANO redevelopments of Guste Housing Development in District B, Fischer Housing Development in District C, and Florida Housing Development in District D (*Ordinance No. 21,609 M.C.S.*). As a condition of the release of funds, the Council required HANO to develop a long-range plan. The Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City and HANO provides for Council approval of the plan and the budget for the redevelopments (*Ordinance No. 21,621 M.C.S. and Resolution R-04-567*).

To ensure its timely, cost-effective development and opening, the Council required quarterly reports on the progress of Phase I of River Garden, part of the redevelopment of the former St. Thomas Housing Development in District B.

The transformation of the Desire Housing Development in District E also progressed as a new neighborhood of historic-style homes for previous residents of the Desire area. Phase I and Phase II have been completed at a cost of \$15 million, providing housing for 107 families.

The Council implemented a test case of the “quick take” state law for purchase of abandoned or blighted property, which progresses faster, with a judge determining property use and the amount of compensation due the owner. As a result, 17 blighted properties in Central City will be restored (*Ordinance No. 21,731 M.C.S.*).

A Housing Summit to promote home ownership was convened in District E, impacting over 500 families. At the summit, representatives of city agencies informed residents of the Lower Ninth Ward of services available to assist them.

A temporary moratorium prohibiting the issuance of permits by any city department for new construction or expansion of multi-family dwellings containing two or more units was extended until April 26, 2005, in District D and until April 11, 2005, for the Lower Ninth Ward in District E (*Ordinance Nos. 21,702 and 21,705 M.C.S.*).

*Phase I of River Garden opened as part of the redevelopment of the former St. Thomas Housing Development in District B.*







District D: The University of New Orleans provides a technologically advanced learning environment for film/video students.

# PRESERVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

Strict enforcement of zoning laws, strategic development plans, district cleanups, and other city regulations preserve the quality of life in neighborhoods.

In District A, two major alcohol beverage outlets that plagued the area with violent crime and drugs were successfully closed.

The New Orleans East Renaissance Plan, a comprehensive, strategic plan for the revitalization and future development of District E, will be incorporated into our City's Master Plan.

As part of the citywide noise control program, the New Orleans Police Department may now address the illegal use of exhaust systems on motorcycles. Four decibel meters were ordered to aid officers in the investigation process, with a plan to purchase 19 additional meters for citywide use (*Resolution R-04-407*).

Sellers of alcoholic beverages now must provide restrooms for customers (*Ordinance No. 21,548 M.C.S.*).

The use of personal sound amplification equipment, such as megaphones and bullhorns, is now regulated on French Quarter streets, where sounds are heard in a business establishment and register more than 95 decibels at a distance of 30 feet from the source (*Ordinance No. 21,763 M.C.S.*).

An alcoholic beverage permit may now be revoked for any establishment where criminal activity occurs involving drugs, violence or use of weapons, or for any establishment determined to be a nuisance due to noise, litter or loitering in compliance with state law (*Ordinance No. 21,589 M.C.S.*).

A temporary one-year moratorium on the issuance of alcoholic beverage permits was approved relative to the establishment of any bars, package liquor stores, groceries or restaurants along Oak Street from South Carrollton Avenue to where Oak and Eagle Streets intersect and from that point to the Jefferson/Orleans Parish line on the Mississippi River, and that portion of South Carrollton Avenue that is bounded by Zimple and Jeannette Streets in District A (*Ordinance No. 21,656 M.C.S.*).

Also in District A, a one-year moratorium on the issuance or renewal of alcoholic beverage permits for bars, grocery stores, liquor stores or restaurants in the area bounded by Robert E. Lee Boulevard, Marconi Drive, and Lakeshore Drive was established (*Ordinance No. 21,417 M.C.S.*).

Short-term rentals of residential properties, for a period of less than 30 days citywide or less than 60 days for properties in the French Quarter, which are not lawfully licensed or permitted, are prohibited. Violators will

receive a written warning for a first offense and a \$500 fine for a second offense. For a third offense, violators may be fined \$500 and serve 30 days in jail (*Ordinance No. 21,607 M.C.S.*).

The Chef Menteur Urban Corridor District was established for lots fronting on Chef Menteur Highway in District E. The Chef Menteur Highway Urban Corridor and Downman Road Corridor were established in District D for lots fronting on Chef Menteur Highway and Downman Road. Establishment of the Corridors sets design standards for development of properties along Chef Menteur and Downman Road and prohibits adult establishments, massage parlors, health clubs, spas, and motels with room rental by the hour (*Ordinance No. 21,457 M.C.S.*).

A temporary moratorium prohibiting the issuance of permits by any city department for new construction, renovation or expansion of group homes was extended until April 26, 2005, for District D and until April 11, 2005, for District E (*Ordinance Nos. 21,703 and 21,704 M.C.S.*).

In District E, a temporary moratorium on the issuance of alcoholic beverage permits was established for a one-year period, except for the New Orleans Regional Business Park, to reduce nuisance violations and other vice activities (*Ordinance No. 21,588 M.C.S.*).

In an effort to alleviate illegal dumping, new regulations for trash collection were established, and the maximum capacity of garbage cans was increased to 32 gallons. At any one collection time for each residence or small business, the maximum amount of garbage is set at 128 gallons and four standard bundles of branches, each securely tied, weighing not more than 25 pounds, and not exceeding four feet in length. Up to four containers, each weighing a maximum of 75 pounds may be used. (*Ordinance Nos. 21,496 and 21,497 M.C.S.*).

Garbage cans now must be properly stored in a suitable location on private property, where they will not be disturbed by animals, away from areas occupied by neighbors, and, if possible, not visible from city streets (*Ordinance No. 21,661 M.C.S.*).

Individuals 60 years of age or older may now place garbage cans on the curb between the hours of noon and 4:00 p.m. for day collection or on the designated collection day for night collection (*Ordinance No. 21,657 M.C.S.*).



# RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS

Recognizing their contributions to New Orleans, the Council honored numerous business and community leaders, companies, schools and events, including:

- ❖ The late Patrick F. Taylor, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Taylor Energy Company and the Louisiana TOPS Scholarship Program (*Resolution R-04-804*).
- ❖ Willie Thompson, Jr. for his heroic actions in World War II as Seaman First Class attached to the 14th Special Naval Construction Battalion in the Marshall Islands.
- ❖ Patricia Clarkson, daughter of Councilmember Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, in honor of the native New Orleanian's first Academy Award nomination for her role in "Pieces of April." The Council hosted a special screening of the film in recognition of her nomination.
- ❖ Native Louisianian Jake Delhomme, who quarterbacked the Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl XXXVIII (*Resolution R-04-74*).
- ❖ New Orleanian Johnny Lovell, 2004 Olympic Silver Medalist in Sailing.
- ❖ The late Alva Simmons, a New Orleans Police Officer since 1974, who was killed in the line of duty (*Resolution R-04-614*).
- ❖ The 35th Anniversary of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.
- ❖ Sergeant Manuel Curry of the New Orleans Police Department, the oldest member of the NOPD at 79 years of age, serving his 58th year on the force.
- ❖ The late Sanford "Sandy" Krasnoff, founder of Victims and Citizens Against Crime, renaming the New Orleans Criminal Justice Council in his honor (*Ordinance No. 21,456 M.C.S.*).
- ❖ The late William J. McCrossen, who served as Fire Chief of New Orleans for nearly 20 years and a member of NOFD for over 50 years.
- ❖ Lionel Ferbos, the oldest active musician in New Orleans and the last surviving member of the WPA Band.
- ❖ Captain Bernadine Weaver Kelly, the first African-American woman to be promoted to NOPD Captain.
- ❖ Emmett W. Bashful, who served as Chief Executive Officer of Southern University of New Orleans for 28 years, renaming a portion of Robert E. Lee Boulevard, from Press Drive to Campus Boulevard, in his honor (*Ordinance No. 21,734 M.C.S.*).

*The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival celebrates its 35th Anniversary.*



# STANDING & SPECIAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES

January to November 2004

## Standing Committees

### **Budget, Audit, and Board of Review Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember Marlin N. Gusman

*Members:* Councilmembers Renee' Gill Pratt and Cynthia Willard-Lewis

*Alternates:* Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr. and Councilmember Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

### **Education Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember Renee' Gill Pratt

*Members:* Councilmembers Marlin N. Gusman and Cynthia Willard-Lewis

*Alternate:* Councilmember John A. Batt, Jr.

### **Election Code and Reapportionment Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr.

*Members:* Councilmember-At-Large Eddie L. Sapir and Councilmember Marlin N. Gusman

*Alternate:* Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

### **Governmental Affairs Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember Marlin N. Gusman

*Members:* Councilmember-At-Large Eddie L. Sapir and Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

*Alternate:* Councilmember Renee' Gill Pratt

### **Ground Transportation and Parking Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember Renee' Gill Pratt

*Members:* Councilmember-At-Large Eddie L. Sapir and Councilmember John A. Batt, Jr.

*Alternate:* Councilmember Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

### **Housing and Human Needs Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr.

*Members:* Councilmembers Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson and Renee' Gill Pratt

*Alternate:* Councilmember John A. Batt, Jr.

### **Public Works Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember John A. Batt, Jr.

*Members:* Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr. and Councilmember Marlin N. Gusman

*Alternate:* Councilmember Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

### **Remote and Evening Meeting Feasibility Study Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember Marlin N. Gusman

*Members:* Councilmembers Cynthia Willard-Lewis and Renee' Gill Pratt

*Alternate:* Councilmember Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

### **Sanitation and Environmental Enforcement Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

*Members:* Councilmembers Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson and Renee' Gill Pratt

*Alternate:* Councilmember John A. Batt, Jr.

### **Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

*Members:* Councilmember-At-Large Eddie L. Sapir and Councilmember Renee' Gill Pratt

*Alternate:* Councilmember Marlin N. Gusman

### **Utility, Cable and Telecommunications Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember-At-Large Eddie L. Sapir

*Members:* Councilmembers Marlin N. Gusman and Cynthia Willard-Lewis

*Alternate:* Councilmember Renee' Gill Pratt

### **Youth Recreation Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

*Members:* Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr. and Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

*Alternate:* Councilmember-At-Large Eddie L. Sapir

## Special Committees

### **Competitive Selection Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember-At-Large Eddie L. Sapir

*Members:* Councilmembers Marlin N. Gusman and Cynthia Willard-Lewis

*Alternate:* Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr.

### **Joint Airport Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr.

*Members:* Councilmembers John A. Batt, Jr. and Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

### **Official Journal and New Orleans Register Ordinances Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember-at-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr.

*Members:* Councilmembers John A. Batt, Jr. and Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

*Alternate:* Councilmember Renee' Gill Pratt





November 2004 to December 31, 2004

## **Standing Committees**

### **Budget, Audit, and Board of Review Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember Renee' Gill Pratt

*Members:* Councilmembers Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson and Cynthia Willard-Lewis

*Alternates:* Councilmember-At-Large Eddie L. Sapir (Budget Committee) and Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr. (Audit Committee)

### **Education Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember Renee' Gill Pratt

*Members:* Councilmembers David B. Payton and John A. Batt, Jr.

*Alternate:* Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

### **Election Code and Reapportionment Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr.

*Members:* Councilmember-At-Large Eddie L. Sapir and Councilmembers David B. Payton and John A. Batt, Jr.

*Alternate:* Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

### **Governmental Affairs Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember John A. Batt, Jr.

*Members:* Councilmember-At-Large Eddie L. Sapir and Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

*Alternate:* Councilmember Renee' Gill Pratt

### **Ground Transportation and Parking Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember Renee' Gill Pratt

*Members:* Councilmember-At-Large Eddie L. Sapir and Councilmember John A. Batt, Jr.

*Alternate:* Councilmember Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

### **Housing and Human Needs Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr.

*Members:* Councilmembers Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson and Renee' Gill Pratt

*Alternate:* Councilmember John A. Batt, Jr.

### **Public Works Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember John A. Batt, Jr.

*Members:* Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr. and Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

*Alternate:* Councilmember Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

### **Remote and Evening Meeting Feasibility Study Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr.

*Members:* Councilmembers Cynthia Willard-Lewis and Renee' Gill Pratt

*Alternate:* Councilmember Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

### **Sanitation and Environmental Enforcement Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

*Members:* Councilmembers Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson and Renee' Gill Pratt

*Alternate:* Councilmember John A. Batt, Jr.

### **Special Development Projects and Economic Development Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis

*Members:* Councilmember-At-Large Eddie L. Sapir and Councilmember Renee' Gill Pratt

*Alternate:* Councilmember John A. Batt, Jr.

### **Utility, Cable and Telecommunications Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember-At-Large Eddie L. Sapir

*Members:* Councilmembers John A. Batt, Jr. and Cynthia Willard-Lewis

*Alternate:* Councilmember Renee' Gill Pratt

### **Youth Recreation Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

*Members:* Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr. and Councilmember David B. Payton

*Alternate:* Councilmember-At-Large Eddie L. Sapir

## **Special Committees**

### **Competitive Selection Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember-At-Large Eddie L. Sapir

*Members:* Councilmembers Cynthia Willard-Lewis and Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

*Alternate:* Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr.

### **Joint Airport Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr.

*Members:* Councilmembers John A. Batt, Jr. and Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

### **Official Journal and New Orleans Register Ordinances Committee**

*Chair:* Councilmember-At-Large Oliver M. Thomas, Jr.

*Members:* Councilmembers John A. Batt, Jr. and Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson

*Alternate:* Councilmember Renee' Gill Pratt

## **Executive Staff**

Ronald J. Pursell, *Council Chief of Staff*

Peggy Lewis, *Clerk of Council*

Lydia Glapion-Days, *Council Research Officer*

Suzanne N. Mague, *Council Fiscal Officer*

Kelley Meehan, *Council Utilities Regulatory Officer*

# THE NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL



**Eddie L. SAPIR**  
Councilmember-At-Large  
Council President: May 6, 2004 to May 5, 2005



**Oliver M. THOMAS, JR.**  
Councilmember-At-Large  
Council President: May 2, 2003 to May 6, 2004



**John A. BATT, JR.**  
Councilmember, District A



**Reneé GILL PRATT**  
Councilmember, District B  
Council Vice President:  
December 5, 2003 to July 1, 2004



**Jacquelyn BRECHTEL CLARKSON**  
Councilmember, District C  
Council Vice President:  
July 1, 2004 to February 3, 2005



**Marlin N. GUSMAN**  
Councilmember, District D  
October 10, 2000 to November 18, 2004



**David B. PAYTON**  
Councilmember, District D  
November 18, 2004 to April 12, 2005



**Cynthia WILLARD-LEWIS**  
Councilmember, District E