

NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL

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QUARTER

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4TH
QUARTER



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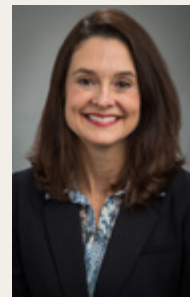
2015
LEGIS
LATIVE
ACTION

THE NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL

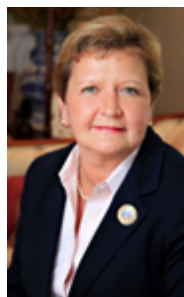
The New Orleans City Council is the legislative branch of New Orleans City Government. The Council considers and enacts all local laws that govern the City of New Orleans. The Council approves the operating and capital budgets for the City, as recommended by the Mayor, and continually monitors revenues and expenditures for local government operations. The Council is the regulatory body for public utilities. It also reviews and has final say on many land use and zoning matters, as well as considers major economic development projects for the City. As the Board of Review for Orleans Parish, the Council examines appeals of property tax assessments for real estate taxes, and certifies tax rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission. Other responsibilities of the Council include overseeing the operation of public access television in Orleans Parish. Annually, the Council establishes its policy priorities for the upcoming year. The City Council is comprised of five district councilmembers and two councilmembers-at-large.



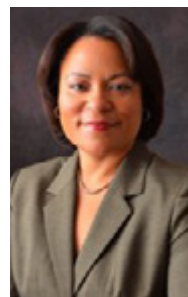
Council President and Councilmember-at-Large
Jason Rogers Williams



Council Vice President and Councilmember-at-Large
Stacy Head



District "A"
Councilmember
Susan G. Guidry



District "B"
Councilmember
LaToya Cantrell



District "C"
Councilmember
Nadine M. Ramsey



District "D"
Councilmember
Jared C. Brossett



District "E"
Councilmember
James Austin Gray II

A LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW ORLEANS

This year, the City Council addressed a variety of issues in the areas of crime prevention, public safety, economic and neighborhood development, health care, youth and education initiatives, cultural preservation, infrastructure improvements, and land use.

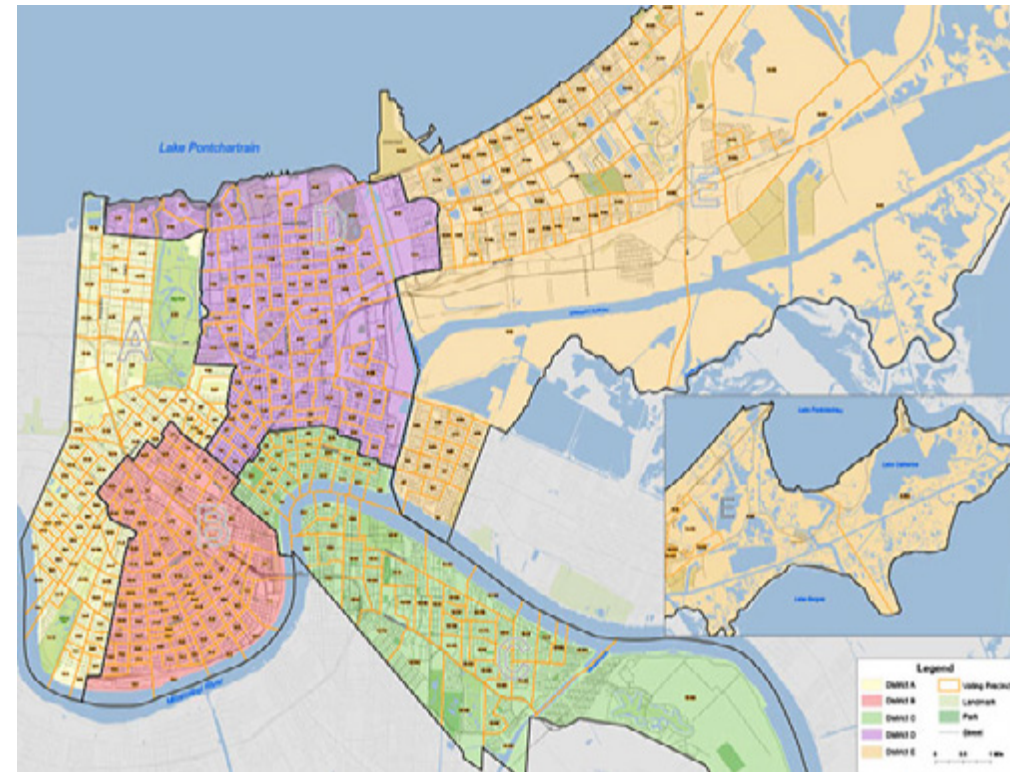
The Council prioritized the protection and preservation of neighborhoods through adoption of the new Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO), as well as initiatives to reduce blight and encourage mindful development. Public safety initiatives included enhanced security in the French Quarter and efforts to dedicate resources to community safety programs. The Council also adopted the smoke free ordinance, and recognized the accomplishments of numerous health care, youth and education organizations.

The Council facilitated economic development by creating the French Quarter Economic Development District and supporting the redevelopment of 2 Canal Place, the former World Trade Center building. In an effort to nurture business growth, the Council approved the operation of transportation network companies and established new rules and regulations for the hiring of local workers and use of disadvantaged businesses enterprises relative to City contracts.

The legislative body continued its commitment to public engagement through its website, www.nolacitycouncil.com, and the utilization of dynamic and timely public outreach methods, including social media. The Council's video streaming and meeting management system, which provides live streaming of Council and Committee meetings, legislative instruments, zoning dockets, reports and other agenda-related documents, continues to serve as a valuable informational resource and research tool.

In presenting this 2015 year in review, we reflect on the progress we have made as a City over the past year. Our accomplishments are made possible through the ongoing partnership and support of our citizens, local businesses, and neighborhood and community groups as we work toward the shared goal of making New Orleans a safe and enjoyable place to live, work, and visit.

Handwritten signatures of Council members: Harold, Susan G. Guidry, L. Cantrell, Nadine Ramsey, James Austin Gray II, and another signature.



INTRODUCTION

This annual report provides the citizens of New Orleans with a legislative summary and recap of the City Council's work in 2015. The report highlights issues of importance to citizens, challenges faced by the community, and progress made on critical legislative items, while fulfilling specific legal requirements of the City's legislative branch of government.

The 2015 legislative report showcases the Council's commitment to the ongoing development and betterment of the City through its work in areas of critical importance to the New Orleans citizenry, including: strengthening crime prevention and public safety initiatives, providing incentives for economic development and business growth, dedicating resources to maintenance and improvement of educational and recreational facilities for youth, committing to resourceful and transparent governmental operations, highlighting the cultural contributions and accomplishments of local and regional businesses, residents, religious, military, civic and social organizations, and community and non-profit groups.

The Council's website, www.nolacitycouncil.com, is an informational portal and resource for citizens to learn more about the legislative process and the Council's daily operations. Citizens can access meeting schedules and agendas, view live and archived streaming video of meetings, review information on Committees and community events, and keep track of legislative issues. The website also includes contact information for Councilmembers and staff so that citizens may directly express their concerns and interests to the Council.

THE 1ST QUARTER: JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH

CRIME PREVENTION & PUBLIC SAFETY



NOPD 6th District Officers and Detectives with District "B" resident Ms. Mary Owen.

Recognized NOPD Officers for Exceptional Service (January 8)

The Council honored New Orleans Police Department Detectives Michael Poulakis and John Waterman for their exceptional service to the District "B" community. Shortly before Christmas, Ms. Mary Owen, a senior citizen residing in District "B," was robbed and beaten in her home. The responding officers worked in partnership with local businesses to provide this citizen with basic household necessities including groceries, bedding, and a winter coat. The Council presented the NOPD detectives with Certificates of Appreciation and Proclamations in honor of their service.

"These officers went above and beyond the call of duty in a true demonstration of community policing at its highest level. The Council extends its sincere gratitude to these officers, as well as all the NOPD officers, whose hard work and sacrifices protect the quality of life of our citizens."

– District "B" Councilmember Cantrell

Approved a Comprehensive "All Hazard" Emergency Plan (February 5)

The Council passed *Motion No. M-15-54*, approving the City Council's revised Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP). The plan, which was developed in coordination with the City's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, ensures that the Council can sustain operational capacity under emergency conditions. Specifically, the EPP will allow for Councilmembers and certain essential personnel to remain in the City despite an evacuation, while providing for the prompt return of additional staff as necessary. The Council must review the EPP prior to June 1st of each year.

"As a Council, it is our responsibility to have an emergency plan in place that ensures the safety of our employees and citizens. The plan set in place enables the Council to continue its essential functions in the event of an emergency and provides an efficient and effective method for internal and external communication."

– District "E" Councilmember Gray

Established the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Advisory Committee (February 26)

The Council passed *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,527*, authored by Councilmember Brossett, establishing the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will advise and recommend to the Council guiding principles and policies relative to bicycle and pedestrian transportation and safety issues. It will also work to increase public awareness and understanding of automotive, pedestrian, and bicycle laws, evaluate citizen and business concerns, and make recommendations on how the City can safely integrate walking and cycling routes into the City's existing transportation system. The establishment of the Committee is the first step in achieving some of the goals outlined in *The Plan for the 21st Century: New Orleans 2030* which expressly encourages, "the development and use of alternative forms of transportation" and the creation of "roadways that integrate vehicle transportation with bicycling and walking."

"The Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Advisory Committee will help to ensure a safe and efficient means for cyclists and pedestrians to navigate the City. Developing a system for alternative forms of transportation is key to improving our City's traffic problems and improving our citizen's quality of life."

– District "D" Councilmember Brossett

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Expanded the Old Algiers Cultural District (February 26)

The Council approved *Resolution R-15-71*, authored by Councilmember Ramsey, supporting the expansion of the Old Algiers Cultural District. The proposed expansion will incorporate the interior streets and extend the boundaries to better reflect the entire Old Algiers Main Street Corporation program area, to ensure that historic structures and significant cultural venues are eligible for tax credits for rehabilitation, and to provide for additional economic opportunities for creative industries within those corridors.

"Algiers is open for business and I am encouraged by the new economic activity. Newton Street has been repaved and tax credits have been made available to enhance business growth. I intend to continue my efforts to preserve and rehabilitate this historic neighborhood located in Council District "C".

– District "C" Councilmember Ramsey

INFRASTRUCTURE, UTILITIES AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Accepted Federal Share Funds to Construct the Wisner Pedestrian and Bicycle Path Extension (March 26)

The Council passed *Resolution R-15-117*, authored by Councilmember Guidry, accepting the \$481,000 federal share for the construction of the Wisner Shared Path Extension. The extension will provide a vital 0.9 mile connection along Bayou St. John and Wisner Boulevard to destinations south of I-610 and the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The extension will also augment the Wisner Boulevard Overpass of I-610 replacement scheduled between September 2015 and December 2016 by providing

a separate paved trail with connections to Esplanade Avenue, City Park, Desaix Boulevard, Zachary Taylor Drive, and the existing Shared Use Path once the overpass is replaced. Under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Transportation Alternatives Program, the City is required to provide a 20 percent local match. The City's payment is not to exceed \$213,000.

"The Wisner Path runs along Bayou St. John and City Park, providing a scenic and safe travel route from the Lakefront to Mid-City for pedestrians and cyclists, and I am pleased that this extension is moving forward to allow for expanded use of this valuable community asset."

– District "A" Councilmember Guidry

"The expansion of the existing Wisner Shared Use Path will encourage further development of facilities for walking and bicycling throughout the City. This is an exciting improvement to our City's transportation network."

– Chair of the Council's Transportation and Airport Committee, District "D" Councilmember Brossett

Amended City's Cable Franchise Agreement Relative to Public, Educational and Government Access Programming (March 26)

The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,588*, amending the City's Cable Franchise Agreement with Cox Communications LLC ("Cox") relative to Public, Educational and Government (PEG) Access programming. The Council will designate a Community Access Group to manage the use of PEG Access Channels on the Cox Cable Television System. The Cox PEG fee will provide \$1.1 million to support PEG Access Channels for the years 2015 and 2016. Beginning January 1, 2017, the PEG fee will be equal to one-half percent of Cox's Gross Annual Revenues to support PEG Access Channels. This funding will support the production and transmission of non-commercial programming over four designated PEG Access Channels. PEG Access Channels broadcast the City Council's regular and committee meetings and various other government agency meetings to the public. The channels also provide government programming of interest and a forum for members of the public to produce and air programs.

"Through these amendments, we have secured reasonable funding for PEG Access for many years to come. This agreement not only preserves government access, but also public access, which exists nowhere else in the four parish metro area. PEG Access is key to government transparency by providing a forum for responsible public comment on the workings of government."

– Councilmember-at-Large Williams

HEALTH CARE AND CIVIC SERVICES

Approved Amendment to City Civil Service Rules Relative to Parental Work Leave for City Employees (January 8)

The Council passed *Motion M-15-20*, introduced by Councilmember-at-Large Head, approving the amendment to the Rule VIII, Section 9, Leave for Parental Reasons (Maternity, Paternity and Adoptive Parent) as adopted by the Civil Service Commission, effective January 1, 2015.

Specifically the rule changes provide for:

- Parental Leave shall be recorded as leave granted in addition to the employee's accumulated sick and annual leave for the approved durations;
- An employee on approved Parental Leave shall be reinstated to his/her former position, or a comparable position, upon return to work within the 12 weeks provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act;
- 8 weeks of Parental Leave for maternity leave, 2 weeks of Parental Leave for paternity leave;
- 8 weeks of Parental Leave for the primary adoptive parent, and 2 weeks of Parental Leave for the secondary adoptive parent.

"We are excited to move forward with this much-needed update to our City's policy for parental leave. It is important that all new parents are afforded the time and support necessary to welcome a new child into their home."

– Councilmember-at-Large Head

Passed Smoking Ban Aimed at Improving Public Health (January 22)

In a unanimous vote, the Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,455*, coauthored by Councilmembers Cantrell and Guidry, to amend and re-ordain Article II of Chapter 66 of the City Code relative to the prohibition of smoking tobacco, tobacco products, natural or synthetic marijuana, other plant products, and/or the use of electronic smoking devices within the City of New Orleans.

The Ordinance bans smoking in:

- Bars, hotel and motel rooms
- Harrah's New Orleans Casino and Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots
- Richard & Annette Bloch Cancer Survivor Plaza, Lafayette Square, and outdoor arenas, amphitheaters, recreational areas with playground equipment, and stadiums
- Schools, training academies, community colleges and universities
- Public buildings
- Workplaces with 2 or more employees
- Video poker venues, off-track betting parlors, and bingo parlors
- Correctional facilities

Per the Ordinance, smoking is permitted in/on:

- Private homes and vehicles
- Cigar or hookah bars in operation before January 8, 2015
- Shops that sell almost exclusively tobacco products, electronic smoking device businesses, and tobacco distribution or storage facilities
- Parking lots
- The Convention Center during private functions during specific events
- Bourbon Street (which is excluded from the requirement forcing smokers to be at least 5 feet from establishment entrances)

"We are making history, as we work together to foster change and growth in our City. This is only one component of the greater goal to make New Orleans a healthier and safer place. I want to thank my colleagues and the coalition of partners, community members and residents who have worked tirelessly to make an impact on public health in our City."

– District "B" Councilmember Cantrell

"This is an issue I've long considered to be critically important to our citizens. I am proud to coauthor this Ordinance and I want to thank Councilmember Cantrell for taking the lead on this issue. Our actions today demonstrate our commitment to a healthier and better New Orleans for both our citizens and our visitors."

– District "A" Councilmember Guidry

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Created the Historic Preservation Review Committee (March 12)

The Council adopted *Motion M-15-100*, co-authored by Councilmembers Head, Cantrell and Guidry, creating a Historic Preservation Review Committee, to consider the appropriateness of expanding the Historic Districts Landmark Commission's (HDLC) jurisdiction. The committee will study the expansion of HDLC jurisdiction to cover all properties within the National Register of Historic Places district boundaries in the Uptown and Carrollton Historic Districts. The committee will consist of seven members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council.

"Preserving these historic neighborhoods is important to strengthening the City's economic base and retaining the character and charm of the Uptown and Carrollton neighborhoods. This committee will assist us in determining whether extending the HDLC's jurisdiction will support these goals."

– District "A" Councilmember Guidry

NOTABLE ORDERS OF BUSINESS



District "B" Councilmember Cantrell issues proclamations to Big Queen Laurita Dollis and Bo Dollis, Jr.

Honored Local Cultural Icon Chief Bo Dollis (January 22)

The Council recognized New Orleans legend and cultural icon Chief Theodore Emile "Bo" Dollis, and offered the City's condolences to his wife Big Queen Laurita Dollis and his son Bo Dollis, Jr.

Chief Dollis, of the Wild Magnolia tribe of Mardi Gras Indians, passed away on January 20, leaving behind an impressive legacy of musical talent after appearing as an Indian for over 50 years.

Supported GiveNOLA Day (February 26)

To support GiveNOLA, the Council passed *Resolution R-15-83*, authored by Councilmember Williams, allowing GiveNOLA to place signs on public roads to promote the event. GiveNOLA Day is a one-day, online-giving event to raise money for non-profit organizations. During this day, citizens are encouraged to donate to non-profits. Every dollar donated on May 5th will be supplemented by "lagniappe" dollars provided by the Greater New Orleans Foundation and generous GiveNOLA sponsors. Events like GiveNOLA day provide the means for non-profits to provide services throughout the year.



GiveNOLA Representative Martha Landrum speaks before the Council.

"GiveNOLA Day is a great opportunity to help build a stronger, thriving community. Last year, GiveNOLA was able to raise \$2.25 million for our community. Allowing GiveNOLA to place signage on public roads will increase awareness of the event and result in an even greater outcome. I would like to thank the work of the GNO Foundation, the GiveNOLA sponsors, and everyone who participates in this great effort."

– Councilmember-at-Large Williams



Zulu King Andrew “Pete” Sanchez and Zulu Queen Dr. Hanice T. Sanchez with the 2015 Zulu Characters and the City Council.

Welcomed 2015 Zulu Royalty (February 5)

Members of the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club appeared before the Council to present the 2015 Zulu royalty, Zulu King Andrew “Pete” Sanchez and Zulu Queen Dr. Janice T. Sanchez, along with the 2015 Zulu Characters. The Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club was created in the early 1900s and has continued to entertain New Orleanians since. The group’s first appearance as Zulus came in 1909, and by 1916 the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club was incorporated. The Club’s parade on Mardi Gras day has grown into one of the most popular parades, and the Zulu Coconut has become one of the most sought-after and treasured Mardi Gras throws. The organization credits itself as “the everyman club” due to its diverse membership, which includes people from all walks of life and professions. Zulu contributes to a number of community initiatives, including the Adopt-A-School program and the Southern University Scholarship Fund.

“It is a great honor and privilege to represent The Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club. The Zulu organization has been a home for a number of great men, who have continued to allow all of us to celebrate what is best about the culture of our city. Zulu’s charitable contributions truly do make New Orleans the great City that it is.”

– District “D” Councilmember Brossett

“Zulu’s commitment to the community has left a long standing impression on the City of New Orleans. The loyalty and dedication of its hundreds of members, who mentor young people, organize toy drives for the holidays, and give out scholarships to our city’s students, has improved countless lives and made an incredible contribution to our city.”

– District “A” Councilmember Guidry

“The Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club has always been a positive force in our City, and an integral part of New Orleans Mardi Gras. I would like to thank the members of this organization for their work to make New Orleans a better place to live, work, and enjoy life.”

– District “C” Councilmember Ramsey

THE 2ND QUARTER: APRIL | MAY | JUNE

CRIME PREVENTION AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Created the French Quarter Economic Development District to Address Public Safety and Finance Development Projects (April 23)

On April 23, the Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,672*, defining the boundaries of the French Quarter Economic Development District (EDD). The District is bounded by the Mississippi River, the centerline of Canal Street, the rear property line of the properties fronting the lakeside of North Rampart Street, and the rear property line of the properties fronting the downriver side of Esplanade Avenue to the Mississippi River. This action also creates a special trust fund backed by funds generated from an additional .2495% sales tax within the boundaries of the District. Local sales tax increments will be levied and used to finance development projects and a longer-term contingent of 45 Louisiana State Police troopers to patrol the French Quarter.

It is estimated that this sales tax increase within the boundaries will generate approximately \$2 million annually to spend on State Police. The District's proceeds will be matched by long-term annual funding commitments from hospitality organizations, including:

- \$500,000 from the Convention & Visitors Bureau and New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation
- \$1 million from the Morial Convention Center
- \$500,000 from the French Quarter Improvement Fund

In an election on October 24, French Quarter residents voted in favor of the creation of French Quarter EDD, and the increased sales tax, therefore officially creating the French Quarter EDD.

"French Quarter residents voted in support of the ballot measure on October 24th to address the crime in their own neighborhood, using funds generated only within that neighborhood. The creation of this Economic Development District will ensure that no resources will be diverted from other areas of the City to protect French Quarter residents and visitors."

– District "C" Councilmember Ramsey

Authorized Crime Camera Installation in the Lake Vista Neighborhood (May 7)

The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,705*, authored by Councilmember Brossett, to authorize a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the City and the Lake Vista Crime Prevention District (LVCPD). The CEA allows and facilitates the installation by the Lake Vista Crime Prevention District (LVCPD) of video surveillance cameras on City-owned light poles surrounding and within the Lake Vista Neighborhood.

"This action today clears the way for the Lake Vista Crime Prevention District to install video surveillance cameras on City light poles. I support and will continue to support any and all efforts made by the Lake Vista community and the crime prevention district to keep their neighborhood safe."

– District "D" Councilmember Brossett

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS GROWTH

Approved the Operation of Transportation Network Services (April 9)

The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,617*, authored by Councilmembers Brossett and Guidry, creating definitions and regulations for the operations of Transportation Network Companies (TNC) and TNC for-hire vehicles. The ordinance defines Transportation Network Companies (TNC) as a person, organization, or corporation that connects passengers with drivers using their personal vehicles for the purposes of for-hire vehicle transportation through a TNC digital network. Drivers are not required to be employees of the TNC.

Under the Ordinance, the Department of Safety and Permits has full discretion in issuing permits and is responsible for ensuring compliance and issuing violation punishments. TNCs found to be operating without a permit will be fined no less than \$500 for the first offense and will not be allowed to obtain a permit for one calendar year. Subsequent offenses will result in the maximum fine allowable and permanent prohibition from obtaining a TNC permit.

TNCs must maintain a registry with the Department of Safety and Permits of all employed or contracted TNC drivers that must be electronically updated the first of each month or within 24 hours of request. TNC vehicles must have an insurance policy that covers TNC vehicles (provided by the driver or the TNC itself), be annually inspected by a state-certified mechanic or garage, and be under 7 years old.

"This action by the City Council signals a tremendous technological step forward for the City of New Orleans. Ride-sharing companies have the potential to revolutionize and enhance the City's transportation infrastructure."

– District "D" Councilmember Brossett

"This ordinance establishes clear and common-sense regulations that embrace this new technology and ensure public safety and consumer protection."

– District "A" Councilmember Guidry



Four Seasons New Orleans architect renderings, formerly the WTC Building.

Authorized Redevelopment of 2 Canal Street, Formerly WTC Building (May 7)

The Council adopted *Ordinances Calendar No. 30,691* and *Calendar No. 30,692*, authored by Councilmembers Cantrell and Ramsey, initiating action to begin the redevelopment of 2 Canal Street, formerly known as the World Trade Center (WTC) building. *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,691* authorizes the execution of a long term lease agreement for the purpose of development and operation of a hotel and residences. *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,692* authorizes the Mayor of the City of New Orleans to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the New Orleans Building Corporation (NOBC) allowing for a 99-year sublease to a commercial developer of ground rights pertaining to public property and adjacent parcels at 2 Canal Street. NOBC is a non-profit public benefit corporation formed to own, lease, develop, and operate properties owned by the City of New Orleans. Under the lease terms, the developer will pay to the City a \$1 million nonrefundable deposit at the lease signing. The building’s developers plan a \$364 million renovation that will include a 350-room, high-end Four Seasons Hotel with 76 condos. The design also adds two wings to the building.

“The redevelopment of the former World Trade Center will allow an important and iconic part of the New Orleans’ skyline to return to use and vibrancy. The proposed hotel and residences will add to the already bustling and exciting pace of the City’s Riverfront.”

– District “C” Councilmember Ramsey

Strengthened DBE Reporting Requirements (April 23)

In a unanimous vote, the Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,497*, authored by Councilmember Brossett, specifying stronger Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) reporting requirements for all City departments, agencies, attached and unattached boards, commissions, and corporations that utilize public funding or incentives. By October 15 of each year, all City departments and agencies will submit an annual report identifying their DBE goals and attainment rates for the prior two years. The submission of the report will align with the City’s annual budget process and must include:

- The total number and value of all DBE contracts awarded during the reporting period
- The total number and value of all contracts awarded to DBEs as prime contractors
- The total number and value of all contracts awarded by non-DBE prime contractors to DBEs as subcontractors
- The overall number and value of all contracts awarded to DBEs during the reporting period
- Whether the contract is a procurement, professional services, personal services, or construction contract

“The primary purpose of this ordinance is to increase transparency, accountability and public trust in the administrative procurement process. By requiring consistent reporting of DBE attainment rates, the Council will be in a better position to take stock of the program’s effectiveness and evaluate what changes need to be made to ensure the Office of Supplier Diversity is maintaining a well-functioning DBE program.”

– District “D” Councilmember Brossett

“A robust and transparent DBE program is paramount to the economic success of New Orleans. I commend my colleague Councilmember Brossett for taking the lead on this issue. It is vital that we put accountability measures in place that will demonstrate our progress and successes. Atlanta, Los Angeles, Dallas and Houston understand this. We are now joining these cities in recognizing that DBE programs grow the economic pie and profoundly impact the middle class.”

– Councilmember-at-Large Williams



Councilmembers issuing a proclamation to tourism and hospitality industry representatives.

Recognized Economic Impact of the Tourism and Hospitality Industry (May 7)

The Council recognized the economic and business impact of the Tourism and Hospitality industry. In observance of National Travel and Tourism Week, representatives from the New Orleans tourism and hospitality industry appeared before the Council. New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) Board of Directors President, and Roosevelt Hotel GM, Tod Chambers, CVB Senior Vice President Cheryl Teamer, New Orleans Marketing Corporation CEO Mark Romig, and New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association CEO Mavis Early discussed their respective organization’s work and industry successes. In 2014, New Orleans hosted 9.52 million visitors, spending a total of \$6.81 billion, the highest recorded visitor-spending in the City’s history. National Travel and Tourism Week, an annual nationwide tradition since 1983, champions the power of the tourism industry and recognizes tourism professionals and their impact on the U.S. economy.

“Tourism is the backbone of the New Orleans economy. We owe a great deal to the thousands of local men and women who welcome millions of visitors to our City annually. These hard working folks are the front line of our hospitality industry and their contributions to the economic bottom line should never be taken for granted and always appreciated and recognized.”

– District “C” Councilmember Ramsey

Passed Measure to Reduce False Alarms (June 18)

The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,796*, authored by Councilmembers Williams, Head, Brossett, and Guidry, establishing guidelines and penalties for false alarms. False alarms are defined as any alarm eliciting a police response when an emergency situation does not exist. The purpose of this ordinance is to establish guidelines to reduce the occurrence of false alarms and to modernize requirements for operation and maintenance of alarm systems.

Under the ordinance, alarm system users are required to register with the alarm administrator each year with no processing fees. For the first false alarm, the alarm administrator will send a false alarm notification and request identification information from the alarm system user. No fine will be assessed. If the alarm system user fails to return the alarm user identification information within fifteen days, police alarm response will be suspended. For the second false alarm, the alarm system

user will be fined \$75.00. For the third false alarm, the alarm system user will be fined \$150.00 and will receive a notice of impending police alarm response suspension. For the fourth false alarm, the alarm system user will be fined \$150.00 and police alarm response will be suspended. If a fine has not been paid within 30 days of the notice, the alarm administrator will send a second notice and a \$25.00 late fee will be assessed. If the late payment is not received within 10 days of the second notice, the alarm system user may receive a \$100.00 fine and police alarm response suspension. Alarm system users may file an appeal to the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Alarm Administrator. The NOPD Alarm Administrator will be able to waive one \$75 fine a year if the alarm system user either presents verification of an alarm equipment check or if the alarm system user completes an Alarm User Awareness Class. At the end of each year, false alarm counts will revert to zero if the alarm system user has paid all fees and fines. The NOPD Alarm Administrator will submit an annual evaluation and analysis to the Council by March 1 of each year.

“Our goal is a twenty to fifty percent reduction in calls for service related to false alarms. Through the passage of this ordinance, we are requesting alarm system users to partner with us, to prevent false alarms, and promote public safety by keeping officers on the street, and reducing response times due to fewer calls for service.”

– Councilmember-at-Large Williams

Established Youth Study Center For Pre-Trial Detention of Juveniles (June 18)

The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,680*, authored by Councilmember Guidry, establishing the Youth Study Center (YSC) as the appropriate adult facility for the pre-trial detention of all children less than the legal age of the majority who are charged as adults in local courts. The YSC, which is operated by the City of New Orleans for the housing of pre-trial juveniles and transfer youth, has demonstrated the ability to provide appropriate housing and programming for youth in a secure and constitutional environment.

“As Chair of the Council’s Criminal Justice Committee, I have made getting children out of the dangerous conditions at OPP a top priority. While my goal is the removal of all children from OPP, this ordinance is a strong first step, establishing the Youth Study Center as the appropriate adult facility for children whom the District Attorney has chosen to charge as adults. I look forward to continuing to work with the other members of the Youth Transfer Working Group to ensure that all children held pretrial are housed in a manner that is safe and age-appropriate.”

– District “A” Councilmember Guidry

INFRASTRUCTURE, UTILITIES, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Approved Transfer of Electric Utility Operations, Issuance of Storm Recovery Bonds, and Natural Gas Hedging Program (May 14)

The Council passed a series of utility related resolutions authored by Councilmembers Williams, Head, Guidry, Brossett and Gray. *Resolution No. R-15-194* approved the transfer of Entergy Louisiana, LLC (ELL) electric utility assets and the sale of electric utility operations in Algiers to Entergy New Orleans, Inc. (ENO). The transfer will not result in an immediate increase in base rates. New metering equipment will be installed by Entergy Louisiana prior to the transaction closing date in order to facilitate ENO service to Algiers customers. The Algiers accounts receivable of ELL, both billed and unbilled, will be transferred to ENO at the date of the transaction. Ordinances to finalize this transfer will be adopted at a later date.

Resolutions No. R-15-193 and *R-15-195* approved the issuance of storm recovery bonds relating to the relief costs of Hurricane Isaac and approved the Storm Cost Securitization Agreement in Principle. In January 2015, ENO filed an application requesting approval to utilize storm recovery bond proceeds to finance ENO's outstanding debt obligations associated with its Hurricane Isaac storm recovery costs of \$31.7 million and the costs to partially replenish ENO's Storm Reserves of \$53.4 million to achieve the Council-approved \$75 million funding requirement.

The agreement provides the following:

- Electric Storm Reserve Rider and Gas Storm Reserve Rider will be removed from ENO's rates and will not be used to collect funds
- ENO must designate \$5.6 million to benefit gas ratepayers, the remaining balance will benefit electric ratepayers
- Existing storm recovery reserve must be kept separate from the securitized storm reserve
- ENO must file annual activity reports with the Council while the existing and securitized storm reserves maintain a non-zero balance
- ENO must notify the Council of withdrawals from either of the storm reserve funds within 60 days
- Due to low interest rates, it is estimated that over time the Council's action will save ratepayers approximately \$25.8 million

Resolution No. R-15-196, authorized Entergy New Orleans (ENO) to implement a hedging program designed to protect gas ratepayers against volatility in natural gas prices. The program locks the price of natural gas for an agreed upon quantity in a future month during the winter heating season to protect local customers from price spikes. After reviewing the 2015 Annual Gas Market Report's recommendations, the Council approved ENO's request to implement a 2015/2016 winter heating season gas hedge program, provided ENO does not hedge more than 25% of its 2014/2015 actual heating volumes.



Mirabeau Water Garden site plans.

Authorized CEA for the Mirabeau Water Garden (June 4)

The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,751*, authored by Councilmember Brossett, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana to facilitate Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for preliminary engineering for the Mirabeau Garden Storm Water Management Project in District "D". City and State officials are partnering to create the 25-acre Mirabeau water retention park at the former site of the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent. The Sisters of St. Joseph Convent is providing a long-term lease agreement with the City to facilitate the project. The garden will include water retention features such as ponds, pumps, and simulated marshlands. It will also include parklands, a swimming pool, and athletic fields. The Mirabeau Water Garden is a demonstration project that could serve as a model for other large vacant spaces throughout the City if successful.

"The Mirabeau Garden will help solve multiple problems with one project. It finds a use for a vacant property, lessens flood risks, and provides recreational opportunities. It is exciting to see new and innovative projects being completed in District 'D'."

– District "D" Councilmember Brossett

NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Declared April Fair Housing Month (April 23)

The Council passed *Resolution No. R-15-172*, authored by Councilmembers Gray, Cantrell, Brossett, and Williams, declaring April Fair Housing Month in honor of the Fair Housing Act passed in April 1968, just a week after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Fair Housing Act guarantees the civil rights of individuals regardless of their race, sex, disability, religion, national origin or familial status. The resolution also encourages the Council to continue pursuing public policies that may increase equal access to quality housing and diverse neighborhoods for all New Orleanians.



GNO Fair Housing Action Center Executive Director Cashauna Hill.

"It is important that as a Council we continue to create policies that ensure equality through improvements to the City's current housing opportunities. Every New Orleanian deserves access to neighborhoods of opportunity that provide their families with economic stability and a better quality of life."

– District "B" Councilmember Cantrell

"A person's future is determined by parental support, education and of course the opportunity to live in an affordable safe neighborhood. We commend and support your efforts to ensure fair housing for all citizens."

– District "E" Councilmember Gray

HEALTH CARE AND CIVIC SERVICES

Amended Smoke Free Air Act Relative to Cigar Bars and Smoking and Vaping Restrictions (April 9)

The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,679*, authored by Councilmember Cantrell, allowing the smoking of cigars in Cigar Bars, and the smoking of hookahs in Hookah Bars. Neither Hookah Bars nor Cigar Bars will be permitted to allow the smoking of cigarettes or the use of vaporizers. The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,611*, authored by Councilmember Ramsey, creating the definition of a Cigar Bar as a legally operating bar that generates at least ten percent of its total annual gross income through the sale of cigars and the rental of humidors. Persons under 21 will not be admitted into Cigar Bars, and the smoking of cigarettes will be prohibited. The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,578*, authored by Councilmembers Gray and Cantrell, amending language that was inconsistent with the Council's intent in passing the Council's Smoke Free Air Act.

The amendment removes the prohibition of smoking and vaping within:

- Five feet of enclosed areas where smoking or vaping is prohibited
- Twenty-five feet of enclosed public property
- Five feet of bleachers and grandstands

The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,619*, authored by Councilmember Guidry, adding facilities regulated for the operation of slot machines, pari-mutuel wagering, and off-track wagering to the existing definition of "casinos." The ordinance, as amended, ensures that these facilities will be allowed to maintain designated areas for smoking and vaping. The Smoke Free Air Act already allows for smoking in designated outdoor areas of bars, restaurants, and casinos.

In related business, the Council passed *Resolution No. R-14-155*, approving regulations governing the implementation of the Smoke Free Air Act with respect to education, signage and complaints. The Smoke Free Air Act, which was adopted by the Council on January 22, 2015, went into effect April 22, 2015.

"It is imperative that we maintain clear and consistent language throughout the Smoke Free Air Act to ensure that it effectively and adequately addresses all public health and economic concerns."

– District "B" Councilmember Cantrell

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Adopted New Truck and Oversize Vehicle Requirements in the Vieux Carre (April 23)

The Council adopted *Ordinances Calendar No. 30,678* and *No. 30,684*, authored by Councilmember Ramsey, setting new rules and requirements for the operation of trucks and oversize vehicles in the Vieux Carre. Under the ordinance, vehicles, trucks, truck-tractors, or trailers over 36 feet will not be allowed in the Vieux Carre without a special permit. Trucks and oversize vehicles, with the exception of personal vehicles under 3,500 pounds, will be required to display on the outside of both truck doors specific identifiable information including firm, company, or agency name, address, and the length of the vehicle. The information may be painted or printed on removable decals.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) will issue a \$125.00 annual permit or a \$10.00 single trip permit. The permit will specify the vehicle route. DPW will also have the ability to impose other conditions or requirements depending on the potential for physical impact to streets and sidewalks. Signs indicating the restrictions will be installed at Vieux Carre entry points. The ordinance sets violation penalties for a first offense at \$500 and subsequent offenses at \$1,000 with the possibility of suspension or revocation of any permits or licenses issued by the DPW. Ordinance enforcement will be conducted by the NOPD Traffic Department, NOLA Patrol, and the New Orleans Fire Department.

"We encountered a modern problem in our historic French Quarter that needed to be addressed. The narrow streets of the historic Vieux Carré were laid out in the 1720's before modern, oversized vehicles were envisioned. These ordinances will protect historic properties, public works infrastructure and ensure that residents and visitors are not subject to safety issues. Protection of historic neighborhoods is vital to sustaining our culture and our economy. These new regulations will help us to do just that."

– District "C" Councilmember Ramsey

LAND USE AND MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Adopted New Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (May 14)

The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,637*, approving the new Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) and replacing the current CZO in its entirety. The CZO governs land use throughout the City of New Orleans and lays out permitted land uses for each of the City's zoning districts, building height limits, setback requirements, urban design standards, operational rules, and other regulations. The CZO is broken into a series of Articles that cover citywide standards, individual zoning district regulations, and the processes for variances, conditional use permits, and other land use reviews. The City's Home Rule Charter requires that a CZO be adopted and that it be consistent with the Master Plan. After several years of development, including many public meetings, the City Planning Commission (CPC) recommended, and the Council approved as recommended by the CPC (by *Motion M-14-464*), the new CZO on October 24, 2014. The new CZO adoption process is now complete.

“The adoption of the new CZO is a progressive step forward for the City of New Orleans. This CZO sets forth consistent regulation and guidelines for the future growth and development of the City. On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank everyone who has played a role in the process to develop this important document.”

– Councilmember-at-Large Williams

“The passage of the new CZO today represents years of work by the Council, Administration, City Planning Commission, hired consultants, staff, and many members of the public who have engaged with us and provided comment throughout this legislative process. As with all city ordinances, future amendments, as long as they are consistent with the Master Plan, are possible.”

– Councilmember-at-Large Head

NOTABLE ORDERS OF BUSINESS



Temple Sinai Communications Director Carla Rose Jacob, Executive Director Ellen Rae Shalett, President-Elect Robert B. Brickman, President Sheila Gold, and Rabbi Edward Paul Cohn present before the Council.

Commemorated the 145th Anniversary of Temple Sinai (April 9)

The Council commemorated the 145th anniversary of Temple Sinai. Temple Sinai, founded in 1870, is the largest Jewish congregation in the State and the oldest Reform congregation. Temple Sinai has a historic tradition of serving spiritual needs through programs that satisfy the religious, musical, cultural, emotional, and intellectual needs of the congregation’s members. Rabbi Edward Cohn, along with other members of the congregation, gave a presentation on the history of the Temple and its ongoing community efforts.

“On its 145th anniversary, we celebrate Temple Sinai for its lasting contribution to the rich history and culture of the City of New Orleans. Temple Sinai has served as an integral part of the community for many years and will continue to be a cornerstone for spiritual and community life.”

– District “A” Councilmember Guidry



The Council with New Orleans first responders featured on “Nightwatch.”

Issued Proclamations to New Orleans First Responders (May 14)

The Council issued Proclamations commending the New Orleans Police Department, Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services for their participation on the A&E television series “Nightwatch” that showcased the city’s first responders. In New Orleans, police officers, fire fighters and EMT’s working the overnight shift answer as many as a thousand emergency calls a night. “Nightwatch” gives viewers the opportunity to see the skills, dedication and determination that these critical and dangerous jobs require.

“Rarely do we have the opportunity to publicly thank and recognize the brave first responders in our community for the very important work they do on a daily and nightly basis. “Nightwatch” brought their stories to a national viewing audience, highlighting their courage, compassion and commitment to our local community. The Council is grateful for this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation to these local heroes and television stars!”

– Councilmember-at-Large Head



Long Time City Hall Volunteer Audrey Flynn.

Recognized Long Time City Hall Volunteer, Audrey Flynn, for 31 Years of Service (May 14)

The Council presented Audrey Flynn with a Proclamation acknowledging 31 years of dedicated volunteer service to the New Orleans City Council. For over three decades, Miss Audrey, who is 94 years old, has volunteered her time to assist various Councilmember offices and departments. During her time with the Council, she has worked in the offices of former Councilmembers Peggy Wilson, Troy Carter, Jacquelyn Clarkson, and Arnie Fielkow, and today, she works in the office of Councilmember Cantrell.

“Miss Audrey is one of the longest serving and most beloved volunteers in City Hall history. She is also a role model to the City Hall staff, a loving mother and grandmother and member of the Great 100 Nurses. We are honored to have her in our midst every day.”

– District “B” Councilmember Cantrell



Retiring Xavier University President Dr. Norman C. Francis with the City Council and Mayor Mitch Landrieu .

Honored Retiring Xavier University President Dr. Norman C. Francis (June 18)

The Council honored retiring Xavier University President Dr. Norman C. Francis for over 50 years of work at Xavier University. Dr. Francis graduated from Xavier University in 1952. After serving in the U.S. Army and becoming the first black Loyola Law School graduate, he returned to work for Xavier University in 1957 as the Dean of Men. In 1968, Dr. Francis became the University’s first black and first lay President. Since he assumed the University’s Presidency, Xavier has more than tripled its enrollment, broadened its curriculum, expanded its campus, received national attention for its award-winning academic initiatives, and raised its endowment from \$20 million to over \$130 million. Dr. Francis has served in an advisory role to eight U.S. Presidents. He has served as a board member of the Educational Testing Service; the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; the College Board; the Southern Education Foundation; and the American Association of Higher Education. He has also served as chair of the Louisiana Recovery Authority; the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation; the Southern Education Foundation; the New Orleans Aviation Board; and the Metropolitan Area Committee Education Fund. Dr. Francis is the recipient of 43 honorary degrees and numerous honors and awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He will retire this month after being the University’s President for 47 years.

“On behalf of the City Council I would like to thank Dr. Francis for his unwavering commitment to educational and social equality, spiritual enlightenment and community service as Xavier University’s President.”

– District “D” Councilmember Brossett

“Dr. Francis is an inspiration to us all and has done an extraordinary job as Xavier University’s President. He has left a long lasting legacy of outstanding leadership, dedication and deep compassion for higher education, and motivation to impact and enrich the lives of countless people. He will truly be missed by many throughout the University’s campus and the City of New Orleans.”

– District “B” Councilmember Cantrell

THE 3RD QUARTER: JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE KATRINA

Received NOLA Data Center Report “New Orleans Index at 10” (August 20)

The Council received a presentation from Allison Plyer, Executive Director and Chief Demographer of the New Orleans Data Center, reporting the “New Orleans Index at 10,” which has tracked the City of New Orleans’ overall progress and indicators since Hurricane Katrina. The presentation highlighted New Orleans’ strengths and weaknesses. Among the many factors studied were economic growth, inclusive growth, quality of life and sustainability. Recommendations for moving forward were made.



NOLA Data Center Executive Director, and Chief Demographer Allison Plyer.

The presentation cited these figures: As of July 2014, the metro area population was 1.2 million, 94% of its 2000 level. Demographics have shifted post-Katrina with the total Hispanic population increasing 81%, while the overall percentage of African American residents fell from 66.7% to 58.8%. The business startup rate is 64% above the national average, and venture capital funding has doubled since 2010. The presentation concluded and noted that although New Orleans should celebrate the hard earned success post-Katrina, there is still work to be done in reducing the poverty rate, economic inequality, and restoring the coast.

“This data report shows that New Orleans has come such a long way since Hurricane Katrina. Our Community will continue to grow and to prosper in the years to come, but it is also a stark reminder that there is still a lot of work to be done.”

– District “B” Councilmember Cantrell

Recognized “Heroes of the Recovery” (August 20)

The Council recognized Women of the Storm, Mary Queen of Vietnam Church, Beacon of Hope and the Congress of Day Laborers for their efforts in helping to rebuild communities throughout the City of New Orleans in post-Katrina recovery efforts. During the recognition, the Council highlighted the important role that neighborhood groups and individual citizens played during the aftermath of the storm.

Founded in 2006, Women of the Storm is an alliance of diverse Louisiana women whose families, businesses and lives were affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The organization’s mission is to draw the attention of Congress, media and opinion leaders to the needs of New Orleans, South Louisiana and the entire Gulf Coast.



Women of the Storm Founder Anne Milling, Mary Queen of Vietnam Church Parishioner Elaine Lee, Beacon of Hope Founder and President Denise Thornton and Congress of Day Laborers members Santos Alvarado and Fernando Lopez address the Council.

During the aftermath of Katrina, The Mary Queen of Vietnam Church played a leading role in emergency relief and assistance as well as organized the Vietnamese American community in rebuilding the New Orleans East Community.

The Beacon of Hope Resource Center worked to repopulate and redevelop neighborhoods following the storm, served over 31,000 households in 19 different New Orleans neighborhoods, and organized over 750 resident volunteers.

The Congress of Day Laborers represents those informal workers who have done treacherous and often times life threatening work to rebuild New Orleans following Katrina. The Congress fights for worker protections against exploitation and wage theft and builds a sense of community for day laborers.

“Community organizations helped jump start the immediate post-Katrina recovery efforts, and we honor the groups here today as some of the true heroes of the storm. Thanks to individuals like these, New Orleans has become a prime example of community resiliency and advocacy.”

– District “B” Councilmember Cantrell

Recognized Organizations that Rescued Animals during the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina (August 20)

The Council passed *Resolution No. R-15-399*, authored by Councilmember Ramsey, recognizing and expressing gratitude for the Humane Society of Louisiana and all the caring individuals, rescue groups and humane organizations who aided the City during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. It is estimated that over 15,500 animals were rescued by various organizations in the months following the storm. Rescued animals were taken to the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center, which eventually became the largest animal rescue operation in U.S. history. Of the 15,500, approximately 1,800 were rescued by the Humane Society of Louisiana. Many of the members of these organizations had homes that were destroyed during the storm, but they continued to protect the animals that were left behind. The Resolution also thanks the Humane Society of Louisiana for the nearly two decades of service in New Orleans prior to Katrina and supports the return of their statewide headquarters and shelter to the City.

“On behalf of the Council, I would like to express gratitude to the tens of thousands of people who contributed to the animal rescue and relief effort in New Orleans. We welcome the return of the Humane Society of Louisiana and look forward to reaping the benefits of having their statewide headquarters and shelter here in the City of New Orleans.”

– District “C” Councilmember Ramsey

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS GROWTH

Adopted Living Wage Ordinance (August 6)

The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,550*, the “Living Wage Ordinance,” authored by Councilmember Brossett, requiring City contractors and recipients of grants to pay employees who are involved in City contracted work a minimum of \$10.55/hour and provide a minimum of 7 paid sick days. Employers that pay their lowest paid employee 30% above the required living wage will be exempt from the sick leave requirement. It will apply to contractors with \$25,000 or more in annual City contracts as well as recipients of City financial assistance of \$100,000 or more over any 12 month period. On January 1 of each year, the “Living Wage” will be adjusted in accordance with the consumer price index but will never be adjusted downward. The “Living Wage Ordinance” ensures that taxpayer dollars extended by the City to private contractors will enable full-time workers to support a family at a level that meets basic needs and avoids economic hardship. The payment of higher wages is associated with increased levels of business investment, employee training, higher worker productivity, and lower employee absenteeism and turnover. The ordinance went into effect January 1, 2016.

“The Living Wage Ordinance will go a long way towards improving the standard of living for many New Orleanians. We have too many people who work hard but struggle to put food on the table for their families. The City of New Orleans is limited by State law in our ability to affect the minimum wage, but with this ordinance, we have made it possible for workers who are paid with City money to receive fair wages.”

– District “D” Councilmember Brossett

INFRASTRUCTURE, UTILITIES, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS



Coalition United against the Middle Belt Option Chairman Rev. Earl Williams with members of the Coalition.

Opposed Rerouting of Freight Train Traffic (July 23)

The Council unanimously passed *Resolution No. R-15-323*, opposing the rerouting of freight traffic from the “Back Belt” to the “Middle Belt” line and requesting the New Orleans Rail Gateway Program (NORGP) explore alternative options that do not jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of the community. NORGP planners are conducting a study of, among other things, the feasibility of diverting all freight traffic through New Orleans from the “Back Belt” line in Old Metairie to the “Middle Belt” line, which runs through four residential New Orleans neighborhoods: Hollygrove, Hollygrove-Dixon, Palm Air and Mid-City. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development estimates that 32 freight trains pass through the “Back Belt” line daily and that freight traffic will increase by 57% by 2020. The rerouting of increased freight traffic through residential areas will present substantial threats to public well-being, including air and noise pollution, increased vehicle and pedestrian accidents, and potential for hazardous material accidents due to derailments.

“Re-routing high-volume freight rail traffic through Hollygrove, Hollygrove-Dixon, Palm Air, and Mid-City would have potentially devastating effects on public safety and quality of life in these neighborhoods. This resolution asserts our strong opposition to the study of this possibility. I would like to thank my colleagues for their support, and I would like to recognize the incredible advocacy work that has been done by the citizen leaders of the Coalition United Against the Middle Belt Option.”

– District “A” Councilmember Guidry

Authorized Servitude Agreement for Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane and Flood Protection Project (August 6)

The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,807*, authored by Councilmember Brossett, authorizing the Mayor to sign a servitude agreement between the City and the Orleans Levee District (OLD), granting the OLD two parcels of land on the west side of the Orleans Avenue outfall canal along Crystal and General Haig Streets. The land will be used by OLD for the purposes of constructing, operating and maintaining the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity (LPV) Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) hurricane and flood protection project.

The PCCP is currently being constructed at the mouth of the Orleans Avenue outfall canal and consists of permanently gated storm surge barriers and a brick pump station near the lakefront. The pump station will move rainwater out of the canal, around the flood gates and into Lake Pontchartrain during a tropical weather event, providing a permanent measure to reduce risk of 100-year level storm surge from entering the canal. Construction on the Orleans Avenue Canal Pump Station is expected to be completed in 2017.

“This ordinance ensures that a permanent gated storm surge barrier and pump station are constructed at the Orleans Avenue outfall canal. We will continue to work with our partners in the public and private sectors to ensure the City’s hurricane and flood protection system is maintained and upgraded to offer the highest level of safety to New Orleanians possible.”

– District “D” Councilmember Brossett

NOTABLE ORDERS OF BUSINESS



Members and friends of the Holloway family and NOPD Officers before the Council.

Honored Fallen NOPD Officer Daryle Holloway (July 9)

The Council honored fallen New Orleans 5th District Police Officer Daryle Holloway, a father of three and a 22-year veteran of the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD), with a City Council proclamation. Officer Holloway was recently killed in the line of duty while transporting a prisoner. The Council recognized the extraordinary life of Officer Holloway who began his career with NOPD in the 6th District. For several years, he was assigned to the Department’s Community Policing Unit. Officer Holloway was also remembered for his bravery in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, in particular his service to the staff and patients at Charity Hospital, and the rescue of citizens from the roof tops of flooded homes. During the presentation, Fraternal Order of Police President Sergeant Walter Powers, Jr. issued the Ultimate Sacrifice Medal to Officer Holloway’s family.

“It is humbling to have the family of fallen Officer Daryle Holloway in the Council Chamber. We extend our heartfelt condolences to you. This is a tragic loss for your family and for the New Orleans community. Our only consolation is to remember how Officer Holloway lived - as an extraordinary dedicated New Orleans police officer who loved his work, his City and his family. We are all the better for the contributions that he made during his lifetime.”

– Councilmember-at-Large Williams



LA ACLU Executive Director, Majorie Esman, Forum for Equality Executive Director, Sarah Jane Brady, and Human Rights Campaign Board of Directors Member Lester Perryman addressing the Council.

Recognized June 26th as LGBTQ Equality Day in the City of New Orleans (August 6)

The Council passed *Resolution No. R-15-368*, authored by Councilmembers Williams, Head, Guidry, Cantrell, Ramsey, Brossett and Gray, recognizing June 26th of each year as LGBTQ Equality Day in New Orleans. The Council received a presentation from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Forum for Equality, and the Human Rights Campaign calling for the recognition of LGBTQ Equality Day in light of recent rulings handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court that advance the rights of LGBTQ people. On June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down prohibitions on federal recognition of marriages between same-sex couples, invalidated the first half of the Defense of Marriage Act, and struck down all laws prohibiting marriage between two persons of the same sex. LGBTQ Equality Day will serve as a reminder of gains made toward equality for LGBTQ citizens as well as a reminder of the work yet to be accomplished to create true acceptance and equality.

“New Orleans has a proud tradition of accepting and promoting equality for all people. LGBTQ Equality Day is a reminder of the commitment of activists, organizers, lawyers, allies and average citizens that are fighting for basic rights for the LGTBQ community.”

– Councilmember-at-Large Williams



Members of the Brown family, NOPD Officers and members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity before the Council.

Honored Fallen NOPD Officer Vernell Brown Jr. (September 3)

The Council honored fallen New Orleans 6th District Police Officer Vernell Brown Jr., father of five and 17-year veteran of the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD), with a City Council proclamation. Officer Brown recently passed away as the result of injuries sustained when he was struck by a car while investigating a vehicle fire on Interstate 10. The Council recognized the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Officer Brown. Known for his ability to reconstruct fatal crashes, Officer Brown would often be called upon to give expert testimony in court. Officer Brown was also known for his enthusiasm and passion for community service and worked to provide scholarships to children and prevent domestic violence. During the presentation, Fraternal Order of Police President Sergeant Walter Powers Jr. issued the Ultimate Sacrifice medal to Officer Brown's family. NOPD Chief Michael Harrison also delivered letters of condolences from police chiefs and sheriffs from across the world to the family of Officer Brown.

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of Officer Vernell Brown Jr. We will remember Officer Brown as an extremely talented, enthusiastic and dedicated New Orleans Police Officer who worked constantly to better his community. The Council would like to express gratitude for his service and extend condolences to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time."

– Councilmember-at-Large Williams

Recognized the Career of Paul Beaulieu (September 3)

The Council passed *Resolution No. R-15-442*, authored by Councilmember Ramsey, recognizing the career of Paul Beaulieu, retired General Manager and on-air personality at WBOK and St. Augustine graduate, who played an instrumental role in championing issues that impact the New Orleans African American community. Owner and producer of multiple magazines and television programs, Beaulieu has been a driving force in the New Orleans media and has used his position to create a dialogue around fairness and equality for all citizens.



Retired WBOK General Manager and on-air personality Paul Beaulieu.

"Mr. Beaulieu has played an incredible role in our community and in creating a dialogue around the issues of fairness and equality for all citizens of New Orleans. His passion for the community will inspire generations to come."

– District "C" Councilmember Ramsey

THE 4TH QUARTER: OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER

CRIME PREVENTION AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Created Special Rate of Pay for Police Officers with Bilingual Duties (November 5)

The Council passed *Motion M-15-523*, authored by Councilmembers Head, Williams, Guidry, Cantrell and Brossett, amending the Classified Pay Plan to include a new special rate of pay for New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) officers assigned to use bilingual skills, including American Sign Language, in the regular performance of their duties. To be eligible for Bilingual Pay, officers must submit the official Request for Bilingual Special Rate of Pay Form and pass approved bilingual skills proficiency tests. NOPD will notify officers in writing of the translation duties, starting date, and ending date (if applicable) of Bilingual Pay. Approved officers will receive an additional \$1.50 per hour over their normal rate of pay for time spent performing work as a translator.

“By establishing a new pay plan for bilingual police officers, the Council is helping improve communications and engagement between the NOPD and New Orleans’ non-English speaking residents while rewarding officers with special abilities.”

– Councilmember-at-Large Williams

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS GROWTH

Established the HireNOLA Employment Program (October 1)

The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,925*, authored by Councilmember Gray, establishing the HireNOLA program within the Office of Workforce Development, to link local workers with quality employment opportunities created by City construction contracts and economic development projects. HireNOLA sets local worker participation goals for City construction contracts and development projects receiving tax incentives in excess of \$150,000. The program requires that at least 30% of all work hours performed by Louisiana workers on City projects are performed by workers residing in Orleans Parish, with no less than 10% of project hours performed by disadvantaged local workers. The ordinance also requires that at least 10% of labor hours performed by Louisiana skilled labor apprentices are performed by disadvantaged local workers. Participation goals will increase by 5% annually over 5 years, subject to review. City contractors and subcontractors will be required to demonstrate good faith efforts in meeting participation goals, as enforced by the Office of Workforce Development.

“The City of New Orleans has many able and talented residents searching for work. With the enactment of HireNOLA, we will be able to connect many of our citizens with quality jobs.”

– District “E” Councilmember Gray

NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Established Welcoming City Benchmarks (October 1)

The Council passed *Resolution No. R-15-454*, authored by Councilmember Cantrell, establishing benchmarks to create a more welcoming city environment for all New Orleans residents. The Council will work in conjunction with the Mayor’s Office to set benchmarks in the following areas: language access; police and community relations; cultural competency and economic opportunity.

Language access benchmarks include utilizing multilingual messages in the City’s 311 phone line and emergency messaging; utilizing bilingual 911 dispatchers proficient in Vietnamese and Spanish; and expanding translation services in high need City departments and raising awareness of these services. Police and community relations benchmarks include reporting the use, effectiveness and frequency of NOPD translation services; increased hiring of multilingual officers; and increased outreach and education about NOPD’s bias-free policing policy. Cultural competency benchmarks include the addition of multicultural holidays to the City calendar; the display of more country flags on the second floor balcony of City Hall; and more opportunities for diverse religious leaders to participate in the City Council and other City events’ invocations. Economic opportunity benchmarks include increased outreach to organizations that provide information, technical assistance and financing opportunities to small businesses and entrepreneurs from immigrant communities; increased Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) outreach to Spanish-speaking and other non-English speaking businesses; and ensuring open access for all residents to job training and placement services.

“These benchmarks were designed in collaboration with community members and the Mayor’s Office to help ensure that the City of New Orleans develops a more inclusive and receptive environment for present and future residents of all backgrounds.”

– District “B” Councilmember Cantrell

Clarified Neighborhood Housing Improvement Fund Appropriation Requirements (October 15)

The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,893*, authored by Councilmember Cantrell, clarifying the Neighborhood Housing Improvement Fund (NHIF) appropriation requirements, the composition of the Neighborhood Housing Advisory Committee, its role in making recommendations to the Mayor relative to the fund, and ensuring consistency with the original ballot proposition establishing the fund. The Neighborhood Housing Advisory Committee will assist the Mayor by making recommendations to the Chief Administrative Officer relative to appropriations from the NHIF based on the City’s comprehensive housing plan, and Plan for the 21st Century (Master Plan). The Committee will prioritize funding designed to address gaps in the City’s housing needs for low and moderate income individuals, families or those with special needs. The Committee will consist of nine members, seven of which will be appointed by each member of the City Council and two will be selected by the Mayor. Each appointee must possess expertise in one of the following areas: fair housing, community development, architecture and preservation, sustainable development, regional and neighborhood level housing and neighborhood data, smart growth, populations with special needs and community and housing development finance.

Under the ordinance, appropriations from the proceeds of the NHIF must be used to achieve improved housing conditions and neighborhood stability by:

- Providing financing and assistance for home ownership opportunities to families in existing structures
- Promoting neighborhood stability by eliminating blight through remediation and rehabilitation
- Providing financing and assistance for safe, affordable rental housing to property owners, provided that rental properties be rented to low and moderate income families for a minimum of ten years after receipt of assistance

“By updating the Neighborhood Housing Improvement Fund ordinance, we have two tremendous opportunities. First, we can begin to follow the law and utilize the funding as it was originally intended, which is to address priorities for housing and blight by funding projects directly in neighborhoods. Second, we can use this opportunity to tie badly needed resources to affordable housing and special needs housing priorities that are right now being identified through the Housing NOLA Plan. The NHIF needs to be a critical part of addressing the crisis we are facing in the city that is putting the cost of rental and owner housing out of reach of many of our citizens. This ordinance will help us leverage another tool in the tool chest to fight blight and increase affordability in our neighborhoods.”

– District “B” Councilmember Cantrell

GOVERNANCE

Created the BP Settlement Fund (October 1)

The Council unanimously adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,917*, creating a new fund for the receipt and accounting of British Petroleum (BP) settlement funds by the City of New Orleans. The BP Settlement Fund will be established under the Department of Finance, which will administer and deposit all revenues collected from the BP settlement into the account. Under the ordinance, the Director of the Department of Finance is required to keep detailed records of the account and make a report of revenues and expenditures to the Chief Administrative Officer and the City Council as part of the annual City audit.

“The establishment of a dedicated BP Settlement Fund is crucial to maintaining transparency and accountability when the City receives revenues from the BP settlement.”

– Councilmember-at-Large Williams

Adopted 2016 Capital & Operating Budgets, Ad Valorem Taxes (December 1)

The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,989* providing a Capital Budget for 2016, *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,990* providing an Operating Budget of Revenues for 2016, and *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,991* providing an Operating Budget of Expenditures for 2016. The Capital Budget includes \$484.3 million of potential spending, and the Operating Budget totals \$1.025 billion, of which \$601.6 million makes up the General Fund.

The Council received the Mayor’s proposed budget on October 15th and conducted a series of budget hearings that included presentations from representatives of City Departments, the Mayor’s Office, the Courts, the District Attorney, the Sheriff’s Office, outside agencies, boards and commissions. At the November 19, 2015 Regular Council Meeting, the Council discussed and adopted amendments to the 2016 Budget.

In other budgetary matters, the Council passed a series of ordinances to levy ad valorem taxes on the assessed value of all property subject to taxation in the City of New Orleans and to levy ad valorem taxes on property located in the City’s special security districts for the year 2016. This action by the Council is an annual requirement as a part of the budgeting process. The Council also passed *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,988*, relative to the levy of fees on property in special security and improvement tax districts in the City for the year 2016.

Required Ethics Review Board Members to File Annual Income Financial Disclosure Statements (November 5)

The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 30,968*, authored by Councilmember Brossett, expressly requiring members of the Ethics Review Board to file annual income financial disclosure statements in accordance with the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics. The City Code currently requires the Mayor, members of the City Council and top appointed officials in City Government to file annual income financial disclosure statements. The Ordinance extends the annual filing requirement to members of the Ethics Review Board.

“By requiring personal financial disclosures by members of the Ethics Review Board, we are sending a strong message that the citizens of New Orleans value transparent and ethically responsible government.”

– District “D” Councilmember Brossett

Called Election to Amend the Home Rule Charter Relative to the Office of Independent Police Monitor (November 19)

The Council adopted *Ordinance Calendar No. 31,019*, authored by Councilmembers Brossett, Williams, Head, Guidry, Cantrell, Ramsey and Gray, calling an election for November 8, 2016 to submit to voters a proposal to amend the Home Rule Charter of the City of New Orleans to provide the proper apportionment of dedicated funding among the Office of Inspector General (OIG), the Office of Independent Police Monitor (OIPM) and the Ethics Review Board; establish operational and financial independence of the OIPM; and provide for independent external evaluations for each entity.

“This election is a major step in ensuring the independence and effectiveness of New Orleans’ three major ethics and oversight bodies. I encourage all citizens to get out and vote to make their voices heard on this extremely important issue.”

– District “D” Councilmember Brossett

NOTABLE ORDERS OF BUSINESS



Women's health experts and activists presenting before the Council.

Recognized Organizations for their Involvement in Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October 15)

The Council recognized agencies and organizations for their community involvement in Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Presenting before the Council was LSU School of Medicine Associate Professor Dr. Elianana A. Soto, City of New Orleans Health Department Director Charlotte Parent, Susan G. Komen Affiliate Director Lisa Plunkett, Susan G. Komen New Orleans Board Member Lori Barthelemy, Retired State Senator and former District "B" Councilmember Diana Bajoie, and Louisiana Breast and Cervical Cancer Program Clinical Director Dr. Denise Roubio-Johnson. The group of experts and activists addressed the Council to promote breast cancer awareness and encourage early detection.

"As a breast cancer survivor, I cannot begin to stress the importance of annual screenings. If you have not been screened this year, we ask that you take the time to take care of your health. Please visit your health care professional to request an order for your annual screening. Early detection can mean the difference between life and death."

– District "C" Councilmember Ramsey

Received Presentation Regarding Mississippi River Depth Increase (November 19)

The Council received a presentation from Big River Coalition Executive Director Sean Duffy about efforts currently underway to increase to 50 feet the depth of the Mississippi River navigation channel between Baton Rouge and the Gulf of Mexico. Currently, the Mississippi River navigation channel has a depth of 45 feet. In his presentation, Duffy highlighted the need for a deeper navigation channel in response to planned expansions of the Panama Canal. Duffy explained that by increasing the depth of the navigation channel, the Port of New Orleans could see an increase in container traffic by 7% over the next decade and generate an additional \$5 billion in spending in Louisiana.



Big River Coalition Executive Director Sean Duffy presenting before the Council.

After the presentation, the Council passed *Resolution No. R-15-550*, authored by Councilmember Gray, supporting the Big River Coalition's efforts to increase the Mississippi River's navigation channel depth to 50 feet between Baton Rouge and the Gulf of Mexico.

"I am pleased with the progress being made to increase the depth of the Mississippi River. This project will put New Orleans in a position to reap the benefits of increased shipping traffic on the Mississippi."

– District "E" Councilmember Gray



Dr. Donald T. Erwin with members of the Council.

Recognized St. Thomas Community Health Center Founder and CEO Dr. Donald T. Erwin (November 19)

The Council recognized by proclamation St. Thomas Community Health Center founder and CEO Dr. Donald T. Erwin for his work in providing comprehensive primary care to under-served patients regardless of their financial or insurance situations.

The St. Thomas Community Health Center is a successor to the St. Thomas Health Services Clinic formerly located in the St. Thomas Housing Development. After Hurricane Katrina, the Clinic was closed due to lack of financial and personnel support. The Health Center was established to provide the same services in post-Katrina New Orleans.

Presenting before the Council, Dr. Erwin highlighted the many services provided to patients by the St. Thomas Community Health Center and multiple other centers across New Orleans, including primary care for adult and pediatric patients, women's health and prenatal services, behavioral health, mammography and eye care. All services are provided regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

"The St. Thomas Community Health Center has grown into one of New Orleans' largest and most accessible safety net providers, with six locations expected to serve nearly 45,000 patients this year. Dr. Erwin and his team are committed to providing health care in a culturally competent manner that is of the highest quality to some of the most vulnerable in our community. It was the Council's great privilege to honor their work today."

– Councilmember-at-Large Head

Supported HIV/AIDS Awareness Efforts (December 1)

The Council recognized by proclamation World AIDS Day, Tuesday, December 1, and the 2nd Annual New Orleans AIDS Awareness Week, Monday, November 30 through Friday, December 4. Presenting before the Council were representatives of the New Orleans Department of Public Health and The Change Coalition, a coalition of HIV/AIDS non-profits and government entities working together to advocate on behalf of individuals living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS.

New Orleans Health Department Deputy Director Alicia Prevost outlined the events taking place throughout the City in conjunction with New Orleans AIDS Awareness Week, as well as information about efforts to fight the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS through intelligent, factual and non-judgmental community discourse.

"New Orleans has many available resources to care for and treat the symptoms of HIV and AIDS. By bringing this issue before the Council today, I am hopeful that more New Orleanians living with HIV/AIDS will seek and receive the care they deserve."

– Councilmember-at-Large Head

Received Presentation from NASA Michoud Assembly Facility Director (December 1)

The Council received a presentation from NASA Michoud Assembly Facility Director Bobby Watkins regarding recent developments and projects at the facility. Presenting before the Council, Watkins highlighted the historical importance New Orleans and the Michoud Assembly Facility have played in the United States' journey into space. Watkins also highlighted how Michoud will soon play a key role in developing and assembling the heavy lift rockets that will take Americans on future missions to Mars.

Watkins outlined how the 832 acre facility not only houses NASA operations, but eight other federal agencies including the USDA and Coast Guard, as well as multiple private commercial tenants. Overall, the Michoud Assembly Facility generates approximately 5,400 jobs in Louisiana and Mississippi, with a regional impact of \$850 million.

In closing, Watkins emphasized his desire to strengthen the facility's relationship with the City to increase awareness of the existence and importance of the facility among citizens of New Orleans as well as expand job opportunities for New Orleans students and professionals.

"The Michoud Assembly Facility is a crucial anchor for New Orleans East and an important resource for the City of New Orleans. We appreciate the briefing and update provided to the Council on the facility's operations."

– District "E" Councilmember Gray



Major General David Mize, USMC Ret., with representatives of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Celebrated Military Appreciation Day (December 10)

Chairman of the Mayor's Military Advisory Committee (MMAC), Major General David Mize, USMC Ret., appeared before the Council to lead the 22nd annual Military Day presentation. Chartered in 1972, the MMAC is charged with providing support to local military and their families, educating the public about the economic and social benefits associated with local military organizations, and retaining and growing the military bases in the region. The MMAC is an all-volunteer organization with approximately 100 members.

MMAC representatives presented the MMAC 2015 Annual Report, which included information on the Committee's activities and events over the past year and highlighted the MMAC's efforts to provide housing and support to homeless veterans. Senior officers from local and regional military organizations, specifically the U.S. Army Reserve, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy and the Louisiana Air and Army National Guard, provided the Council with updates on the programs, projects, ongoing activities, and community involvement of their respective organizations. The Military Day activities also included performances by the United States Marine Corps Band.

"On behalf of the City Council of New Orleans, I would like to extend the most sincere expression of thanks and gratitude to all the men and women who selflessly dedicate themselves to protecting our country. Let us all not forget the sacrifices they make so we can enjoy life as we know it."

– Councilmember-at-Large Williams

"It is such an honor having you all here representing the heroes of the branches of the armed forces. Words cannot express our gratitude for your service and sacrifices of you and your families. Our way of life and the beacon of hope that our democracy provides to people around the world is dependent upon you."

– District "C" Councilmember Ramsey

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES

Budget, Audit, and Board of Review Committee

Community Development Committee

Criminal Justice Committee

Economic Development and Special Development Projects Committee

Governmental Affairs Committee

Public Works, Sanitation and Environment Committee

Transportation and Airport Committee

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Advisory Committee

Utility, Cable, Telecommunications and Technology Committee

COUNCIL EXECUTIVE STAFF

Evelyn F. Pugh, Interim Chief of Staff

Lora W. Johnson, Clerk of Council

Lydia Glapion-Days, Council Research Director

Calvin Aguillard, Council Fiscal Officer

Pearlina Thomas, Council Utilities Regulatory Office Chief of Staff

NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL

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