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Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Page 7 DataZone

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January 9, - January 15, 2010 44th Year Volume 17 www.ladatanews.com

2009 Was an Audacious Year!

An Indepth Look Back

The Soul of New Orleans

Page 2



Newsmaker

Murray Pulls Out!
What's it mean for
Black New Orleans?

Page 4

Data Returns to Weekly



I would like to thank the citizens of New Orleans and our advertisers for their continued support of Data News Weekly. Over four years ago a catastrophe overwhelmed our city. This moment in the history of our city changed our lives forever. Because of this tragic moment we have had to deal with new challenges, and we have all endured them together with a spirit of resilience. We at Data News Weekly and our mission as the "People's Paper" took on an even greater importance and significance as being the rallying cry for those whose voices are sometimes not heard.

Although Hurricane Katrina devastated our city, Data News Weekly was the first paper to begin publishing, forging ahead and being on the frontlines of cutting edge journalism, publishing bi-weekly after the storm ravaged our great city. In this time Data News Weekly has been recognized locally, nationally, and globally as a comprehensive source of information coming out of New Orleans and winning numerous national awards. We have continued to give the people news they could use and recognize people doing amazing things in our community via our Monthly Trailblazer; featuring ordinary people doing extraordinary things as our city rebuilds.

Today we are proud to announce that in the year 2010 we will go back to our weekly format. Where we can give you information that can empower, enlighten and inspire citizens; with our collective voice we can echo the sounds of truth to move our city forward. We have plans on the horizon to be a new and improved Data News Weekly, in addition to revamping our website, we are also increasing distribution. This year we added "Shoot Ya Best Shot" and we're excited and overwhelmed at the response it has received from the citizens of this great city. In 2010 we want

to take it a step further, we want to invite citizens to become writers, or give us ideas for the things you want to see in the pages of Data News Weekly. We want to provide a venue for the community to express their views, and we at Data News Weekly welcome you and want to give you a platform for your perspectives both good and bad.

As we know, spirituality has always been where our social movements, schools, and newspapers have been birthed. This year we will introduce a column dedicated to spiritual growth and development. In addition we will be doing more in depth stories, and feature articles covering those who are making news and impacting our community. And of course we will continue to bring you what you have come to expect from Data News Weekly, a paper with news you can use and trust. A paper that has been around for over four decades and is striving to continue to be a part of this great city as it rebuilds.

So New Orleans, we are poised to continue to grow and be an industry leader as we rebuild our city and our lives. We are all in this together. This is our city, and we are all responsible for making it a better place for everyone to live. And we at Data News Weekly will continue our mission to be the voice of the people. Again, I would like to thank everyone who has made this possible, my dedicated staff, advertising partners and most of all the people of New Orleans.

Terry B. Jones
Publisher

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

December 11, 2009

On or about December 21, 2009 the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development will submit to HUD on behalf of Catholic Charities Operation Helping Hands for the release of CDBG funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a project known as Home Renovation Program, for the purpose of assisting elderly and disabled homeowners to rebuild their homes. The goal is to assist in the repair of 48 homes, located within the developed areas of Orleans Parish. Grant number B-08-MC-22-0006 for \$1,500,000.00.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street, 9th Floor, Environmental Compliance Unit, New Orleans, LA 70112 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street, 9th Floor, Environmental Compliance Unit, New Orleans, LA 70112. All comments received by December 18, 2009 will be considered by the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of New Orleans certifies to HUD that C. Ray Nagin in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the Associated Neighborhood Development to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of New Orleans certification received by January 5, 2010 or for a period of fifteen days following its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

(a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of New Orleans; (b) the City of New Orleans has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at 501 Magazine Street, 9th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70130. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

WWW.CITYOFNO.COM

Kenya J. Smith
Director, Office of Community Development

Anthony Faciane
Certifying Officer - Deputy Director for Neighborhood Stabilization

C. Ray Nagin
Mayor, City of New Orleans

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2009 Was an Audacious Year



Despite hearsay, as we turned to our media to confirm the miracles of recovery, we found no evidence of recovery at all

by Judith Williams Dangerfield
Special Contributor

Editor's Note: This is the first in a six-week series of articles that will look back at the last decade. Future issues will review changes in politics, religion, education, sports and entertainment.

It was a year of audacity – a year of boldness, daring and impudence. It was a year to strike out, to strike back, to forge ahead, to challenge without shame or modesty – a year of rude boldness as we attempted to rebuild a beloved city, to unite a nation divided by political ideology and beleaguered by economic crisis and to return to a position of respect in a dangerous and fearfully world order.

Whether Democrat or Republican, whether White, Black or Brown, whether rich man, poor man, beggar man or thief, 2009 will stand out as the year the United States of America inaugurated the first African Ameri-

can President. It was the “audacity of hope,” the “yes we can,” the “change you can believe in” that brought the American electorate to tears of triumph on January 20, 2009 in a pledge to live up to the ideals and the principles upon which our nation was founded.

Guantanamo was ordered closed, torture was once again a criminal act, the war on terror became the protection of our nation against the terrorist attacks of radical extremists, and we were not Black America or White America but the United States of America. It was audacious. Equally so was the bold and daring impudence of the “birthers”, the claim that the 44Th President of the United States is not a U.S. citizen, his birth certificate a forgery, and his Presidency illegitimate.

It was a year when the national economy was crippled by greed and speculation. Our states, cities and communities across the country facing deficits, our

homeowners facing foreclosure, our workers unemployed, our factories closed and our pensions in jeopardy, in 2009 we witnessed the audacious bailout of Wall Street and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act which promised jobs and benefits for American workers. Like many states across the country, Louisiana faced deficits, foreclosures and unemployment; and like many, the audacity of a Governor to “just say no” to stimulus funding as though speaking to junior high students about drug use.

In 2009, healthcare reform became a reality in spite of the audacious threat of “death panels” and the daring rudeness to heckle a President in the middle of an address to a joint session of Congress. 2009 gave us tea parties and tea baggers and armed patriots at town hall meetings with an absence of shame or modesty in their protests against legislation that would serve their own best interests.

Continued next page.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story	3
Newsmaker	5
State & Local.	10
Data Zone	6
Opinion	8

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



Organized civic action stopped the proposed sale of the Louis Armstrong International Airport to the State

Audacity being far from only a national phenomenon, in 2009 we read the Mayor's e-mails as a matter of public record and read the many reasons that the e-mails of the City Council could not be disclosed – public record law being applied equitably, of course, to the Executive and Legislative

branches of our local government. 2009 was the year of the audacity of garbage, with the City Council threatening to take the Mayor to court to maintain the minty fresh smell of the French Quarter, the relentless and unfounded attacks on the African American sanitation contractors,

and the far from enlightened debate between the City Council and the Sanitation Director.

In was the year of the audacity of reform with the hue and cry of the local blogs that waste, fraud and corruption are the biggest challenges we face as a city. In 2009, more than 23 percent of

New Orleans citizens received public assistance. Public housing was demolished in favor of the Section 8 rental assistance program while data from the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center revealed that 82 percent of landlords refuse to accept Section 8 vouchers. In 2009, Charity Hospital remained shuttered and its fate in limbo. All attributable to waste, fraud and corruption? Audacious indeed.

And yet, in 2009 we witnessed the audacity of corruption both inside and outside of New Orleans City Hall, from Jefferson to St. Tammany, across regional and racial lines. We lamented the fall of a political legend and saw the first Vietnamese American elected to fill his seat. In 2009 we had an Inspector General, an interim Inspector General, and a new Inspector General all charged with the task of creating efficiency, preventing waste and investigating fraud; all prohibited by law from conducting criminal investigations; all lacking subpoena authority; and all authorized to carry firearms for the purpose of self-defense. 2009 will be known as the year of the audacity of the armed auditor, risking life and

limb to keep us safe from mismanagement.

In 2009 we were bombarded with e-mail messages from the Mayor's office about the city's recovery – a bold and daring move to inform the citizens about what libraries were being rebuilt, what streets repaired, what public facilities reopened, what playgrounds with swings and slides. And yet as we turned to our media to confirm the miracles of recovery, we found no evidence of recovery at all. How audacious, the expectation that the good news will be published and reported with the bad.

And with the fluid poetry of Shakespeare, it was the year of qualifying for the Mayor's race: to run or not to run? – to run and then not to run? – to not run and then to run? – one of those is the question.

It was a year of audacity, boldness, daring and impudence – a year for striking out and back, forging ahead without shame or modesty and with rudeness when the polite and genteel fail. The proposed sale of the Louis Armstrong International Airport to the State for \$500 million to rebuild the Central Business

See Cover Story, Continued page 11.



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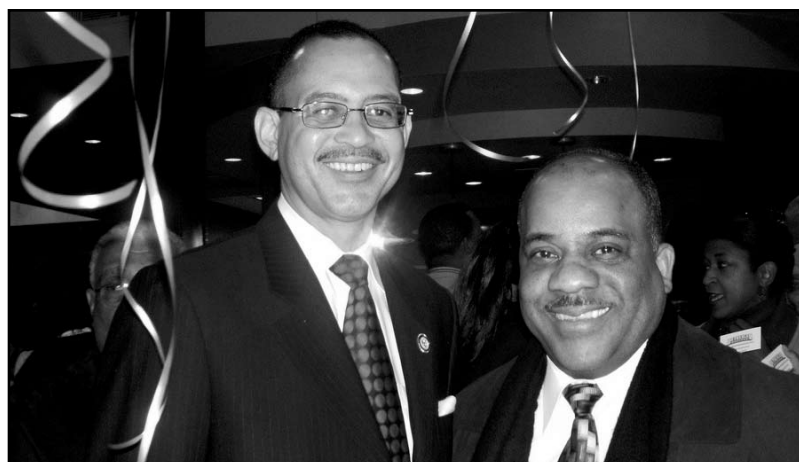
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New Orleans Mayoral Election in Black and White

by Edwin Buggage
Data Editor

With the recent announcement by Louisiana State Senator Ed Murray leaving the mayoral election that is set for February 6th



State Senator Ed Murray at a campaign kick-off party with a supporter

citing problems with fundraising. Now, with the African-American frontrunner absent, the stage has been set for perhaps two white candidates in the run-off election. In one election cycle the city could potentially go from what outgoing Mayor Ray Nagin called a 'Chocolate City', to something very different. Something that may change how Black concerns are addressed at the municipal level.

The question now becomes for African-Americans, how do they leverage their votes in a city where the New Orleans City Council is majority white and there is a white mayor? How will

this impact issues affecting the rebuilding of African-American neighborhoods? And also how will they fit into the power equation of the city moving forward?

Now, without a well known African-American candidate African-Americans must ask themselves what is at stake in this election? Is it time for them to as some whites have done during the Presidential Election look past race and making it a non factor in selecting a

candidate to lead the city. Or will one of the lesser know African-American candidates emerge as a new voice with a new vision that can catapult them to become the face of the future Blacks of New Orleans?

This is important and is intertwined into something very complex, the six degrees of separation where racial camaraderie and chaos are intertwined. The backdrop lends itself to a cautionary tale, that this time the citizens must get it right. That this leader must have the vision to captain this ship into moving forward. Issues of race in isolation cannot determine who is chosen to be the next mayor. Citizens cannot assume that because of the last four years that the mixed performance of the Nagin administration is a reflection of all Black leadership. And that to wave a magic wand and place someone white in office will automatically make things better. It is incumbent that evolved people and educated voters cannot or should not resort to antiquated thinking that competency and efficiency is only housed inside of white

skin.

There remains a lot at stake in this election that can shape the course of what direction it will be headed. So voters must be aware of the agenda's of those who are left in the race and how will it benefit the citizens of the city trying to rebuild their homes, neighborhoods, and lives. Accountability is important in selecting a new mayor and other elected officials, so it is essential that voters become aware of the vies that these candidates espouse as they canvas communities asking for their support.

Ed Murray leaving the race has left a void in terms of a well known African-American candidate, but it is also a wonderful

opportunity for the Black community to begin to re-examine its voting behavior. To really begin to look at how the community has changed, and think of new ways to flex their political muscles to strengthen the Black community. As the country celebrated a triumph in the election of Barack Obama at the national level, the issue today is at the local level where majority black cities may have white mayors. New Orleans may have reached its Gary, Indiana moment, but as the world has changed around issues of race, today it is more an issue of wrong vs. right, not Black vs. White. Where New Orleans is headed we will know when citizens go to the polls on February 6, 2010.

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Bringing in the New Year!

Allstate Sugar Bowl Annual Gala



Dionne Character, Author
Data News Weekly Columnist

The Hilton Hotel was transformed into a "Street Car" ride around New Orleans, as partygoers entered the hallway to the Grand Ballroom. Patrons were immediately greeted by a well-dressed stage conductor welcoming everyone aboard along with tarot readers, cartoon artists, photographers and a warm handshake from their hosts from Allstate.

This Pre-Game Sugar Bowl Annual Gala was filled with thousands of guests who wanted bring in the New Year, New Orleans style with the best of food and live entertainment, which was provided by The Pointer Sisters, Bobby J and Stuff Like That Band, Jon Cleary, Topsy Chapman, John Boutte and Barbara Lane.

On the Main Stage, The Pointer Sisters opened the show with some of their classis tunes like, He's so Shy, YesWe Can Jump and Fire, as couples sat amazed enjoying a full course can-delight dinner.

Bobby J, along with his ten piece high-energy band featuring the "Horny Horns" and the "Divas" brought their own fireworks to the stage. The band opened the show with Maze, Running Away and closed with Bobby J singing, "Long Train Running".

This New Year's celebration was grand. As I embark upon 2010, there is



The Pointer Sisters light up the stage at the Allstate Sugar Bowl Gala

Our RECOVERY IN PROGRESS

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS TO RELEASE BID FOR MUNICIPAL YACHT HARBOR

The City of New Orleans released an Invitation to Bid for Municipal Yacht Harbor located at 401 North Roadway Street. This project shall include some of the following improvements:

- Partial demolition of the first floor of east wing
- Removal of existing interior finishes
- Installation of new AAC walls with new ceiling and grid
- Installation of new plumbing, mechanical, and electrical systems
- Replacement of doors and frames
- Removal of old and installation of new carpet, base, and vinyl flooring
- Installation of new A/C compressors

To compete successfully for this Open Market bid, respondents should ensure that they are registered as a Vendor with the City of New Orleans and that all registration information is up to date - particularly email addresses - interested entities should check weekly for open bids, proposals, purchase orders, change orders and other communications online. New bids and proposals are sent automatically to registered Vendors via email through BuySpeed.

When a bid is submitted, carefully read all instructions and provide only the information requested. Failure to submit all information requested in an Invitation to Bid and/or adding information not requested on a Bid Form may render a bid rejected and non-responsive.

To be considered for this project, interested contractors must submit a bid for Municipal Yacht Harbor by Tuesday, January 5, 2009 at 2:00pm (CST).

For more information on how to bid competitively or general information contact the City of New Orleans Purchasing Bureau at (504) 658-1550 or purchasing@cityofno.com. Downloaded bid documents may be printed by any local blueprint shop at bidder's expense.

For more information on
Municipal Yacht Harbor or other
Recovery Projects visit
www.cityofno.com/recovery

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Bobby J and Stuff Like That Band, New Years Eve Sugar Bowl Gala

certainly no need for me to eat some fresh cabbage and black-eye peas, because I was caught doing what I love most, bringing in 2010 on stage, singing, surrounded by the finest of entertainment.
Happy New Year!

www.ladatanews.com



Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Holiday Seasons' Best!

The Holiday season meant one word in New Orleans, PARTY!
Celebrations big and small took place all over the city, here's a taste of the fun!



Kurt Pellerin, Diedre Hayes and Judge Calvin Johnson (retired) celebrate Diedre's birthday last Saturday night.



Claire Jupiter Bryant, Pat Bryant, and Gwen Richardson



Jerome Jupiter, Lori Jupiter, his wife, and Terri Garibaldi



Jay Banks, Paula Brown, Charles Elloie Judge (Retired)

City of New Orleans New Years Eve Celebration



Photo by: Karl Washington

Our RECOVERY IN PROGRESS

City of New Orleans Bid Release for Parks and Parkways Greenhouse

The City of New Orleans released an Invitation to Bid for Parks and Parkways Greenhouse located at 2829 Gentilly Boulevard on Friday, December 11, 2009. This project shall include some of the following improvements:

- Removal and replacement of roof panes and aluminum frames
- Providing temporary power for lighting and fans in facility
- Installation of new electrical outlets throughout site

The current site, built in the 1930's, allows for area to grow plant material used for public greenspace throughout the city of New Orleans. It is operated by Parks and Parkways personnel year-round and is one of the main sites used to grow plant material servicing the city.

To compete successfully for this Open Market bid, respondents should ensure that they are registered as a Vendor with the City of New Orleans and that all registration information is up to date - particularly email addresses - interested entities should check weekly for open bids, proposals, purchase orders, change orders and other communications online. New bids and proposals are sent automatically to registered Vendors via email through BuySpeed.

When a bid is submitted, carefully read all instructions and provide only the information requested. Failure to submit all information requested in an Invitation to Bid and/or adding information not requested on a Bid Form may render a bid rejected and non-responsive.

To be considered for this project, interested contractors must submit a bid for the Parks and Parkways Greenhouse by Tuesday January, 19, 2009 at 10:00am (CST).

For more information on how to bid competitively or general information contact the City of New Orleans Purchasing Bureau at (504) 658-1550 or purchasing@cityofno.com. Downloaded bid documents may be printed by any local blueprint shop at bidder's expense.

For more information, visit www.cityofno.com

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What's Next: Muslim-Only Lines At Airports?



by Earl Ofari Hutchinson
New America Media

Are Muslim-only lines at airports next? The thought is offensive, disgusting, and blatantly unconstitutional. But it's hardly far-fetched.

Three years before suspected Nigerian airline terrorist Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was hauled off a Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Detroit with a powder and liquid explosive device stuffed in his underwear, British Department of Transportation officials openly discussed corralling men of South Asian or Middle Eastern appearance at airports for intense questioning, checks and searches. The plan outraged Muslim leaders and British officials backed off the systematic profiling of Muslims.

However, single men of South Asian and Middle Eastern appearance were still subject to intense checks and searches. Britain was not alone. France and the Netherlands had already imposed de facto profiling of Muslim-appearing young men

and families at airports since the September 2001 terror attacks. Polls showed that a substantial majority of Europeans agreed that racial profiling was not repugnant if it made airline travel safer and thwarted a possible terror attack.

The clamor for a racial crackdown was first heard in the United States after the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1996. Then President Bill Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno had the good sense not rush to judgment and scapegoat Muslims. The swift arrest of Timothy McVeigh squelched the building mob hysteria against them. But it didn't squelch public suspicions that all Muslims were potential terrorists. The federal building bombing propelled Clinton's 1996 Anti-terrorism Act through Congress. Civil rights and civil liberties groups had waged a protracted battle against the bill. The law gave the FBI broad power to infiltrate groups, quash fundraising by foreigners, monitor airline travel, and seize hotel records and trash due process by permitting the admission of secret evidence to expel immigrants. The implication was that present and future attacks would likely be launched by those with an Arab name and face rather than by men like McVeigh.

President George W. Bush, as Clinton, took the high ground after the 9/11 attack. He did not reflexively finger-point Muslims. The Bush administration publicly assured that profiling was reprehensible and violated legal and constitutional principles, and that it would not be done. But the attack stirred tremors among Muslims that they would routinely be targeted, subject

to search and surveillance, and profiled at airports.

The profiling alarm bells went off again after a soldier with a Muslim name shot up the military base at Ft. Hood back in November. The Council on American-Islamic Relations wasted no time and issued a loud and vigorous denunciation of the mass killing. The Council didn't know at that moment whether Major Nidal Malik Hasan, the alleged shooter, was a Muslim by birth, a converted Muslim, or even a Muslim at all. The name and the horrific murder spree was enough to drive the group to quickly distance itself from the rampage. Other Muslim organizations instantly followed suit and issued their own equally strong disavowal of Hasan.

This didn't stop the pack of Fox Network commentators, conservative radio talk show hosts, writers, and some officials from again openly clamoring for even greater scrutiny of Muslim groups. Terror suspect Abdulmutallab has simply raised the decibel level on their call for transportation officials to openly profile Muslims at airports, train stations, and even on the open highways.

Some elected officials have even jumped on the profiling bandwagon. Congressman Peter King, ranking Republican on the Homeland Security Committee, predictably loudly called for the profiling of Muslims. New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind went further and announced he'd reintroduce the bill he first introduced in 2005 to let police stop and search anyone they deem to be suspicious. Hikind didn't specifically finger Muslims, but the intent

of the bill was unmistakable, namely to target Muslims.

The New York Assembly will reject Hikind's bill again. But the rejection isn't likely to be unanimous. Legislators read the papers and the polls. Informal online polls taken immediately after Abdulmutallab's failed terror attempt found that a majority of Americans are ready to turn a blind eye to law, the constitution and just plain human decency to target Muslims, any Muslim, for special scrutiny. No matter that a potential terrorist can come in any shape, size, color, gender, and disguise. The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights noted that convicted terrorist John Walker Lindh was white, and Richard Reid was Jamaican and British. Abdulmutallab is Nigerian, but from all appearances he could just as easily be mistaken for a young African-American hip-hop artist.

Broad-based ethnic profiling creates in turn panic and the false sense of security that airlines are actually preventing terrorist attacks. It also causes law enforcement resources to be squandered chasing the wrong targets. Worse, it's a witch hunt against a group based solely on their religion and ethnicity. This fuels even greater racial division, fear and hysteria. The public whispers and the right wing's open talk of Muslim-only airport lines do the same.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is an author and political analyst. His forthcoming book, *How Obama Governed: The Year of Crisis and Challenge* (Middle Passage Press) will be released in January 2010.

Statement From State Senator Ed Murray



State Sen. Ed Murray

After much thoughtful consideration and discussion with my family and friends, I have decided to withdraw as a candidate for Mayor in the February 6, 2010 primary election.

I do not make this decision lightly. I have invested much time, money and emotions into this race over the past year and so have many of my friends and supporters.

I make this decision for both personal and community reasons. Most of the recent and objective polling data indicate that the general (run-off) election in March 2010 would most likely be between Mitch Landrieu and I. This would be an expensive contest and the cost of getting elected

would require that I go into substantial personal financial debt. There would also be a substantial cost to our city and its residents. A heated run-off election between Mitch and I would probably become extremely racially divisive whether either of us intended it or not. I am not prepared to get elected at any cost. Nor am I willing to add a racially divisive campaign to the already strained race relations in our city.

Over the next few days, I will reach out to all the major candidates for mayor to let them know why I'm not running and to share my vision for the city. I will not be making any endorsements for mayor at this time. If I do endorse anyone for mayor,

it will only be after I have spoken to each of the major candidates.

I would like to personally thank my family, friends, supporters, and campaign staff for their confidence in me, their support, and all their hard work. I hope they understand, and accept my decision to withdraw from the campaign for mayor. I strongly believe that this difficult decision is both in my best interest and the best interest of our city.

I love our city, and as State Senator, I will continue to fight and work hard for all its citizens and the next mayor.

COMBINED NOTICE

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

December 14, 2009

This Notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about December 30, 2009, the City of New Orleans will submit a request to Louisiana State Office of Community Development (LOCD) for the release of funds under the FY 2006 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, in accordance with the "Notice of Funding Availability" published in the Federal Register on February 13, 2006, for the purpose of conducting roadway and sidewalk improvements in the Napoleon/Freret and Gentilly neighborhoods within New Orleans. The total amount requested for these activities is \$1,395,300.00 to eliminate an urgent need, as a result of effects from Hurricane Katrina.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of New Orleans has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Mayor's Office at the City of New Orleans, Office of Recovery and Development Administration, 1340 Poydras Street, Suite 1000, New Orleans, LA 70112, and may be examined or copied weekdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you need to contact the mayor's office by phone, please call 504-658-8420.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination, or wishing to comment on the program may submit written comments to this office. All comments received by December 29, 2009, will be considered by this office prior to the authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

This Office certifies to LOCD that Anthony Faciane, in his capacity as Deputy Director for Neighborhood Stabilization, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. LOCD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of New Orleans to use Program Funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

LOCD will accept objections to its release of funds and the LOCD's certification received by January 14, 2010 or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of New Orleans approved by LOCD; (b) the City of New Orleans has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by LOCD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to:

Thomas Brennan
Deputy Executive Director
Louisiana Division of Administration
Office of Community Development ("LOCD")
150 Third Street, 6th Floor
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Potential objectors should contact LOCD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

WWW.CITYOFNO.COM

Kenya J. Smith
Director, Office of Community Development

Anthony Faciane
Deputy Director, Neighborhood Stabilization

C. Ray Nagin
Mayor, City of New Orleans

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C. Ray Nagin, Mayor



Mayoral Forum: "A Collaborative for the Future; Where Purpose Meets Power" - Jan 12

Tuesday, January 12, 2010 @ Dillard University, Cook Center

The African American Women of Purpose and Power (AAWPP) and The Urban League of Greater New Orleans invite the public to a mayoral forum "A Collaborative for the Future; Where Purpose Meets Power" on January 12, 2010 beginning at 6:00 p.m. A coalition of community leaders and organizations have come together to sponsor this forum which will be hosted by Dr. Marvalene Hughes in the Cook Center at Dillard University, 2601 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70122.

This forum is planned and co-sponsored by a large number of organizations in the city. They

include, Crescent City Chapter of Links, Inc., Deep South Center for Environmental Justice at Dillard University, GNO Communication, Louisiana Justice Institute, McKenna Publishing Company, National Coalition on Blacks Civic Participation, New America Media, New Orleans Agenda, New Orleans Association of Black Psychologists, New Orleans Branch NAACP, New Orleans Chapter of Links, Inc., New Orleans Tribune, NOLA Beez, NOLA.TV, the Pontchartrain Chapter of Links, Inc., and others.

The purpose of the forum is to engage the candidates in a candid discussion regarding concerns important to the African Ameri-

can community and other ethnic minorities. The focus will be on quality of life issues such as public safety, education and youth development, housing, medical services, economic inclusion and environmental health.

The forum will be preceded by a "Meet-and-Greet" reception and press conference held by New America Media's NOLA Beez Digital Divide Initiative. NOLA Beez is an online collaboration of local ethnic media organizations featuring hyperlocal news content covering the Greater New Orleans Metropolitan Area and the Gulf South Region. All candidates seeking elective seeking office during the February 2010 elec-

tion cycle are invited to participate in the Meet-and-Greet. The reception begins at 4:00 p.m.

NAM's NOLA Beez Digital Divide Initiative aims to assist ethnic media in improving coverage of their communities and other ethnic groups through citizen journalism and online multimedia development. Once active, site visitors of NOLABeez.org will be able to view daily articles contributed by the following charter members' publications representing the region's demographic diversity: The Louisiana Weekly, El Tiempo New Orleans, Jambalaya News, Louisiana Data News Weekly, Ngoc Lan: The Vietnamese American Association, New

Orleans Agenda.com, and NOLA.TV.

In addition, NOLA Beez is in the process of adding members from areas such as Lafayette, Alexandria, Lake Charles, Bogalusa, Monroe, and other parts of Louisiana. Other partners include the LSU Manship School of Mass Communication, Xavier University Department of Journalism, The New Orleans Tribune, and GNO Communications.

If you have any questions regarding the forum, please contact Tammara Brown at Tammara-Brow@aol.com or 504.284.5000.

Roland Martin to speak for 24th Annual MLK Week for Peace Jan 18 - 22

NEW ORLEANS - Award winning journalist Roland Martin will be the keynote speaker for the 24th Annual Martin Luther King Week for Peace January 18 - 22, 2010.

The Martin Luther King Week for Peace is presented by Xavier, Tulane, Loyola and Dillard Universities. This year's theme is "Change: From Rhetoric to Action."

"We will start our MLK Week celebration with a Day of Service this year," said Deon Ridgell, chair of the committee. Students from all four campuses will meet at Xavier's University Center and be matched up with a service project. The week's other activities include the MLK Convocation Wed. Jan 20 at Tulane's McAlister Auditorium at 6:30 pm with an Opening Reception at 6pm. The Week will conclude with the student led Expressions of Unity on the Dillard campus Friday Jan. 22 at 7pm at the Cook Theater.

Presentations at the Convocation include the Lifetime



Roland S. Martin

Achievement Award and Student Community Service Awards. This year's Presidential Lifetime Achievement winner is civic leader and businessman, Charles Teamer.

Teamer is the co-founder and chairman of the Dryades Savings Bank in New Orleans, and chair of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce in New Orleans. He is recognized nationally as an expert in the field of higher education and financial management. He has over forty years of

service as an Advisor/Consultant in higher education, with a sphere for institutions in financial distress.

Guest speaker Roland Martin is a nationally syndicated columnist with Creators Syndicate and is a commentator for TV One Cable Network, a CNN contributor, and host of the Roland S. Martin Show on WVON radio in Chicago. He has appeared as an analyst on several television and radio programs including MSNBC, Fox News, BET nightly news, the Tom Joyner Morning Show and NPR. He is a contributor for Essence magazine and posts a daily blog on Essence.com. He is the author of "Speak, Brother! A Black Man's View of America" and "Listening to the Spirit Within: 50 Perspectives on Faith."

For more information on the Xavier/Tulane/Loyola/Dillard Martin Luther King Week for Peace events, call 504-520-5450 or 865-5181.

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H1N1 Vaccine Now Available to the General Public

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals announced today the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine is now available to anyone in the general public. Interested residents should call their provider to schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine, and can view public providers of the vaccine on the H1N1 flu shot locator at www.FightTheFluLA.com.

The vaccine has been available since October solely to specific target groups at highest risk for complications from the H1N1 flu,

in accordance with guidelines issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. To date, more than 276,000 doses of H1N1 flu vaccine have been administered across the state.

The vaccine is available at no cost from the federal government, but a patient may be charged a small administrative fee for the office time used, which is usually around \$20. Most insurance companies have agreed to cover this fee, including Medicaid and Medicare.

The department estimates that about 216,000 people statewide have contracted the H1N1 flu since it was first discovered in April. This is an estimate of the number of cases seen by health care providers in physicians' offices, urgent care and hospital outpatient offices, and hospital emergency departments.

Flu activity is expected to continue for months, caused by either H1N1 or regular seasonal flu viruses, although levels of activity are expected to vary during the

season. The future is uncertain in terms of influenza activity, and federal and state health officials note that it's important not to be complacent about the ongoing risk. Officials also emphasize that this time of lowered activity presents a window of opportunity for residents to get vaccinated before the start of our normal flu season.

DHH's Fight the Flu campaign aims to keep Louisianians healthy by promoting immunizations and good hygiene to prevent the spread of the seasonal flu and the

2009 H1N1 virus. For more information on flu activity in Louisiana, including guidance for families and medical professionals, visit www.FightTheFluLA.com or follow the campaign at www.twitter.com/FightTheFluLA.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals strives to protect and promote health statewide and to ensure access to medical, preventive and rehabilitative services for all state citizens. To learn more about DHH, visit <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov>.

Fun for a Cause



Members of the New Orleans Saints hosted a bowling fundraiser on Dec. 21st. Proceeds from the event benefit The Robert Meacham Living the Dream Foundation, which provides for children. The event was also co-hosted by Chic Nouvelle Models.



Cover Story, Continued from page 4.



New Orleans Charity Hospital remains shuttered its fate in limbo

District was daring indeed. But not nearly so daring as the organized action of civic, business and political leaders, including two former Mayors, to stop that fast moving train in its tracks. It was both bold and impudent of the community to seek a fair assessment of the airport's value, and to demand that the benefits of any sale accrue to all communities. That the sale of a city asset should benefit all citizens and all neighborhoods, how audacious is that?

It was a year of new alliances in place of old rivalries. In 2009 the Black, Hispanic and Asian Chambers, the Business Council and the Associated General Contractors stood together to support a policy for inclusion of local, small and minority contractors on all rebuilding projects. Audaciously, the policy was supported by entire City Council and the Mayor.

In 2009 we felt a spirit of orga-

nized action, coalition building, and collaboration; sometimes across the lines of race and class, sometimes not. We overcame three long year of planning fatigue and started making plans again. Sometimes we worked together. Sometimes we agreed to disagree. Sometimes we drew a line in the sand and said I dare you. But when all was said and done the audacity of 2009 made us vigilant and mindful that we are the public in all public policy debates. The boldness and daring, and even the impudence that has characterized the economic and political discourse in our city, our state and our nation have made us better citizens and hopefully a better informed electorate.

In the end it was a year for coming together – one Who Dat nation, under the Superdome, indivisible, with red beans and gumbo for all tailgaters.

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