

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

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Ray Nagin

A Retrospective



By Edwin Buggage
Photos by Julie Plonk,
City of New Orleans

Nagin's New Orleans

For the last eight years New Orleans has come to know Ray Nagin as its Commander-in-Chief. In these years he has become the face of the City to the world. The one who through a sea of anonymous faces came to embody the voice and the spirit of a people in its most desperate hour; over the years his outspokenness has made him fodder for conversation surrounding controversy. Over the years he has become a hot button issue of polar opposites. He is loved and embraced by some while being seen persona non grata and an ogre by others. But only the evolutionary process of time and history will judge this man who is for some a study in contrast and is an enigmatic figure in the cultural and political landscape of a City that is fighting to rebuild itself.

Nagin has either fairly or unfairly depending on your perspective been cast as the star of a real life reality show called 'Rebuilding 5-0-4.' A City where hopefulness and hopelessness second-line down the street to mourn and celebrate a City where decay, debris, decadence and a dedication and resili-

ence to rebuilding is an everyday episode; and the question becomes how does one manage such a monumental task?

Ray Nagin and Hurricane Katrina have become synonyms and his life and legacy will be defined by what happened during this time when a little known mayor was thrust into a whirlwind of the international spotlight. A man who has come to be known as one who does not mince words and have come to embody how the world views a people; he will forever be etched in the minds of people throughout the annals of history when thinking of the City during a calamity that exposed more than just a breaching of the levees, but a social breach that painted a very different face of the City of New Orleans. Not the one of happy smiling faces, but a City divided fighting for its survival. And continuing a struggle to rebuild, renew and revive itself.

Reflections of Ray

As the era of Nagin comes to a close, and many will assess his effectiveness as Mayor, "I think you have to look at what we've done in three distinct phases," says Nagin. "Pre-Katrina, Katrina and Post Katrina, we came in and we were on the mode of reforming government as well as empowering people get-

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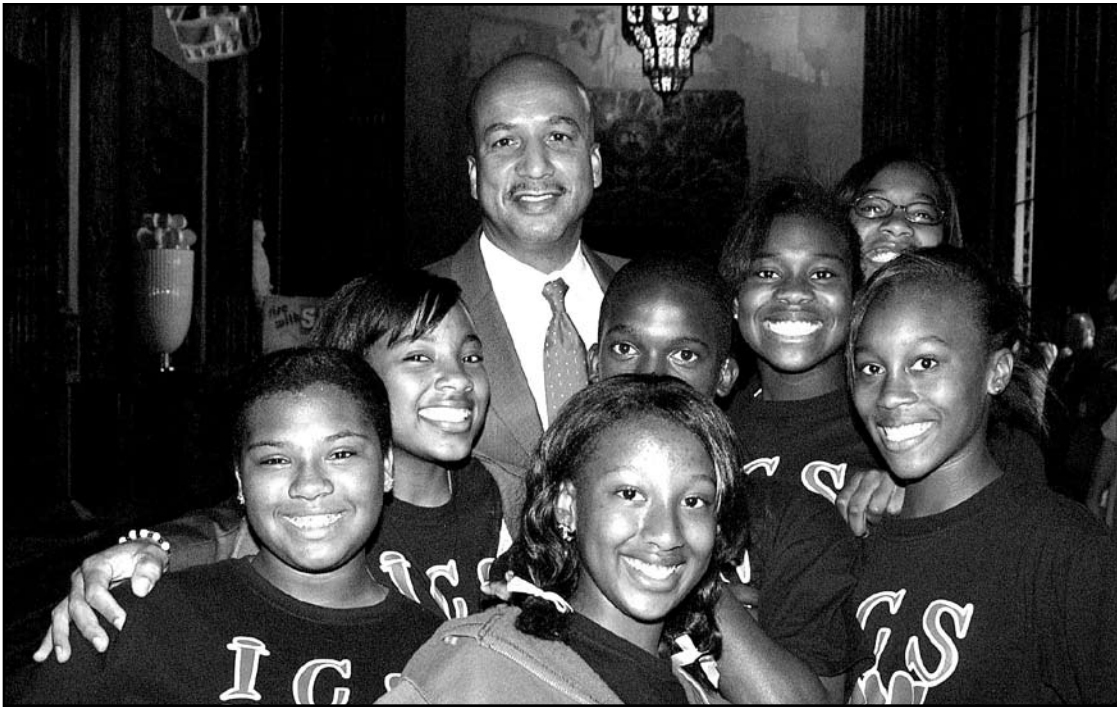
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ting them off the rolls of poverty and creating opportunities for people to prosper in the City." He then says, "Katrina came and it disrupted the City and all of our lives, I had to use a little aggressive language during that time, but I had to do something to get the ball moving and we are still seeing much of the damage around the City still exists even as we rebuild but it is a day to day process."

He says of his mission post-Katrina, "I wanted to try to continue to empower people by giving them a big voice, for some wanted to silence the voice of the people and reconstruct the City in a way that it would lose much of what made it a special place." "I feel that giving the people a voice was important in the rebuilding process and I wanted to give people access to government to empower themselves."

Nagin is optimistic about the City's future, "We have many construction projects going on and while there is still work to do the City is on the road to recovery, and I predict that the City will have an economic boom for the next five to seven years creating new opportunities for the people of the City," says Nagin.

Nagin in Black and White

For future studies in political science and history Ray Nagin's eight years in office will be a study in how a candidate can come to symbolize different things to different people, and how an external event can shape what they mean to the populous.

In the first election cycle Nagin became a candidate that in a race without a credible white candidate largely carried the white vote on a message with a heavy economic focus. At the time

Nagin a former corporate CEO enjoyed more than an



amiable relationship with the mainstream press and business elite. After Hurricane Katrina much of this changed

and Nagin found himself persona non grata, "I fell out of favor with certain segments of the community because I didn't think the City needed a smaller footprint and I wanted to build a bigger and better New Orleans."

One of the most memorable moments that brought this to a head was when he made what has come to be known as the 'Chocolate City' speech, a story that circulated all over the globe shining an unfavorable light on Nagin. Although today he has some regrets about what was said he feels the sentiment expressed was relevant for that moment in the City's history; A time when many was unsure if they were on the agenda of the future vision of New Orleans. Today much

bied harder to get the funds we needed to rebuild the City to flow directly to the City, this is something that slowed down the recovery for at two years in my view." "And I would have fought to make the Road Home process a little less complicated for our citizens."

New Orleans continues to be a City mired in violent crime that gives the City the infamous distinction of being one of the most violent cities not just in the U.S. Nagin feels he tried to make the criminal justice system work a bit more effectively, and today thinks it is in a better position to fight crime moving forward. "Previously the police department was not well compensated or did not have all the tools to fight crime ef-

fectively, but we have worked to remedy that." "Also we have tried to create a more effective way for the D.A. Office and the N.O.P.D. to work together."

While saying that there needs improvements in the criminal justice system he feels a more multipronged approach is necessary to fighting crime and violence, "Although I feel we need an effective criminal justice system more resources need to be put into our public school system, and people in the community and parents need to be involved their children's lives, this is the best way to combat crime to get to our young people before they get involved in lives of crime."

If I Could Turn Back the Hands of Time

The great bluesman Tyrone Davis recorded a song called 'If I Could Turn Back the Hands of Time' and as many would say hindsight is always 20/20 a fact not lost on Nagin. "If I had to do it all over again I would have lob-



Continued page 10.

NOSACONN & The New Orleans Arts In Education Initiative Proudly Presents:

Two Nights of Soul Jennifer Holiday and Kelly Price

Sunday, May 2, 2010
Harrah's Theatre
8:00 pm and 11:00 pm
Show times

The lineup includes "The Original Dream Girl", Jennifer Holiday, and R&B national favorite, Kelly Price, with special guest, Shirley Murdock.

Jennifer Holiday

Jennifer Holiday landed her first big role on Broadway in 1979 at age 19; with a part in the Broadway production of Your Arm's Too Short to Box with God. Her performance in that musical earned her a 1981 Drama Desk nomination. Her next role was the role for which she is best known: the role of Effie Melody White in the Broadway musical Dream-

girls. Holliday originated the role of Effie and remained with the show for nearly four years after its December 20, 1981 opening. Her performance in the role was widely acclaimed, particularly in her iconic performance of the musical number that ends Act I, "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going".

Among the acclaim was Holliday's sweep of awards in 1982, including the Tony Award for Best Leading Actress in a Musical, a Grammy award for her recorded version of the song, and Drama Desk and Theater World awards for the performance. Holliday also performed in the touring company of Sing, Mahalia, Sing in 1986. In 1998 Holliday was featured on the album "My Favorite Broadway Ladies" notice as one



Jennifer Holiday

of "The Queens Of Broadway"

Recording artist

Jennifer Holiday's version of the song "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going" made Holliday a star on

hit on Billboard charts. In 1982, a pop version of the song was released as a single. The song became very successful, peaking at number-one on the Billboard R&B Singles chart, and number 22 on the Billboard Hot 100 in the United States.

Kelly Price

Price was first discovered by Mariah Carey in February 1992 and subsequently introduced to Sony Columbia's then CEO Tommy Mottola. She made a name for herself as a backing and guest vocalist, appearing on a number of hit singles such as Mariah Carey's "Fantasy", The Notorious B.I.G.'s "Mo Money Mo Problems", and Whitney Houston's "Heartbreak Hotel". She has also sung background vocals for Faith Evans, Aretha Franklin, Brian McKnight and SWV and R. Kelly.

She issued her debut album, Soul of a Woman, in 1998 on Island Records, which contained the hit single "Friend of Mine". A "Friend of Mine" remix, also included on the album, featured R. Kelly and Ronald Isley. The "Friend of Mine" remix was a #1 hit on the U.S. R&B chart.

Her second album, "Mirror Mirror", featured the singles "You Should've Told Me" and the Grammy Award nominated "As We Lay", a cover of Shirley Murdock's 1986 hit.

Price recorded her first live



Kelly Price

gospel project; 'This Is Who I Am' album in 2006 on her own label, EcclecticSounds Records. It debuted at #1 on the Billboard Gospel Charts and peaked at #9 on the R&B album chart.

In September 2009 Price joined Deborah Cox and Tamia to form the super group The Queen Project. Their first single "Queen" will be released this fall with a self-titled album due out this year. The women seek to empower women of all ages, races and backgrounds by doing a number of community service projects.

All show proceeds will go to NOSACONN and The New Orleans Arts In Education Initiative's outreach programs to assist adults with financial literacy and youth cultural programming to keep our New Orleans youth engaged.



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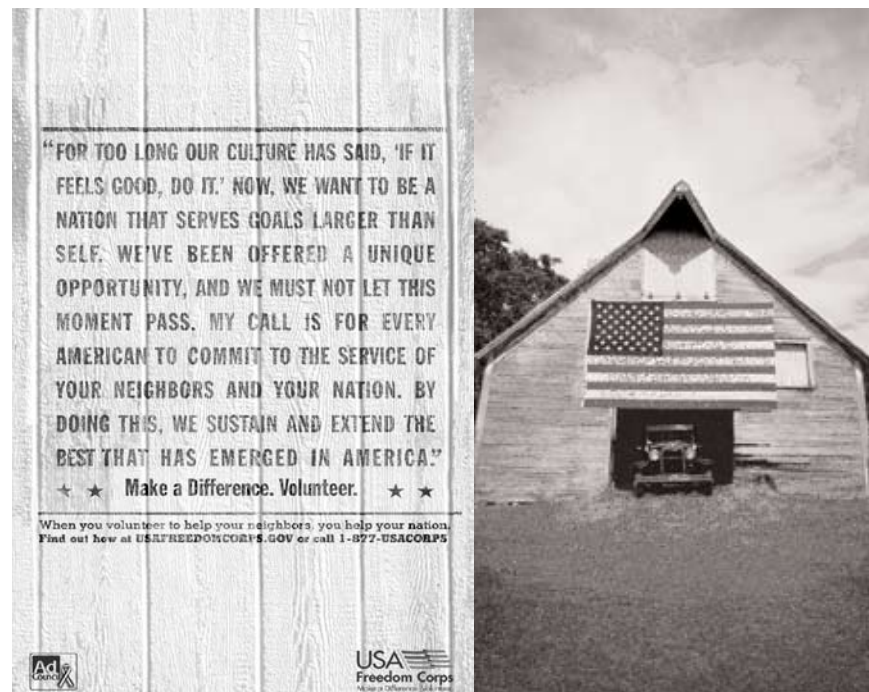


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Bill Summers House Party Concert



Dionne Character, Author
Entertainment Editor & Columnista

The mood, jazzy, intimate, with a salsa twist for those who attended a house party concert given by percussionist Bill Summers in his uptown home on Tuesday, May 27.

In the house, Irvin Mayfield, Matt Dillon, Marlon Jordan, Samantha Fox, Mario Abney, and vocalist, Michaela Harrison, who performed a sultry set of jazz on the patio as guests awaited a Summers experience.

The proceeds from the night for this up-close and personal down-home experience went to Summers Multi Ethnic Institution of the Arts. Guests were served black beans, sangria, salad, dessert and more.

This high energy performance caused many to rise, as the Caribbean spirit which came through the walls in the living room made hips sway to the sounds of piano, horns, drums, bass and guitar while cameras rolled during this "live" tape recorded event.

Bill Summers' and Jazalsa took us on an evolution of jazz, fed our souls and rejuvenated our culture in a night that encompassed a legend who gave his fans the ultimate experience, intertwining music, food and the true meaning of what New Orleans feels like on any given night, where jazz is always lurking.

Dionne Character can be reached at www.dionnecharacter.com.

Festival International de Louisiane

Festival International de Louisiane is a community-based, non-profit arts organization formed in 1986 to produce an annual visual and performing arts festival celebrating the French cultural heritage of southern Louisiana – primarily a combination of French, African, Caribbean and Hispanic influences. It is the largest outdoor, Free Francophone (French speaking) event in the U.S.; the Festival places special emphasis on highlighting the connections between Acadiana and the Francophone world. Each year performing, visual and culinary artists from Europe, Africa, Canada, the Caribbean and the Americas are invited to share their talents with Louisiana artists, residents and visitors.

Since its creation, Festival International de Louisiane has become famous as a premier presenter of some of the most unique world musicians and performances in the United States. Popular Louisiana artists such as Aaron Neville, Dr. John, Irma Thomas, Allan Toussaint, Zachary Richard, Sonny Landreth, Beausoleil, Buckwheat Zydeco, Boozoo Chavis, Amedee "Bois Sec" Ardoin, D.L. Menard, Terrance Simien, C.J. Chenier, Geno Delafosse, Marc Broussard, Marcia Ball, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, Canray Fontenot and Buddy Guy have all performed at the Festival.

Photos by Kichea S. Burt



Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Annual Townsmen Dance

New Orleanians gathered at the Annual Townsmen Dance. Although it was held later this year than the usual February date, the event was well attended and a great time. Here's a look at the festivities.



Shoot Ya Best Shot!

New Orleans Arts & Education Initiative Fundraiser

Partying with a purpose, The New Orleans Arts & Education Initiative held a fundraiser and guests had a swinging good time while benefiting their worthy programs.



Bill O'Reilly's Obsession with "Playing the Race Card"

By A. Peter Bailey

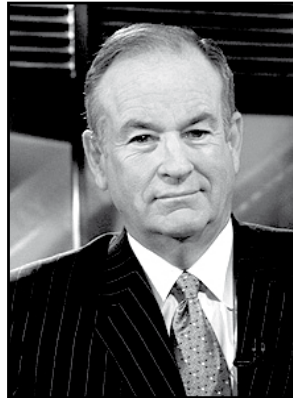
(NNPA) - So-called conservatives in this country spend much of their time accusing Black folks of "playing the race card" when practically any comment is made about expressions of white supremacy. The leader of the conservative mantra on this subject is Fox "fair and balanced" Cable News' reigning propagandist, Bill O'Reilly.

On his television program and in his newspaper column, O'Reilly regularly scolds those whom he considers "playing the race card." In a recent column he pontificated about speaking to a gathering of Al Sharpton's National Action Network during which he told the attendees that "...branding the tea party as a racist group would be a huge mistake that could actually create racism...."

Though calling the tea party gang and their supporters such as O'Reilly "racist"

may be a mistake calling them White supremacists is right on target. A survey conducted at the University of Michigan on what Blacks and Whites consider to be "integration" backs up this description. Black, according to the survey, regards integration as 50 percent Black, 50 percent White with a Black or White person in charge.

For Whites, it is 15 percent Black, 85 percent White with a White person always in charge. That is a White supremacist position probably shared by most tea partiers and their journalistic supporters. That's why they regard the Obamas being in the White House as an abomination, a serious violation of the natural order of the universe.



Bill O'Reilly

A Black person who points out this fact of life is "playing the race card," according to O'Reilly, a charge, by the way, he never hurls at Whites. He didn't accuse Newt Gingrich of "playing the race card" when, prior to passage of the health reform bill, Newt reportedly said the Democrats who voted for the bill "will have destroyed their party, such as Lyndon Johnson did for 40 years."

Nor did he hurl race card playing accusations at Investor's Business Daily for saying that the bill "is affirmative action on steroids, deciding everything from who becomes a doctor to who gets treatment on the basis of skin color." When his buddy

and obnoxious side-kick Glenn Beck lied that "Obama hates White people" and when a tea partier's sign proclaimed that "Obama Plans White Slavery," there wasn't a mumbling word from O'Reilly about "playing the race card."

A knowledgeable Black person doesn't expect any such response from O'Reilly and his fellow propagandists. We just have to be aware of what such toxic flacks are saying, writing and doing so we won't be caught off guard when one or more of their feverish followers make a move against us. Of course, in doing this we, not the Whites, in O'Reilly's view will be "creating racism."

Journalist/Lecturer A. Peter Bailey, a former associate editor of Ebony, is currently editor of Vital Issues: The Journal of African American Speeches. He can be reached at apeterb@verizon.net.

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Congressman Cao Grills FEMA Administrator on Community Disaster Loan Rules

Congressman Anh “Joseph” Cao (LA-02) grilled FEMA Administrator William Craig Fugate, on new Community Disaster Loan (CDL) rules making loan forgiveness harder to obtain for New Orleans and Jefferson Parish government agencies recovering from Hurricane Katrina.

The questioning came during Fugate’s testimony before the Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response of the House Homeland Security Committee on Wednesday.

The new rules, imposed and administered by FEMA under the

Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, require, among other things, that a local governmental entity operate at a deficit for three consecutive years before it can qualify for loan forgiveness.

Cao pointed out that the provision is “problematic” for local governments and government agencies in places that experienced post-Katrina population fluctuations resulting from an influx of evacuees, relief workers and construction laborers, temporarily increasing tax revenue and distorting the real budgetary challenges facing these communities.

Cao said forcing local governments to repay CDLs under such circumstances is “not only problematic for the Sheriff, but also problematic for the New Orleans School Board (which by law cannot operate at a deficit), problematic for Jefferson, problematic for St. Tammany.” Cao told Fugate, “I asked the Secretary (of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano) to address the issue and I just want to know whether or not FEMA will submit revised regulations.”

Fugate responded, “We are looking at that at the Secretary’s direction. We are seeing as to the unintended consequences of that

rapid population growth and what that means to the actual intent of the rule and so we are continuing to work that issue.”

Cao grilled Fugate further on FEMA red tape, and why it takes the agency so long to make a decision. Cao pointed out that arbitrators can decide “in a span of two to three weeks” cases that took FEMA years to decide.

Fugate acknowledged FEMA’s performance has been less than perfect, as demonstrated by cases in which federal funds initially denied by the agency have been later awarded subsequent to arbitration. Fugate said, “If we had

followed our own procedures, we would not have reached that point.”

Cao has introduced the Disaster Relief and Recovery Development Act of 2009 (H.R. 3635), which would make FEMA more efficient, end its habit of acting as a roadblock to progress, and place the agency squarely on the side of recovery. The provisions of H.R. 3635 have been included in the Disaster Response, Recovery, and Mitigation Enhancement Act of 2009 (H.R. 3377), which is expected to be considered on the House floor later this year.



Though it should only take 10 minutes to answer 10 questions, if you didn’t fill out and mail back your Census form, then a qualified Census taker will visit your home to ensure that your voice is represented. Census takers are easily identified by their badges and all responses are confidential. Remember, only you can help ensure better services for your community.

Please open your door to the Census taker. **2010CENSUS.GOV**

WE CAN’T MOVE FORWARD UNTIL WE GET YOUR RESPONSE.

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IT’S IN OUR HANDS

Honorary Degree for New Orleans Music Legend Dave Bartholomew at Xavier University's 83rd Commencement

Local music giant Dave Bartholomew is slated to receive an honorary degree at the 2010 Xavier University commencement, Saturday May 8 at 10:00am at the Keifer Lakefront Arena.

Bartholomew, a trumpet player, composer, arranger and producer, helped develop and define the New Orleans sound which was so influential in the 1950s. He was key in the transformation from jump blues and big-band swing to rhythm and blues and rock and roll. He partnered with fellow New Orleanian Fats Domino and created hits such as the "Fat Man," "Blueberry Hill" and "I'm Walkin'."

In addition to his work with Domino, Bartholomew also wrote hits for other singers including "I hear you knocking," a hit for Gale Storm in the 1950's, and again for Dave Edmunds in the 70's; "One Night" and Witchcraft" which were both hits for Elvis Presley. Pat Boone's cover of "Ain't That a Shame," and Rick Nelson's version of "I'm Walkin'" were top twenty hits in the late '50s and early '60s.



Dave Bartholomew

Bartholomew is the recipient of the Rhythm and Blues Pioneer Award (1996), was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1991, the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1998 and most recent-

ly, the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame in 2009. He is probably best known by members of the Xavier alumni community for his many years of performing with his band for the New Orleans Alumni Chapter's annual Jazz Roundup event.

In addition to Bartholomew's honorary degree, U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan will address the 600 expected Xavier seniors, including 170 College of Pharmacy students. This will be Duncan's first opportunity to launch his nationwide campaign designed to encourage more African-American college students – especially male students – to consider teaching in the nation's public schools.

For more information on the 2010 Xavier University Commencement visit the website at: <http://www.xula.edu/mediarelations/commencement2010>

State to Begin Land Preparation to Make Way for New VA Hospital

Louisiana state officials announced that they have begun the architectural salvage and demolition of properties within the site selected for the new Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC). Beginning today, construction teams will conduct salvage and demolitions of properties already owned by the state.

Taking into account the rich architectural history of New Orleans, project leaders say extra care is being taken to save items of architectural or historical significance, and that the items will be made available for reuse. "We've established a partnership with Habitat for Humanity/New Orleans. They are one of the leading builders of homes in the area. Those items that are salvaged will be donated to them," says Jerry Jones, Assistant Commissioner of the State's Division of Administration. Describing part of the process as architectural salvage, Jones says that a team of experts will help determine what is of value, and that the salvaging effort will proceed in accordance with an agreement crafted by Federal, State, and City officials and other interested parties and arrived at under the provisions of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

This first round of work comes some 18 months after the State and the City signed an agreement

for the acquisition and preparation of the two sites for the new medical complexes. The sites encompass 296 commercial and residential structures, and 142 empty lots. The entire footprint for the two hospitals will cover nearly 67 acres, from Tulane to Canal Streets and Claiborne to South Rocheblave. With Tulane and Canal Streets serving as the uptown / downtown boundary for both hospitals, the 30 acre VA footprint begins at Galvez running towards the Lake to South Rocheblave.

Sensitive to the concerns of residents, officials say that every effort is being made to ensure their safety and to keep them informed about on-going work. "We understand that a project like this produces very strong feelings and legitimate concerns," Jones said. "We want to do everything we can to make the transition for residents as easy as possible." Property owners and residents in the footprint of the hospital projects are being contacted by state consultants to work out land acquisition and to make relocation arrangements.

Residents can expect demolition and land preparation to continue for the next few months, ending by mid to late summer. Residents are asked to call (504) 592-1800, if they have any questions or concerns as the work continues.

Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

Five Years Later

As it is approaching the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and Mayor Nagin has been around the globe talking about the City he says people are still concerned about the New Orleans. "People in my travels always ask how is the ninth ward, how is the City coming back, or there telling me about someone they met from the City or that they've been there and love our people and our culture."

On a more personal note Nagin began to recount his experience of Hurricane Katrina, not as the mayor but on a human level, as someone seeing his City sink into desperation and despair, "It was devastating not only to see the suffering, but to see the death of people floating in the water, people dying on the sidewalks of the Convention Center."

Nagin never one to mince words says more people could have been saved if there was more cooperation between neighboring parishes, "St. Bernard blocking

the street and the roads that are between the Lower Ninth Ward and St. Bernard because they didn't want people to come over to their side, or that in Jefferson Parish that temporary pipes were set up pumping water from their side into the 17th Street Canal knowing that would further flood New Orleans because the breach was on our side and they did this twice." And he mentions what is well known as was documented in Spike Lee's, 'When the Levees Broke' "In Gretna when the people were trying to walk to try to get to a better place to find food and water were met on the other side of the Crescent City Connection with attack dogs and machine guns and that just blew me away that people could be that selfish in a time of this kind of crisis."

Citizen Nagin

As Nagin's last days as the Mayor of New Orleans approach he talks about what was, what is and what's next. "Well in my im-

mediate future I am going to take a few months and rest, I have been going non-stop for eight years and I just want to reflect about what I want to do next."

On a lighter note Nagin says he was overwhelmed with joy by the Saints winning the Superbowl and that it was a redemptive moment for the City, "I think it gave the City a morale boost and it was truly a great time for the City, the world came to see and pay attention to New Orleans again and I hope that will continue." "What the Saints organization did is something our City can do, put the right personnel together to win the big game and that is rebuilding our City."

Nagin closes by musing about his eight years addressing the people who are from New Orleans who now reside in many parts of the world. "I would like to thank all the people who have supported me, and even those who haven't, that whether I was encouraged, pushed or chastised I needed all of that, that is what government is

about everybody having a voice."

He also says, "I came to office looking to change City hall and the way City government was run and we did that we did a lot of reforms and made it transparent." Never one to avoid controversy or confrontation he says, "I have been outspoken, direct and independent and have not been controlled by any faction, I have tried to do the best I can to do what's right for all the people." And of his miscues he says, "I have made mistakes, but I feel I've made more right decisions than wrong decisions, but I've always had the best interest of the people of the City of New Orleans at heart." Moving forward he asks of the citizens of New Orleans, "I encourage citizens to be involved and stay engaged in the political process."

Ray Nagin 2002-2010

The sun is setting on the era of Ray Nagin. A mayor who has been through the toughest time a City leader could encounter; the de-

struction and rebuilding of a City. Today is less a moment of measuring Nagin's performance, only history will come to re-examine his impact in years to come.

Today New Orleans is still a City with a long way to go before becoming the kind of City it has the potential to be. A gateway to a world that is international, New Orleans is a City that is poised to be that if those in government, the business community and citizens find common ground to put aside difference and truly become one New Orleans.

This has to become more than just something on a poster or campaign slogan; it is something that is going to take work to become a reality. Ray Nagin time has come for him to walk into the sunset, and as brass bands play the dissonant sounds of the secondline and the aroma of gumbo is in the air, it is the hope that the City reflects on its past both good and bad as it is on the horizon of a new beginning.

Community Leaders, Political Figures and Elected Officials Headline Reception Supporting Monique Morial, Candidate for City Court Judge Section "A"

New Orleans, LA - April 28, 2010 - Last night, a standing room crowd of notable community leaders, political figures and elected officials from across metropolitan New Orleans, including Mayor-Elect Mitch Landrieu and Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman, gathered at a reception supporting the candidacy of Monique Morial for First City Court Judge Section "A." Over 100 people attended the fundraising event, which was held from 5-7 p.m. at Dooky Chase



Monique Morial

Restaurant in New Orleans.

Co-hosting the reception, along with Mayor-Elect Landrieu and Sheriff Gusman, were Assessor Erroll Williams and District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell who pledged their support for Morial amongst many of the City's prominent business leaders and young professionals.

"As I announce my candidacy for First City Court Judge Section 'A', I am honored to be supported by family, friends and distin-

guished community leaders," said Morial. "My work experience as an attorney, serving as a law clerk at both the Louisiana 4th Circuit Court of Appeal and Civil District Court, my family's long commitment to public service, as well as 11 years of experience representing the legal interests of the Clerk of First City Court, have afforded me a unique opportunity to master the policies and procedures of the New Orleans judicial system. I am confident that I possess the

strength and understanding to provide fair and responsible rulings to all who would come before me in First City Court."

Morial, a graduate of Emory University and Tulane University Law School, is the daughter of the late Ernest "Dutch" Morial, Mayor of New Orleans from 1978-1986, and sister of former Mayor Marc H. Morial, who served from 1992-2002. She is an attorney at Usry, Weeks & Matthews.

Councilmember James Carter will "pass the torch" by formally introducing Councilmember-Elect Kristin Gisleson Palmer

Councilmember James Carter "passed the torch" by formally introducing Councilmember-Elect Kristin Gisleson Palmer to District "C" residents during a second Town Hall meeting held on Wednesday, April 28, 2010.

Councilmember-Elect Kristin Gisleson Palmer will officially be sworn in as District "C" Councilmember on May 3, 2010.

Palmer is a non-profit executive with 20 years experience in neighborhood revitalization, financial management, economic development and grass roots organizing. Post-Katrina, Kristin has put over 400 displaced residents back into their homes. She developed a \$6 million dollar annual rebuilding operation and leveraged over \$7 million in public funding to create a model for creating long-term sustainability in our communities.

Kristin will continue to bring together New Orleans' leaders, citizens and businesses by building bridges and crossing boundaries to build a safer, stronger District C.

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Census enumerators will be knocking on doors starting May 1st

In New Orleans, an accurate count will:



- ✦ Determine our number of Representatives in Congress
- ✦ Determine needs for infrastructure, medical access, education, & community services
- ✦ Give an accurate count of the population of New Orleans
- ✦ Decide New Orleans' share of over \$400 billion federal funding allocations

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