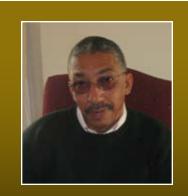


Newsmaker
We Like...?
Our Endorsements

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Rhodes



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Cover Story

ELECTION 2010:

Profiles of the Mayoral Candidates compiled by Data News Editorial Staff













As the date for the 2010 Mayoral Primary draws near, candidates and their campaigns are busy buying ads, and making the rounds from neighborhood to neighborhood, and door to door. So much information to digest, in this, our third Mayoral Election since Hurricane Katrina and her floodwaters breached and devastated our city. With no less than our very future on the line, we again are drawn to the polls to make the decision which defines our direction and perhaps our destiny as the Great City of New Orleans.

Data News Weekly, sees it as our most solemn duty, to provide as much of a spectrum for you to view your choices with, to assist you in making the very best decision based on stated platforms and promises from each candidate. Presented here, in alphabetical order, are the candidates running to be your next mayor. We hope this information, coupled with the research you have done already, can help you to make an informed and well thought out decision.

We encourage you to VOTE early! Take advantage of the added benefit of shorter lines and waiting times, and don't be caught up in Super Bowl or Parade Traffic! Early voting continues through Saturday, January 30, so don't wait! YOUR VOTE COUNTS MOST!

CANDIDATE ROB COUHIG REPUBLICAN

Rob Couhig is a committed lifelong fiscal conservative with a successful career working with government as a lawyer, businessman, Redevelopment Au-

thority member and radio talk show host. Rob is the only current candidate for mayor to run in the last Mayoral Election.

Rob, a native New Orleanian, was born in Baptist Hospital in 1949. He attended Jesuit High School, graduated from St. Francisville High School and Georgetown University and returned for his law degree from Tulane. He believes that his background allows him to understand the diverse personalities that make up our City as well as the problems and opportunities that confront us.

Rob began his legal career at Adams & Reese, a law firm of fifteen lawyers. In 28 years, he helped grow the firm to well over 200 attorneys. Couhig was instrumental in its growth including the opening of the firm's Baton Rouge and Washington, D.C. offices.

Recognizing the need for a firm that worked with entrepreneurs, Rob, along with two other lawyers, started Couhig Partners in September 2003. Today the firm has over 20 lawyers, an office in Baton Rouge headed by Louisiana's former Attorney General Richard Ieyoub and an affiliated consulting group. He is also the managing partner of Couhig Investments, LLC which invests in small businesses in Louisiana.

As the only candidate for mayor who has been on the radio for the last three years talking about every major issue affecting our City, people know him, know his positions, and also know that he is the only fiscal conservative in this race for Mayor.

PLATFORM

Rob Couhig says he will use four conservative

guidelines to make decisions as your mayor:

- Will it make our city more livable?
- Will it make our city more affordable?
- How does it affect economic opportunity?
- Is it fair?

By using this matrix, Couhig believes he can attack the issue of crime and integrity in the police department; Battle blight and multi-million dollar budget deficits by resisting the short term easy out of raising taxes; and, create jobs for everyone who wants to work.

CANDIDATE JOHN GEORGES DEMOCRAT

New Orleans native John Georges, 49, has 30 years of experience in the private and public sectors. He is a past member of the Board of Regents and a current commissioner of the Public Belt Rail Road, Chairman of Georges Enterprises and is involved with various governmental, civic and philanthropic groups. In 2007, John ran for elected office for the first time in the gubernatorial race, in which he garnered 186,000 votes and won New Orleans. In 2009-2010, he has decided to run for Mayor.

John Georges is now Chairman of Georges Enterprises. Georges Enterprises is comprised of several types of businesses, including grocery distribution, offshore marine services, video and arcade entertainment, food services and investments. Georges Enterprises began as Imperial Trading Company in 1916. Imperial Trading is a wholesale grocery company that distributes goods ranging from candy to health and beauty products. He has served as Chairman of

Continued next page.

INSIDE DATA

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

the Young Presidents' Organization and was recently selected as a Young Leadership Council Role

John has 22 years of public service experience. In 1992 John was appointed by the Governor to the Board of Regents, the state agency that coordinates all public higher education in Louisiana. The Board of Regents has budgetary responsibility for Louisiana's public higher education, including 19 public colleges, universities, and professional schools. John also served as member of the University of New Orleans Foundation, LSU Medical Foundation, and Tulane President's Council, and served on the board of his children's school where he chaired fundraising for the school's recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina. John also serves on the New Orleans Public Belt Commission, and is in his second term appointed by the Mayor.

The Public Belt Commission is responsible for managing the publicly owned terminal-switching railroad and also maintaining the railroad portion of the Huey P. Long Bridge. In 2008, the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad celebrated the opening of its refurbished main facility at 4822 Tchoupitoulas Street. Personally and through Georges Enterprises, John supports a diverse group of charities throughout the community, with an emphasis on education, the arts, preservation, and faith-based initiatives. He played a significant role in recovery efforts for the University of New Orleans and its Arena. Also, because he understands how important the New Orleans Saints are to their fans and to the city, John contributed to ensure Saints games were sold out so that they would be broadcast on television for five years in a row.

John is married to Dathel and is the father of three children.

PLATFORM

CRIME

- Improve coordination between the New Orleans Police Department and the District Attorney's Office.
- Improve coordination between local, state and federal agencies.
- Keep pace with technological advances in crime fighting.
- Enhance educational programs for police officers.
- Create Neighborhood Advisory Groups to work with NOPD
- Provide citizens with direct communication with their law enforcement professionals.

- Hold regular neighborhood meetings to encourage citizen input into public safety policies and practices, and will allow police to keep citizens informed about efforts in their neighborhoods.
- Increase interagency communication, reducing duplication of effort and sharing information to identify, track and apprehend criminals. RISS (Rapid Information Sharing System) technology is available and already in use worldwide.

EFFECTIVE AND OPEN GOVERNMENT

- Enact stronger ethics and anticorruption regulations for all city employees, spreading accountability to every corner of government operations.
- Continue the practice of having an independent commission monitoring the IG's Office in order to ensure that it, too, is held accountable.
- Recruit and retain a diverse, capable and responsive executive leadership team to head city departments.
- Work closely with the City Council to ensure that department heads are responding to citizens' concerns.

RECOVERY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Our full recovery requires a business-friendly environment, safe for employees and profitable for companies
- Negotiate with airlines to increase the number of direct, nonstop flights, expanding opportunities for commerce and tourism.
- Increase neighborhood commercial districts that will include full service restaurants, grocery stores, pharmacies and other needed services.
- Provide more parking in the French Quarter near the river to attract more visitors to French Quarter businesses
- Make personal calls and provide invitations to CEOs from across the country to recruit more large businesses to New
- Finish existing recovery proj-

EDUCATION

- Making our schools work is a vital step to making our city
- Work towards school choice so families can send children to schools in their neighborhoods or another public school of their choice.
- Support Charter Schools and

other alternatives to continue to improve public schools in New Orleans

- Push to provide early childhood education for every family who wants it for their children.
- Keep current system for now, until a field of experts can analyze how to better manage and improve the school system for the future.
- Gather experts in education to recommend long term plans for public education in New Orleans.

REBUILDING NEIGHBOR-HOODS

- There is no excuse for the blight & crumbling infrastructure plaguing our city.
- Get code enforcement departments to work as one
- Review and improve the blight hearing process
- Establish clear goals for the Sewerage and Water Board and the Public Works Department, so public roads and utilities receive targeted, timely and correct repairs.

HEALTHCARE & HOSPITALS

- Work to reopen Methodist Hospital, or to find resources to open a hospital in New Orleans East.
- Expedite the replacement of services lost when Charity Hospital closed.
- Work with the state to restore inpatient mental health servic-
- Restore easily accessible primary care by establishing more community clinics through public-private partnerships.

CANDIDATE TROY HENRY DEMOCRAT

Troy Henry was born and raised in the Lower 9th Ward, then Pontchartrain Park, and now lives in New Orleans East.

His family has a long legacy of leadership and improving the quality-of-life in the community. His mother was a school teacher, for 35 years his father owned and operated the Lower Ninth Ward's only neighborhood pharmacy, and his grandfather, Clarence "Chink" Henry, was President of the Local ILA 3000 Longshoreman's Union.

Troy graduated from St. Augustine High School, completed undergraduate studies at Stanford University, and then earned dual Masters degrees at Carnegie-Mellon University.

After spending 20 years as a corporate executive, Troy and his wife moved back to New Orleans with their three kids. Years later,

he started his own successful company, Henry Consulting.

Troy has played a leadership role on some of the most important and successful projects in the City of New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina, and he's also worked effectively with city governments and elected officials throughout his career, including at the state and federal level. Some of his many accomplishments and experiences he would bring to the Office of the Mayor include: 20 years of executive management experience at some of the largest U.S. corporations; Former President of United Water, the nation's largest water and waste-water management company; Led significant recovery efforts in New Orleans including the Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP), Energy Smart, and the redevelopment of the historic Pontchartrain Park neighborhood; Assisted local, minority and women-owned businesses secure over \$150 million in contracts since Katrina.

Troy's vision is for the City of New Orleans to have more professionalism in City government, greater transparency and accountability, improved streets and infrastructure, less crime and blight, and a strong economy.

PLATFORM

- Re-engineering city government to be more efficient and customer-focused
- Attracting between 40,000 to 50,000 new jobs to the city
- Hiring the most qualified police chief to make our streets and neighborhoods safer
- Eradicating blight and redeveloping neighborhoods
- Dedicating more dollars towards street and infrastructure repairs

CANDIDATE MITCH **LANDRIEU DEMOCRAT**

Mitch Landrieu grew up as one of nine children in the Broadmoor neighborhood where Mitch developed a love for the City of New Orleans. Today, Landrieu and his wife Cheryl are raising five children of their own.

Mitch's governing philosophy is rooted in his Jesuit education, where he learned to be committed to service. He was educated at Jesuit High School, Catholic University, and earned a law degree from Loyola University.

Mitch had a successful law practice for 15 years. He became an expert mediator, focusing on alternative dispute resolution.

In life, law and government, he always seeks to bring people together to find common ground.

Page 3

As a State Legislator, Mitch represented the Broadmoor neighborhood for 16 years. During his tenure, he made his mark as a reformer who could get the job done.

As Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana, Mitch has served as an executive, managing a \$127 million budget and 800 employees. To deliver results, he put in place strict standards of account-

After Hurricane Katrina, he led the effort to rebuild the tourism industry, and the thousands of jobs it creates. Mitch's team got more than \$22 million in grant money from Congress into the hands of hundreds of homeowners quickly.

During his tenure, Mitch has focused on creating jobs. He launched the Cultural Economy initiative to grow jobs through our culture, music, food, film and art. The cultural economy accounts for 144,000 jobs in our state.

After more than 20 years of government experience, his top priorities as mayor will be creating jobs, improving our schools and making our streets safer.

PLATFORM

MORE JOBS

 Create good-paying jobs so that all of our people have the opportunity to work.

BETTER SCHOOLS

• Be a champion for our kids and our schools, so all children have the opportunity to reach their God-given potential.

SAFER STREETS

- Aggressive crime fighting techniques, strong leadership from the Mayor's office and a rededication to crime prevention through community outreach and policing.
- A New NORD will be central to crime prevention.

HEALTH CARE

• Build a first-rate hospital in New Orleans East and a stateof-the-art biomedical complex in Mid-City.

BLIGHT

• Solve longstanding problems associated with having more than 50,000 blighted properties in our community.

Encourage residents to invest in rebuild their properties

COMBINED NOTICE

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

JANUARY 13, 2010

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

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about February 1, 2010 the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development, (OCD) will submit of behalf of BP1315,LLC for the release of HOME funds under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (NAHA) of 1990, as amended, to undertake a project known as Blue Plate Lofts, for the purpose of the rehabilitation and conversion of the Blue Plate Building into multi-family housing rental units, located at 1315 S. Jefferson Davis Parkway. Grant numbers M08MC220201 and M09MC220201 for \$3,500,000.00.

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 Environment tal 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 Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street, 10th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70112 and may be examined or copied weekdays (9:00) A.M. to (5:00) P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street, 10th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70112. All comments received by January 28, 2010 will be considered by the City of New Orleans Community Development prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenters should specify which part of this notice they are addressing.

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 February 16, 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 HUD; (b) the (RE) 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 Deputy Director, Neighborhood Stabilization

C. Ray Nagin Mayor, City of New Orleans





C. Ray Nagin, Mayor





Congratulations Peoples Health!

Peoples Health was once again awarded the Senior Choice Gold Award® by the independent research agency HealthMetrix Research, Inc.

HealthMetrix used Medicare data to compare estimated out-of-pocket costs among Medicare Advantage plans. They searched for maximum value, and found Choices 65 (HMO) from Peoples Health to be the only plan in the New Orleans area to qualify for this national recognition.

Switch to a winning Medicare Advantage plan. For more information, call today toll free...

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24 hours a day, seven days a week. TTY/TDD users call 1-888-631-9979



www.peopleshealth.com

The Senior Choice Gold Award® is based on independent comparisons of the approved 2010 MAPD benefits for the New Orleans area. For comparison details, visit www.MedicareNewsWatch.com. Medicare has neither reviewed, nor endorses, this information. This is an advertisement. Additional information should be requested before making a decision about your coverage. To join, you must be eligible for Medicare Part A, continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium, have or otherwise be eligible for Medicare Part D and live in the plan service area. Enrollment limitations apply. Peoples Health is a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract.

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Newsmaker

We Like...?

Data Editorial Staff Announces Endorsements for Municipal Elections and Mayoral Primary Races

Data News Weekly would first like to congratulate our New Orleans Saints in a victory well deserved and long awaited, and we feel confident we will go all the way! We hope this is a sign of great things to come in our city.

As the city and the nation is focused on Super Bowl Sunday, let's not forget Saturday, the 6th, when our challenge as New Orleanians will be to select our leaders. We have a big and sober task ahead. We need to select our judges, Criminal Sheriff, a State Senator, two Clerks, our full City Council and of course, the big one, the Mayor.

This election season up until now, has not been very exciting like we are used to; not a lot of fireworks. That's strange because this Mayor, and this new leadership will probably be the ones



John Georges

who will decide the direction the city will move in for years to come. Their impact may be felt for generations because the enormity of

what hangs in the balance still for New Orleans future. This includes the billions of federal dollars that were allocated to the city for reconstruction after Katrina, which have been caught up in red tape for years. So although it may lack "fireworks" this election is paramount to the future of New Orleans. We feel that the leadership should understand business and how to lead this city fairly. Of course we felt before, that

business acumen was the main attribute of the current mayor, and it was, but we have also learned that there may be some differ-

ence in running a large business, and in building a small business into a large corporation since we are now in a building stage, and how we build is crucial. It is also imperative, that our leaders have a sense of our past as we move into our future. To lead with a head for business and a commitment to fairness, ethics and moving the ball forward for all New Orleanians is as important as being a brilliant businessman.

We utilized that formula in assessing in the candidates, and with this in mind we endorse the following candidates for leadership.

Mayor of New Orleans – John Georges

John George has a proven record of success in business by growing a small family business into a multi-million dollar corporation. He has shown tremendous fairness as many of his executives are African Americans. Meaning he understands that value of talent and teamwork is not dictated by ethnicity, race or gender but by ability. These are the qualities we feel we need in our next mayor that John Georges exhibits.

The remainder of our endorsements, reflect proven leadership and experience that will benefit our city moving forward.

State Senator, - Irma Muse Dixon

Judge, Civil District Court, Division J – Paula Brown

Criminal Sheriff – Marlin Gusman (Incumbent)

Criminal District Court Clerk – Arthur Morrell

Assessor - Errol Williams

Coroner – Dwight McKenna

City Council

Councilmember At Large
– Cynthia Willard-Lewis

District A – Susan Guidry

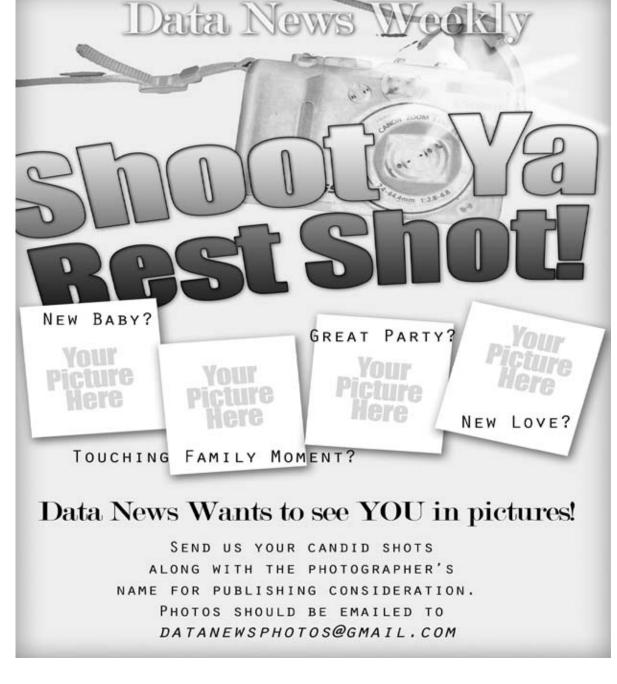
Distrct B – Corey Watson

District C – Kristin Gisleson - Palmer

District D - Cynthia Hedge Morrell

District E – John Johnson

We want to remind you again to take advantage of early voting and go to the polls today! They are open through





Trailblazer

tpetel hodes!

Commitment to a Tradition of Service

by: Edwin Buggage

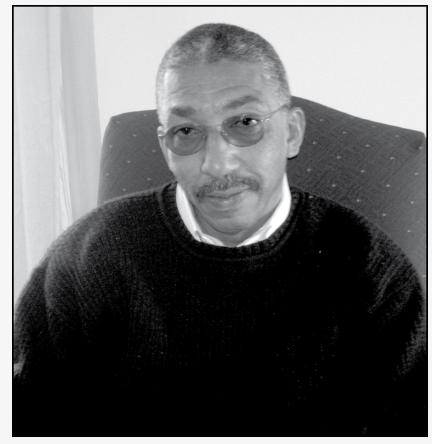
Pete Rhodes is someone who has throughout his life been committed to making his city a better place to live. His committment to service began early in life, "I was taught from a young age by my parents that service and giving back is very important," says Rhodes.

Through their family company, "The Rhodes Family of Businesses" that includes funeral servcices, a limousine service and real estate among other endeavors they have become a vital and viable part of the city for over 125 years. Although the ravages of Hurricane Katrina devastated their homes and businesses, Rhodes felt the will to come back and be an inspiration for the city was very important. "I believe that with us rebuilding our businesses, it could give people hope that they too through hard work can put the pieces of their lives back together," says Rhodes.

As a business leader he feels some of the skills necessary to run a successful business can also apply in life, in his everyday experience he passes this on with his example. "I tell people all the time that sacrifce, discipline and staying committed to your goals is the most important things in become a success in business and in life."

Beyond his life in business he serves as a member of the Louisiana Judiciary Committee. This committee reviews the behavior of Judges. "I am vey proud of what I do in this capacity and it is very rewarding and just another of the many ways I try to give back to my community through service," says Rhodes.

Recently, the Rhodes family reopend their flagship business located on Washington Avenue in the Broadmoor area to much fanfare as city, civic and business leaders and citizens gathered to welcome back a business they have come to know and trust for over a 125 years. "It was an amazing moment for myself and my family, to rebuild our business after the storm, and now we are even further committed to being part of this community." Continuing he says, "We have a policy not to turn anyone away, we try to find a way to help people as they are grieving, and in some cases we have even given away



funeral services because we care about our community and as we have been around for 125 years we are committed to being around to continue to inspire and move the city forward with our example of excellence."

Pete Rhodes says the company is also interested in training young people in the field of Funeral Services. "We are excited about young people and giving them the things they need to be a success

at what they do, we partner with Delgado Community College giving students an opportunity to gain real world experience with us." "We train them in the way we do things, and hopefully give them the foundation to go into the work world with skills that can take them where they can reach their full potential in their work lives whether it is with us or another company," says Rhodes

Rhodes says he is impressed with the city and the pace of the recovery, "I thought it would be about 10-15 years before we would get where we are right now." Continuing he says, "Although we are far from rebuilding the entire city I am encouraged by the efforts citizens are taking matters into their own hands to rebuild their futures and their

lives and I hope that myself and the rest of the Rhodes family can continue to inspire people to give back and serve as we have because the traditions of what we were taught by our parents."

Joseph M. Jones Continuing Education Fund



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Data Zone

Who Dat Nation

The Hype of the Game



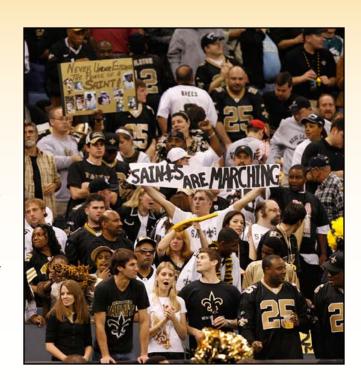
Dionne Character, Author Entertainment Editor & Columnista

The spirit of New Orleans was at it's most high, as every citizen in the Crescent City was somewhere watching the game. There were no cars on streets, no cell phones ringing, no food left in stores, and certainly no more black and gold to be found. Those who didn't make it to the Superdome or the French Quarter, were home or at somebody else's, enjoying a "live" Pre-Super Bowl party of their own. After the deal was sealed with a "field goal" and the world knew the New Orleans Saints were in fact going to the Super Bowl Championship, the entire City went wild. People were crying, praying, honking horns, dancing in the streets, firing fireworks, beating on cow bells, playing second-line music

on front porches, blowing whistles and shouting "Who Dat".

There was so much hope in the New Orleans Saints, the souls of lost ones must have been resurrected through the excitement. The entire City was overwhelmed and happy to be apart of something positive, after giving their all to a team who realized in the end, that without the fans, none of this would have been possible.

The hype of this game was all about the people of New Orleans. Everyone forgot all of their troubles, all races came together, and everybody loved everybody, as the Who Dat Nation showed why, there ain't no place like home.





Lift up
your voice
and be free
let hope pour
from you endlessly
and like a bird
shares its song
express happiness
openly...

Black History, an American Celebration



open happiness™







IF WE CAN COME TOGETHER FOR A FOOTBALL TEAM, LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO SAVE THE CITY.



I was struck at the Saints game, as I have been all season, by how united our city was behind our team. People are coming together effortlessly and sharing the same emotions, pulling for the common victory.

Together, we have been rebuilding neighborhoods and together, we will restore New Orleans to the beautiful city that it was. We've proven we can get along for the sake of the Saints. We need quality schools, hospitals open in New Orleans East and downtown, jobs with a decent wage, and we need to rebuild all of our neighborhoods with ample affordable housing for all our people.

FIXING OUR MOST URGENT PROBLEMS MY PLAN FOR OUR CITY'S FUTURE ADDRESSES OUR GREATEST NEEDS

- A systematic approach to solving **Crime**.
- Adequate **Healthcare** coverage and availability.
- **Economic Development and Job Creation.**
- ▶ **Infrastructure Improvements,** like good streets now.
- Access to high-quality and competitive Schools in every neighborhood, along with improved recreational opportunities for our children.
- **Real accountability** in government and the police department.

- Eliminating Blight and creating effective code enforcement.
- High-quality, affordable Housing and increased home ownership opportunities.
- Adequate and effective **Flood Protection**.
- Balancing the Budget.
- ▶ Rebuilding our beautiful Neighborhoods.
- Getting the recovery moving again for a Better Quality of Life.

"I've built my own business very successfully by giving people chances. I know what New Orleans people can do. Give me a chance to lead as your mayor and I'll unite, not divide. You can count on me to work hard every day to make New Orleans a better, safer and more prosperous city."



State& Local News

Four Men Arrested for Attempting to Infiltrate Senator Landrieu's Office

Manu Raju, Erika Lovley Politico

Anti-ACORN filmmaker arrested and faces felony charges

Federal authorities have arrested four men on felony charges for attempting to infiltrate Sen. Mary Landrieu's New Orleans office, including one filmmaker who targeted the community group ACORN last year in damaging undercover videos.

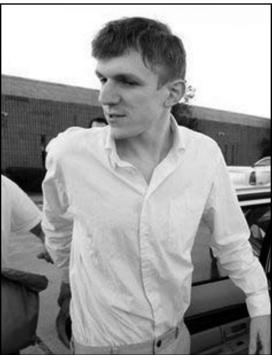
Among those arrested was 25-year-old James O'Keefe, the conservative filmmaker, along with Joseph Basel, Robert Flanagan and Stan Dai, all 24. They were charged with entering federal property under false pretenses and attempting to gain access to the Democrat's office by posing as telephone repairmen, according to a copy of an FBI affidavit unsealed Tuesday.

The complaint said that O'Keefe was waiting in the office when Flanagan and Basel each entered the premises, wearing light green fluorescent vests, denim paints and blue work shirts, tool belts

and hard-hats. They informed a member of Landrieu's staff that they were telephone repairmen and requested access to the main telephone at the reception desk.

At that point, the two men allegedly attempted to manipulate telephones and accessed the telephone closet, saying they needed to work on the entire system. The men, who said they left their credentials in their vehicles, were arrested by the U.S. Marshals Service soon afterward. O'Keefe, who had been filming the two men on his cell phone camera, was allegedly involved with planning, coordination, and preparation of the operation, according to an affidavit signed by Steven Rayes, special agent at the FBI.

According to the FBI, the four men could each face up to 10 years and a fine of \$250,000 if they are convicted. The case, which is being investigated by special agents of the FBI and deputy marshals with the United States Marshal's Service, is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney



James O'Keefe speaks with the media while getting into a taxi cab after being released from the St. Bernard Parish jail in Chalmette, La., Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2010. O'Keefe, a conservative activist who posed as a pimp to target the community-organizing group ACORN, is one of four people arrested by the FBI and accused of trying to interfere with phones at Sen. Mary Landrieu's office in New Orleans.

Jordan Ginsberg.

In a statement issued Tuesday night, Landrieu said: "This is a very unusual situation and somewhat unsettling for me and my staff. The individuals responsible have been charged with entering federal property under false pretenses for the purposes of committing a felony. I am as interested as everyone else about their motives and purpose, which I hope will become clear as the investigation moves forward."

In a statement, ACORN said O'Keefe's arrest is "further evidence of his disregard for the law in pursuit of his extremist agenda."

This was not the first of O'Keefe's le-

gal troubles: ACORN is pressing charges him with a six-figure lawsuit in Baltimore for videotaping its employees with a hidden video camera over the summer. The lawsuit is still ongoing, and the Philadelphia branch of the group alleged in federal court this month that O'Keefe and co-filmmaker Hannah Giles caused emotional distress, harm and injury in their publicizing of the videos.

O'Keefe made waves last year when he unveiled undercover videos of ACORN employees seeming to encourage two people - who were pretending to be sex workers – to circumvent the law, embarrassing the group and forcing many of its supporters to spurn its ties with it. ACORN has long been a punching bag for conservatives who say that the community-organizing group engages in underhanded activities as it tries to beef up voter registration among the poor, charges that the group roundly dismisses.

Anthony Bean Community Theater Celebrates 10th Year Anniversary



Church Ladies Go Rouge in 'Steal Away' Opens January 29.

In celebration of The Anthony Bean Community Theater 10th year Anniversary. We're returning to the play that started it all. "Steal Away", a comedy written by Regina King and Directed by Anthony Bean and original cast member, Gail Glapion, a prominent community leader, will return in the lead role as Stella. A lighthearted, outrageous comedy for the entire family. In this fun-filled production, the ladies of the Negro Women's Organization for Youth Education find inventive ways of sending girls to college. Performances take place January 29-31, February 5-7, 19-21 & 26-28. On Friday and Saturday at 8:00 PM and Sunday's matinee at 3:00 PM.

Special Note: On Sunday, February 7, performance will be at 8:00 pm ONLY! Tickets are \$18.00 for adults, \$16.00 for students and seniors, and are available by calling the Box Office at (504) 862-7529. You can also charge by phone or charge on line at www.anthonybeantheater.com .

Dillard University Hosts Three Mayoral Forums

January 30th Debate is Second of "Conversations with Candidates"

Twenty Neighborhood Groups of Gentilly Civic Improvement Association Partner With Dillard's Community Development Corporation, Political Science Faculty and Students, and Student Government Association for Frank Discussion on Neighborhood Issues

Q93's Wild Wayne hosts 7:00a.m.-9:00a.m Town Hall Meeting with Students on their concerns for the future

NEW ORLEANS AGENDA, News Report (1/27/10) - Dillard University will host the second in a series of three mayoral debates on Saturday, January 30, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in Lawless Memorial Chapel on campus. The three mayoral debates are designed to give the candidates and various New Orleans communities a framework to initiate discussions on a wide variety of issues - crime, educa-

tion, race relations, neighborhood and economic development - that are important to the quality-of-life in New Orleans. The January 12th debate, sponsored by the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice in conjunction with the African American Women of Power and Purpose and the New Orleans Urban League, addressed the particular concerns of the city's African-American community.

"Dillard University is an anchoring institution in the Gentilly Community and, as such, should offer all of our neighbors an opportunity to speak with the candidates on those issues that are of vital importance to the survival of their respective neighborhoods," said Dillard President Marvalene Hughes, Ph.D. "We have opened the campus to community and neighborhood organizations to foster civic engagement and vigor-

Cover Story

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NEW ORLEANS RECREATION DEPARTMENT

- Rebuilding after-school and recreation programs
- Ensure that playgrounds are free of criminal activity and drug-dealing.

OPEN AND HONEST GOVERNMENT

- Bring a culture of open and honest government to New Orleans.
- Create a level playing field for those who want to do business in New Orleans, supporting participation by disadvantaged businesses in city contracts.

CANDIDATE JAMES PERRY **DEMOCRAT**

James Perry is a life-long resident of New Orleans, who learned his core values of the importance of community, service, education and social justice from his parents who are career educators.

The Perry family lived in New Orleans East, where young James witnessed first-hand the decline of his neighborhood even before it became swamped it with flood-

A graduate of McMain High School and the University of New Orleans, And Loyola Law School, James worked for the Preservation Resource Center (PRC), a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the diverse neighborhoods of New Orleans, where he focused on the problems of urban blight and neighborhood disinvestment and helped residents acquire and rehab blighted properties.

James is currently the Executive Director of the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC), a private, non-profit organization created to promote equal housing opportunity. Under James' leadership and management, GNOFHAC has tripled in size and helped thousands of residents.

One of James' major initiatives has been to fight in New Orleans and in Washington DC for fairer payouts by the Road Home Program. Recently, on behalf of **BUDGET REFORM** residents displaced by Hurricane Katrina, James led his organization's successful lawsuit against St. Bernard Parish, which passed an illegal ordinance that resulted in racial discrimination.

In recent years, James has testified before Congress seven times about the critical importance of Gulf Coast recovery, a cause that he took up again in presentations to both the Democratic and Republican conventions in the summer of 2008.

James has served on the Historic District Landmark Commission, New Orleans Non-Profit Development Collaborative, and the African-American Heritage Preservation Council. He is a member of the Esplanade Ridge Neighborhood Association and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

PLATFORM 5 ACTIONS IN 5 DAYS

IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY

- During mayoral transition, conduct a national search to hire a new Superintendent for the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD).
- Sign and deliver Executive Order requiring the NOPD to compile and disclose data to members of the press and public in a monthly "Crime Report Card"
- Requirements of performance and accountability standards across the range of criminal justice agencies, not just the NOPD.
- Execute a dialogue about citywide performance measures for all areas of criminal justice, to address root causes of crime.
- Create a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) executed among all parties in the criminal justice process to share with each other and with the public, all data necessary to assess effectiveness and implement changes.

GENERATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Coordinate a strategy to generate new business activity, support existing businesses and to attract new companies, more jobs and increased economic investment.
- New Public-Create Private Economic Development Partnership.

IMPLEMENTING CITY

Create a better way to conduct this essential function of city gov-

More open budgeting, more fiscal responsibility.

Propose an ordinance that places budget reforms in the City Code and in the Home Rule Char-

Invite participation by all stakeholders in an open public process for setting budget priorities.

STOPPING CORRUPTION

- Reform city contracting, reduce corruption.
- Reform process for the procurement of professional services contracts throughout all executive branch departments, while also maintaining the City's commitment to DBE hiring goals.
- Establish evaluation committees to review proposals in an open public forum for transpar-
- Call upon members of the City Council to implement comparable reforms in awarding professional services contracts by the legislative branch of city government.
- Proposition on Fall 2010 elections ballot to unite executive and legislative branch procurement policies in a single reformed procedure, or any public entity.

REBUILDING NEIGHBORHOODS

- More Sheriff Sales, less blight
- Enact Executive Order to make Sheriff House Sales a priority in eradicating blight.
- Hold monthly auctions on properties where owners have ignored administrative orders to make repairs.
- City agencies make available to homeowners all appropriate counseling services and financial assistance to support them in making repairs and maintaining their properties in accordance with housing code requirements.
- Work cooperatively with the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) in devising a coordinated strategy to eradicate blight.
- NORA should repair or demolish and put back into commerce as soon as possible property acquired through the Road Home Program.

CANDIDATE NADINE M. RAMSEY **DEMOCRAT**

Nadine M. Ramsey, a proud native of New Orleans, was born October 17, 1955. She graduated from the Academy of Holy Angels High School and went on to attend Newcomb College where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1977. Her next edu-

cational endeavor was law school. She attended Cornell Law School in Ithaca, New York for one year where she was the recipient of the American Jurisprudence Prize in Constitutional Law, thereafter; she transferred to Tulane University School of Law where she received her Juris Doctor of Law degree in 1980.

Nadine started her professional career serving the State of Louisiana and the City of New Orleans, first as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Louisiana and then as an Assistant City Attorney. As an Assistant City Attorney she was a member of the legislative staff, which developed the City's legislative package. She was also responsible for serving as the City's liaison to the state legislature and was on the land use and zoning team.

During her professional career Nadine also served as a Law Clerk to the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal. From 1987-1996 she was engaged in the private

practice of law. During that time she also served as General Counsel for the Louisiana Health Care Authority.

During those years of private practice, Nadine had the opportunity to serve as Judge Pro-Tempore to the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court. She so enjoyed her time serving the public that it inspired her to run for public office. In 1996 she launched her first bid for public office with her run for an open district court judicial seat. Nadine was elected to the Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, Division "J" on January 1, 1997.

During her tenure on the bench, Judge Ramsey adjudicated cases as a domestic judge and civil judge. She presided over cases involving simple, as well as complex litigation, including but not limited to, class actions involving toxic torts, contract disputes, expropriation of blighted properties and city tax and public bid laws. She was a knowledgeable, fair, impartial and efficient jurist who

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There's no one better to get the job done.

Vote Jon Johnson #54 on Saturday, February 6th

www.votejonjohnson.com

Commentary

Is it the End of the World?

By Kingfish

"Pigs are flying and hell has frozen over" said Jim Henderson of WWl radio as the football goes thru the uprights, advancing the New Orleans Saints to Super bowl XLIV! First off, IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS (until the Saints win the Super Bowl)!

The NFC Championship of 2010 will go down as one of the greatest in NFL history. This was a hard fought battle between two strong willed football teams. This is evident by the overtime victory and score of 31 to 28. Except for the first quarter and ending overtime score the Saints and Vikings were tied after each quarter. These teams went blow for blow the entire game with no let up. Truly an example of a gladiators clashing in battle with seemingly the entire world watching and the Saints reigning victorious, Yes the Saints! No they didn't fumble at the end. They didn't give up in the fourth quarter. They didn't panic with one minute left and the legendary Brett Favre driving the field for the game winning field goal or in Saint's history, over the top for a touchdown with 5 seconds left on the clock. They didn't muff the snap for the field goal. They marched down the field and gave our new beloved son Garrett Hartley the opportunity to do what no other New Orleans Saint has ever been able to do. Put this special Saints team and this city into the Promised Land, the Super Bowl baby!

Next on the list are Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts. At first I thought the city might be separated or even feeling a little strained with choosing whom to root for, Manning or the Saints....but not so much. This decision probably came easy with news last week that famed rapper and New Orleanian LI'L Wayne was going with the Vikings because he was a Brett Favre fan. I know most people's initial reaction was WTF?, but I personally believe he was under the influence of his cup, and we know how much he loves his cup! This week it seems to be clear where the lines have been drawn. "Mannings, we love you but by total count yawl have two rings. It's our time!"

Since we're talking numbers, a friend of mine brought to my attention that it was quite a coincidence that our 44th President is black and the Saints are in the 44th Super Bowl. Yes a little ironic, and maybe because the 44th President Mr. Obama picked the Saints to win it could be an emotional, even cosmic push, but not the end of the world.

As I left the dome there were so many cheers and well wishes filled with all the excitement one could fit in their body. I came across a longtime fan, Ms. Lisa Felton, as I approached she kept bellowing out "the world must be comin to an end, the Saints are in the Super Bowl!" Along with the quote from Jim Henderson you can see that the overall consensus is that, this would never, ever happen in our life-



time. Well my Friends and fellow fans it has, and it ain't over yet!

The New Orleans Saints have daunting task of not believing in themselves to much, but enough to know they can win. Wow, what an emotional roller coaster that must be!? The Saints have to remember what got them here, one team focus and believing in each other. They cannot get caught up in the hype of the game, that's for us fans. A reassurance of their focus for me came after the game. In the locker room there was no champagne, no beer being sprayed all over the players. Yes, celebratory with hats and t-shirts (they earned) but not as though the battle or war was over. As our

fearless leader Drew Brees said, "This is great but were not finished!

My fellow friends, fans and Saints Nation, there is still unfinished business. On February 7th the world will be watching to see if the new "America's Team" can upset the crafty veteran who almost plays "rain man like" on the biggest stage in national sports. I for one have no reservations on the outcome of this game. This city knows one or two things about inevitability, or the force of nature, and that's exactly " something wicked that way comes" towards Miami, Florida Super Bowl weekend. To Brees and all the Bayou Boys God speed, health and Victory!

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rendered her decisions based on the facts, law and evidence that were presented to the court. Judge Ramsey was honored to serve as Chief Judge in 2007 and 2008.

Very active in various professional and civic organizations, she is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, American Bar Association, National Bar Association, American Judges Association and Louis Martinet Legal Society. She is Past President and member of the New

Orleans Chapter of Links, Inc., past president and former board member of the Fourth and Fifth Circuit Judges Association. She is a former member of the Louisiana State Bar Association Disciplinary Board and served on the Board of Advisors for the New Orleans Children Advocacy Programs.

Her past fellowships include Louisiana Bar Founda-

tion Fellow and Association of Trial Lawyers of America Judicial Fellow. She currently serves as an examiner for the Louisiana State Bar Association Committee on Bar Admissions.

Among the honors and awards she has received are the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Community Service Award, Black Achiever in Business and Industry Award, Urban Essence Award, Positive Women and Men Award and St. Philip Community Center Mentoring and Volunteer Award. She was named a YWCA role model and in 1982 was selected by the Times Picayune as one of the "Women to Watch" in the Greater New Orleans Community.

Furthering her commitment to serve her community and profession, she is frequently called upon to speak at conferences and professional continuing legal education seminars.

Nadine M. Ramsey is married to Craig Peters.

PLATFORM

CRIME

- Institutionalizing foot patrols by members of the New Orleans Police Department
- Conducting a national search for a new Superintendent for the New Orleans Police Department focusing on foot patrols
- Funding of neighborhood organizations in the fight to reduce crime reduce blight
- Financial support for an effective witness protection program
- Engage Faith Based Community in fight against criminal activity

CITY BUDGET

• Institute monthly review of City budget publicly and ap-

- point a Budget Task Force
- Review City's participation in tax reduction, incentive and avoidance programs
- Conduct thorough review of collection of sales and property tax revenues in the City of New Orleans
- Appoint a Task Force to analyze collection and distribution of City tax revenues

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Creation of a Central Permitting Office and an Office of Contract Compliance
- Creation of a new Office of Women's Services with a division to assist women in the development of new Women's business enterprises
- Create an Office of Environmental Health
- Introduce competition to the City's utility services industry

Dillard, Continued from page 10.

ous debate on issues vital to our constituencies."

This Saturday the candidates will again be asked to answer questions from the community. The 20 neighborhood organizations of the Gentilly Civic Improvement Association, one of the largest coalitions of neighborhood groups in the city of New Orleans, have partnered with Dillard University's Community Development Corporation, political science faculty and students, and Student Government Association to sponsor a debate on issues of particular interest to the Gentilly community. The debate will center largely around issues of blight, education, neighborhood revitalization, economic development and crime. The debate will be held at 10:00 a.m. in Lawless Memorial Chapel.

Preceding the debate, Q93's Wild Wayne will host a town hall meeting from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the Social Room of the chapel. University students from around the city are invited to share their thoughts on the current political climate with radio listeners.



THIS IS WHAT I STAND FOR

- Economic and business opportunities for all of our busnessmen and women and and better paying jobs and economic opportunity for everyone.
- ✓ A unified city
- Excellence in city government services
- An honest, effective police department that earns the respect of all the people they serve.

I Promise You This:

- All of our businessmen and women will share equally in the millions of Recovery dollars and city work.
- I will stop the fighting in city government and start the building.
- I will recruit the best and brightest of our graduates from Xavier, Dillard and SUNO to join me in city government.

I share with you my principles. Please join me in my agenda to move our city forward. TOGETHER WE CAN!

Sincerely,

John Georges

Georges MAYOR #21

Special

Countdown to Election Day for City Council Seats

Data News Weekly Staff

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

also 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 City Council is also the regulatory body for public utilities. It reviews and has final say on many land use and zoning matters, as well as considers major economic development projects for the City. As a 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 the public access television in Orleans Parish. The City Council is comprised of five districts and two councilmembers-at-large. The following candidates have qualified and are running for the following seats on the New Orleans City Council in the February 6, 2010 elections:

Council District A



Virginia Blanque



Jay Batt



Susan Guidry



"Fred" Robertson

Council District B



Stacey Head (incumbent)



Corey Watson



itch Landrieu was born and raised in New Orleans. Now, he's raising his own family here. Every decision Mitch Landrieu makes is based on his commitment to making the city we love a better place for his five children and yours.

Mitch Landrieu brings 22 years of experience making government work for the people of New Orleans.



CRIME

- Youth Programs
- Community Policing
- Tough, Honest Police Chief

SCHOOLS

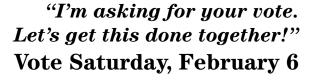
- Charter Schools
- Accountability
- Opportunities for Every Child

JOBS

- Small Business Opportunity
- Workforce Development & Training
- Growth Industries

RESULTS FOR NEW ORLEANS

- \$20 million in Rebuilding Grants to more than 500 homeowners, many in the 9th Ward
- Juvenile Justice Reform
- Funding Youth Education Programs
- Rebuilding Playgrounds with volunteers
- Tax Incentives to help rebuild neighborhoods
- Investing in our Culture
- Recovery of the Tourism Industry and the 70,000 jobs it creates
- Bringing the Essence Festival back home







Data News Weekly Special

Council District C



Kristen Gisleson-Palmer Nathaniel Jones (Not Pictured)



Tom Arnold

Carlos James Williams, Jr. (Not Pictured)

Council District D



Cynthia Hedge-Morrell (incumbent)



Denise Holden

Council District E



Austin Badon



Jerrelda Drummer-Sanders



Jon Johnson



Alicia Plummer

Cindy Nguyen (Not Pictured)

Leonard Lucas (Not Pictured)

City Council At-Large



Arnie Fielkow (incumbent)



Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson (incumbent)



Cynthia Willard-Lewis (current council member, District E)



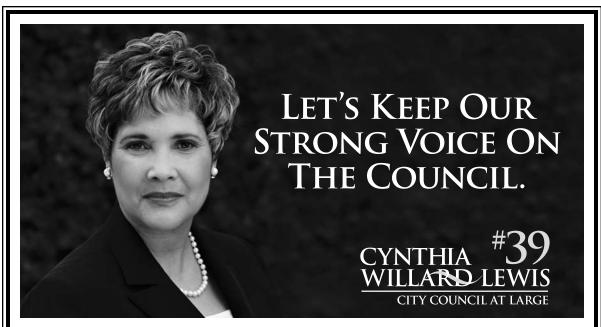
Gregory "Chef" Sonnier



Nolan Marshall

William "Poppa" **Gant (Not Pictured)**

William "Lance" Von Uhde, III (Not Pictured)



Since Katrina, Cynthia Willard Lewis has been the strongest voice for the average citizen on our city council. Time and time again she stood up to the powerful special interests who wanted to reduce the city's footprint - and abandon our neighborhoods. She has consistently fought to bring back all of new Orleans and she is fighting now to make sure that citizens get to vote and have the final say on the proposed Master Plan for the city.

Cynthia Willard-Lewis created the successful Lot Next Door Program to help citizens fight blight. And when the city council voted to double their own salaries, Cynthia stood up to oppose them, saying she believes that police, fire fighters and teachers deserve raises, not politicians.

Quietly courageous, unfailingly courteous, never intimidated. She is the conscience of the city council and we cannot afford to lose her.

Elect Cynthia Willard Lewis Councilman at Large.

ENDORSED BY:





Paid for by the Cynthia Willard Lewis Campaign



START THE NEW YEAR WITH A GREAT DEAL.

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EPA EST. 33 MPG HWY. BETTER HWY. FUEL ECONOMY THAN A COMPARABLE HONDA ACCORD AND TOYOTA CAMRY¹

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EPA EST. 24 MPG HWY.
BEST FUEL ECONOMY OF ANY
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OF A 1999 OR NEWER VEHICLE

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ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
 Whichever comes first. See dealer for details



1 EPA est. MPG hwy.: Malibu (with 2.4L 4-cyl. engine) 33 vs. Accord 31 and Camry 32. 2 Monthly payment is \$16.67 for every \$1,000 financed. Example down payment: 11%. Some customers will not qualify. Not available with other offers. Take delivery by 2/1/10. 3 Savings compare 0% APR to a Bankrate, Inc., national average bank loan rate. 4 Dependability based on longevity: 1981-July 2009 full-size pickup registrations. 5 Monthly payment is \$13.89 for every \$1,000 financed. Example down payment: 19%. Some customers will not qualify. Not available with other offers. Take delivery by 2/1/10. 6 EPA est. MPG (FWD) 17 city, 24 hwy. 7 Includes all offers. See dealer for details. Take delivery by 2/1/10. 8 Visit onstar.com for coverage map, details, and system limitations. Services vary by model and conditions. ©2010 OnStar. All rights reserved. ©2010 General Motors.