

JARED C. BROSSETT  
COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT "D"

NEW ORLEANS  
CITY COUNCIL  
2014-2015  
ANNUAL REPORT





**Jared C. Brossett, Councilmember District D**

**Councilmember Jared C. Brossett – District “D” Annual Report  
2014 - 2015**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Since assuming office last May, my staff and I have focused on the idea of “investments.” We have invested in our neighborhoods, our economy, our infrastructure, and our young people. These investments are bringing more equitable access to opportunity, and building a stronger, safer District “D”.

As we continue to make smart investments in these critical areas, we will continue to see the returns and rewards our District needs. I cannot think of any other time in recent years when so many neighborhoods in our District were doing so well.



District “D” Councilmember  
Jared C. Brossett

Within District “D”, we are a community of neighborhoods. Whether you are a resident of Gentilly Terrace, Melia, Pontilly, Lake Vista, Lake Terrace, Lakeshore, 7th Ward, Milneburg, St. Roch, Lake Oaks, Pines Village, Seabrook, or Bunny Friend; we are all ONE and we are all experiencing the historic revitalization of District “D”. From the job creation and economic development occurring along the Gentilly Boulevard and Elysian Fields corridor, to the affordable housing units being developed on Lafitte Street, to the preservation and restoration of the Milne Boys Home, or to the infrastructure and public works improvements occurring in every corner of the District; our community is rising.

At the beginning of my term, I realized that nothing envisioned in the walls of City Hall would succeed without community engagement; nothing would succeed without you! I want to thank you for your support and tireless commitment to improving New Orleans. Thank you for writing, calling, and emailing my office to share your thoughts on issues such as housing, transportation, education, public safety, infrastructure, and blight.

Every day, I am guided by your resiliency and determination. It has truly been a privilege to represent your interest on the City Council. Let’s continue to work together to build a stronger, safer District “D”!

Sincerely,

District “D” Councilmember Jared C. Brossett

## Community and Economic Development Projects

### **Opening of New Joseph M. Bartholomew, Sr. Clubhouse**

City, State, and Federal officials celebrated the opening of the new \$4.6 million Joseph M. Bartholomew, Sr. Club House in Pontchartrain Park. The new structure, located at 6514 Congress Drive, replaces the old facility that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

The 8,500 square foot Club House includes a pro-shop, computer classroom, community meeting space, administrative offices, and communal dining and concession areas. The facility also includes upgraded driving range lighting, a new cart storage warehouse, and restroom facilities. There is so much positive history in Pontchartrain Park and at the Joseph M. Bartholomew golf course. This new clubhouse serves as another step forward for District “D” and the entire City.



Councilmember Brossett with Parks and Parkways Director Ann E. MacDonald

### **New Daughters of Charity Health Center in Gentilly**

Daughters of Charity Health Centers (DCHC) recently opened its newest location in Gentilly. The facility, located at 100 Warrington Drive on the campus of Dillard University, offers a full-service preventive and primary care health practice, including primary care for children, adults and seniors, behavioral health services, pediatric care, and prenatal services. With the addition of Daughters of Charity to the community, residents of District “D” now have access to high-quality, comprehensive health care services, regardless of their ability to pay.



Daughters of Charity Health Center Grand Opening

DCHC Gentilly is open to all members of the community from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### **Delgado’s Sidney-Collier Campus Open for Classes**

Since its opening in August 2014, the Delgado Sidney Collier campus has been assisting the revitalization of the Ninth Ward and all of New Orleans by helping students obtain job skills and permanent employment. The Sidney Collier campus, formerly known as the Louisiana Technical College facility, was heavily damaged during Hurricane Katrina and has been out of service since August 2005. The new location offers courses leading to an associate’s degree and transfer to four-year institutions, technical diplomas, certificates of technical study, non-credit courses, high school equivalency diploma preparation, and English as a second language instruction.



Councilmember Brossett speaking at the Delgado Sidney-Collier Campus Grand Opening

## Introduced Living Wage Ordinance

Councilmember Brossett proposed new legislation to ensure that employees of City contractors are paid a living wage, not just the federal minimum wage. Economic opportunity is one the cornerstones of a thriving City. Sadly, too many New Orleanians don't have that opportunity. A good-paying job is what citizens need. And if companies want to do business with the City of New Orleans, they should pay their employees a living wage.

## New Raising Cane's in Gentilly

The Council adopted **Ordinance Calendar No. 30,185**, authored by Councilmember Brossett, authorizing the development of Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, a restaurant in Gentilly. The restaurant group averages 63.5 new jobs per restaurant and received over 600 applications for the Gentilly location alone - 60 of the applicants were hired. In 2013, all Raising Cane's locations in New Orleans brought in over \$11 million in sales tax revenue and that amount is only expected to increase due to the 6 new restaurants that opened in the New Orleans area from May 2014 to January 2015.



Councilmember Brossett with Raising Cane's Representative Lynn Young

## Gentilly Walmart Serving District "D"

The new Walmart located at 4301 Chef Menteur Highway has brought more than 118,000 square feet of low-priced shopping, with features such as fresh produce and a full-service pharmacy. The store also provides more than 250 jobs to local residents, supports the City's goals for hiring disadvantaged and minority-owned small businesses in all Walmart activities, and generates millions in new tax revenue for the City of New Orleans.



## Construction of Lafitte Senior Housing Apartments Underway

Construction began on the Lafitte Senior Housing apartments in January 2015 and is expected to be completed in July 2016. This \$22 million senior housing facility, which is funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will include approximately 100 apartments.



Architect renderings of Lafitte Senior Housing Center

## Development of Corpus Christi-Epiphany 7th Ward Community Center Continues

Expected to open in the Summer of 2015, the new Corpus Christi-Epiphany 7th Ward Community Center will serve as an anchor for community investment and sustainable redevelopment, improving the quality of life for all residents in the Seventh Ward and New Orleans as a whole. This project will also help restore the Seventh Ward to its historic role as a social, cultural, spiritual and economic hub of the African-American community, and help community leaders address many of the challenges New Orleans faces, such as unemployment and crime.



Demetric Mercadel, Entergy New Orleans; Michael Smith, Peoples Health; Councilmember Brossett; Fr. Charles Andrus, SSJ; Archbishop Gregory Aymond; and Fr. Roderick J.D. Coates, SSJ



## Community Engagement

### **Councilmember Brossett Hosted Youth Roundtable Focused on Ending Youth Violence**

In October 2014, Councilmember Brossett partnered with the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) to host a roundtable discussion, entitled “Building Bridges for Youth Empowerment,” with young people from District “D”. The purpose of the roundtable was to hear directly from and engage with youth, who are at risk of or involved in delinquent or criminal activity, in order to come up with real, meaningful and long-lasting solutions to one of the City of New Orleans’ most entrenched problems - youth violence.



Preventing violent crime in New Orleans will not happen until young people are fully engaged and the underlying issues that are connected with youth violence are addressed. Too many youth have been disengaged and discounted from the City’s growth and resurgence. The roundtable helped the attendees see their own capacity to address the challenges they face and contribute to the betterment of New Orleans.

### **Hosted First Annual Senior Citizens’ Thanksgiving Luncheon**

Councilmember Brossett hosted his First Annual Senior Citizens’ Thanksgiving Luncheon at the Pavilion of Two Sisters in City Park on November 17, 2014. The event accommodated over 250 senior citizens who reside in District “D”. Due to an outpouring of donations and the assistance of many volunteers who shared their time and talent, Councilmember Brossett provided seniors with the well-balanced Thanksgiving meal they so richly deserved. Entertainment for the event was provided by New Orleans’ own, Robin Barnes, and international artist, Gina Brown.



## Blight Reduction Programs

### **New Orleans Redevelopment Authority in District “D”**

The New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) has returned 1,592 of 2,444 in District “D” back to commerce, leaving only 852 properties in its inventory. The 1,592 properties have been returned to commerce via Auction (365), sales to Housing Developers (633), the Lot Next Door program (586), and Alternative Land Use program(8). Of the 852 in NORA’s inventory, 345 are in the disposition process or set aside for an active program, leaving 503 properties available. NORA has supported the development of 704 housing units in District “D” for low and moderate income families by partnering with housing developers who renovate or build new high-quality housing.



Before



After

In District “D”, NORA has invested \$4.3 million in commercial revitalization projects with total development costs of \$16 million that will have a catalytic effect on key commercial corridors, create jobs, and attract private investment. NORA also provides façade improvement grants to small businesses and property owners to enhance business districts and improve quality of life. Since many NORA properties will not be returned to commerce in the near term due to weak demand, NORA Green projects use vacant land to temporarily detain storm water to reduce flood risk and increase water quality, to create beautiful open spaces for community use, and reduce NORA’s long-term maintenance costs.

### **Lot Maintenance Program**

The Lot Maintenance Program allows the City to cut high grass and remove debris from a property after giving the owner seven-days-notice. The City of New Orleans performed 83 initial cuts and 40 routine maintenance cuts on blighted lots in District “D” since the inception of the Lot Maintenance Program in August 2014. Of the 153 total inspections performed, 83 were sent to vendor for initial cut, 38 were complaints, and 31 were referred to the Collaborative Nuisance Abatement Program (CNAP), the City’s lot clearing program.

## Infrastructure Repairs and Improvements

### **Water Line Replacement Program**

The intent of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Water Line Replacement Program is to restore the City's water distribution system. This project is part of a larger City-wide, multi-year infrastructure repair and recovery effort funded by FEMA.

A significant level of planning and coordination between the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Sewerage and Water Board, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), and FEMA is necessary to ensure the City of New Orleans is maximizing available funding.

FEMA worked with S&WB and DPW to develop a systematic, cost effective approach to restore the distribution system. Approximately 135 miles of water lines qualified for replacement citywide. The total estimated value of the FEMA-funded Water Line Replacement Project is \$124 million. The S&WB is coordinating design activities with DPW's Recovery Roads Program, in order that a majority of water lines will be replaced concurrently with the Recovery Roads Program.



Councilmember Brossett with S&WB Representative Robert Jackson

### **Street Repairs and Street Light Conversion Updates**

The Cartier Avenue Reconstruction Project, from Mirabeau to Filmore Avenue, began in January 2015. Replacement of the drainage lines are approximately 40% complete and approximately 30% of the entire project is complete. The project is scheduled to be completed in late 2015.

The St. Bernard Avenue Reconstruction Project, a roadway and subsurface utility improvement project, began in April 2015, and will last through spring 2016. The project will greatly improve the conditions of St. Bernard Avenue between Filmore Avenue and Robert E. Lee Blvd.

Construction on N. Galvez (Orleans to Elysian Fields) and Downman Rd. (Babylon to Odin) began June 2014, and road repairs and permanent striping reached completion in October 2014.

\$159,839,323.58 is budgeted to restore and repair roads and sidewalks in District "D" through the FEMA-funded Recovery Roads Program. \$2 million is budgeted to procure new equipment to enhance DPW services, including 6 dump trucks, 1 front-end loader, 1 tandem dump truck, 1 platform truck, 1 road grader and 7 pick-up trucks.

Since taking office, 6,187 streetlights have been converted to LED, 657 streetlights repaired via routine maintenance or warranty, and 7 knocked down streetlights replaced in District "D".



## Public Service Awards

### **Earl J. Amedee Award for Public Service**

Councilmember Brossett was the recipient of the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society's Earl J. Amedee Award for Public Service. Named in honor of the first Black Assistant District Attorney in Orleans Parish, the award is bestowed upon a member of the community whose efforts have advanced the cause of justice.

Earl J. Amedee was a pioneer before his time. He lived a service-driven life and espoused the qualities of good citizenship, public service, justice and courage, and these are the qualities that Councilmember Brossett relies as he serves the citizens of New Orleans.



Judge Kern Reese, Councilmember Brossett and Rachael Johnson, President of the Martinet Society

### **Legislative Leadership Award**

Councilmember Brossett was honored by Citizens for 1 New Orleans, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to the reform and renewal of both the City and State. During their Legislative Appreciation Luncheon, Brossett received the Legislator Leadership Award for his commitment and leadership while serving in the Louisiana House of Representatives.

Councilmember Brossett authored legislation expanding the capacity of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, turning NOCCA into a full time high school. He successfully passed legislation that made it possible for property owners in Orleans Parish to permanently register for the homestead exemption. His legislation has also improved mental health care and increased the severity of penalties for violent offenders.



Laura Politz, Councilmember Brossett and Ruthie Frierson at the Legislative Appreciation Luncheon

## Legislative Accomplishments

### **Strengthened DBE Reporting Requirements**

In a unanimous vote, the Council adopted **Ordinance Calendar No. 30,497**, authored by Councilmember Brossett, specifying stronger Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) reporting requirements.

Each year all City departments, agencies, attached and unattached boards, commissions, and corporations that utilize public funding or incentives must submit an annual report to the CAO during the Council's annual budget process, identifying their DBE goals and attainment rates for the prior two years.

The ordinance is the first step of many to strengthen the laws that govern the City's DBE program by increasing transparency, accountability and public trust in the administrative procurement process.

### **Community Policing Grant Resolution**

In June 2014, the Council passed **Resolution R-14-261**, authored by Councilmember Brossett, urging the Mayor to apply for a Fiscal Year 2014 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant on behalf of the City of New Orleans.

Soon after the resolution was passed, the U.S. Department of Justice awarded the City a \$1.875M COPS grant to help support the NOPD's community policing strategies and violent crime initiatives. Community policing techniques complement the strategies and tactics currently used in New Orleans for crime prevention. These grant funds will directly support programs tailored to address the specific needs of neighborhoods throughout our City.

### **Approved City's 2015 Capital and General Fund Budget**

The New Orleans City Council approved the City's 2015 Capital and General Fund budgets, totaling \$265M and \$536.9M respectively. The balanced budget is funding a 5% police pay raise for NOPD offices, the hiring of 150 new police officers, and a minimum wage increase to \$10.10 an hour for City employees. The Council also allocated funds for Public Works machinery so the City can finally unclog more drains and fill more potholes.

## **New State-of-the-Art Elementary School Coming to District “D”**

The City Council approved the construction of a new state-of-the-art elementary school in District “D”. The new school will be located in the Pines Village area at the site of the old Ray Abrams Elementary School, which was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and demolished in 2008. Once constructed, the school will be available to approximately 1,200 students in grades pre-k through eighth.



Site Plans for the Ray Abrams Elementary School

The new 3-story building will be home to forty classrooms, two special education classrooms, five labs, a library, a dining facility and a gymnasium that will double as an auditorium. The proposed school will be located next to Digby Playground, which will serve as a complementary use for the school.

Young people in the Pines Village area will soon be able to receive a prime education without having to commute long distances. The new school will not only help educate the children in the area, but will also provide many social and economic benefits to the residents in the surrounding areas.

## **Desire Street Community Health and Wellness Center in the Ninth Ward**

Recently, the City Council approved the development of the Desire Community Health and Wellness Center (DCHWC) in the Upper Ninth Ward. The new community center’s mission is to ensure opportunities for families and individuals to experience a healthy, sustainable, and productive lifestyle.



Architectural renderings of the DCHWC

The DCHWC is a collaboration of the Abundance of Desire Community Center, the Daughters of Charity Medical Clinic, and the Kids of Excellence Early Childhood Center. The Abundance of Desire Community Center (ADCC) will address the needs of the community by providing recreation, early childhood and adult education, and nutrition and wellness programs. The Daughters of Charity Medical Clinic will increase access to health resources with a full-service primary and preventive care practice, including women’s health (OB/GYN and prenatal services), primary care for children, adults and seniors, behavioral health services, and other health resources. Kids of Excellence Early Childhood Center will provide quality childcare to families in the area. The center will serve children 6 weeks to 10 years of age with school readiness curriculum, nutritional meals and unique field trips.

The economic impact of this development will certainly have a long-term positive effect on this neighborhood and the entire Upper Ninth Ward. The momentum of this project, along with the new Delgado Community College-Sidney Collier campus, will open the doors for many business and commercial opportunities in the Ninth Ward.

## **Council Approved Expansion of Edible Schoolyard at Arthur Ashe Elementary**

The Council recently authorized a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the City, the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC), and FirstLine Charter Schools, relative to the Arthur Ashe Oak Park Edible Schoolyard Garden.

The agreement will allow FirstLine’s Arthur Ashe Charter School to expand the Edible Schoolyard Garden located in the City owned Oak Park. Plans for the park include the construction of a greenhouse, expanded annual vegetable and production beds, expanded orchard area, and an open-air pavilion. The project will utilize resources made available by Edible Schoolyard New Orleans, one of the nation’s most extensive school garden networks.

The expansion of the Arthur Ashe Edible Schoolyard Garden will not only improve Oak Park but will also continue to teach and encourage students how to lead healthy, happy, and sustainable lives.



## **Redevelopment of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church and Vaucresson Sausage Company in 7th Ward**

The Council approved a zoning change clearing the way for the redevelopment of Our Lady of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church and the Vaucresson Sausage Company property on St. Bernard Avenue in the 7th Ward. This mixed-income housing and community based retail project will bring back the Sacred Heart Church, which has been vacant for the past 30 years, and revitalizes an area that is underserved.



Architectural Rendering of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church and Vaucresson Sausage Company

This project also includes the restoration of the historic Vaucresson Sausage Company property, which ceased operations at this site due to the flooding caused by Katrina.

The redevelopment of these iconic properties will revitalize a historic and culturally rich community and provide immediate employment opportunities for local residents.

## **Council Approved \$1.7M Appropriation for Streetlights**

The Council adopted **Ordinance Calendar No. 30,208**, co-authored by Councilmembers Head, Brossett, Cantrell, Guidry and Williams, to amend the 2014 Capital Budget, to appropriate \$1.7M to the Department of Public Works for streetlight infrastructure.

The funds come from the Capital Infrastructure Fund, a millage set up in 1995 for capital projects and equipment purchases. The \$1.7M is the remaining amount of unallocated funds from this millage for 2014.

These funds are to be used for the infrastructure portion of the City's streetlights, including but not limited to the streetlight poles and internal wiring.

## **Established Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Advisory Committee**

The Council adopted **Ordinance Calendar No. 30,527**, authored by Councilmember Brossett, establishing the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will work to increase public awareness and understanding of traffic laws, identify infrastructure gaps, strategically plan for all forms of transportation, and make recommendations on how the City of New Orleans can safely integrate walking and cycling routes into its existing transportation system.

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

As a member of the Utility, Cable, Telecommunications and Technology Committee, Councilmember Brossett is working hard to keep your rates low and improve service. In 2014, ratepayers saved \$13 million on energy bills through Entergy's membership in MISO, a regional transmission and distribution management organization. Energy rates did not increase and New Orleanians still pay amongst the lowest utility rates in the country. EnergySmart, a program of Entergy and the City Council, is helping to improve energy efficiency, and won an Energy Star award from the U.S. EPA. Additionally, the Council has approved new sources of power generation for Entergy, which will save ratepayers money and improve long-term system reliability.



## Transportation Improvements

### **Allowed Operation of Transportation Network Companies**

Councilmember Brossett led the charge to allow technology-based transportation companies to compliment and improve our taxi system. Ride-sharing companies have the potential to revolutionize and enhance the City's transportation infrastructure. This action by the City Council, creating definitions and regulations for the operations of Transportation Network Companies (TNC) and TNC for-hire vehicles signals a tremendous technological step forward for the City of New Orleans.



Councilmembers Brossett and Guidry with Mayor Landrieu for the signing of New Ride Share Legislation

### **RTA Expanded Routes and Service Hours**

The Regional Transit Authority added and restored bus routes in Gentilly and throughout several other neighborhoods in New Orleans, increased bus frequency and expanded service hours as part of a plan to enhance customer service. The service changes significantly increase service options for riders living in and traveling to neighborhoods that are frequently underserved.

### **New Terminal at Louis Armstrong International Airport**

As Airport and Transportation Committee chairman, Councilmember Brossett is helping to oversee the construction planning process for the new North Terminal at Louis Armstrong International Airport. The terminal design is expected to be completed by July 31st. Construction will run from the end of 2015 to 2018.



Architectural renderings of new terminal building

The project is expected to employ upwards of 13,000 workers over the course of the construction. The new terminal will allow the airport to operate more efficiently and expand its operations to the benefit of the local economy and local travelers. It is being financed through the issuance of \$700,000,000 in Revenue Bonds and a Revolving Credit Facility not-to-exceed \$75,000,000.

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