



MESSAGE FROM **DISTRICT A COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH I. GIARRUSSO III**



Dear Neighbors,

There is no doubt COVID has changed the City’s budget outlook for 2021. The City’s sales tax revenues are much lower than expected. But, there are ways to utilize available funds best to provide basic public services without detriment to public safety and health. My top priorities include sufficient funding for ensuring public safety comes first. As the budget hearings develop this week, we will ask about all of those critical agencies.

Every year, city departments present their budget requests and projections to City Council in a series of “budget hearings.” My office digs deep into the proposed budget requests to ensure public money is slated for the best and highest use. You can

watch those hearings online at council.nola.gov.

As always, please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns at Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov or 504.658.1010.

Best,

Joe

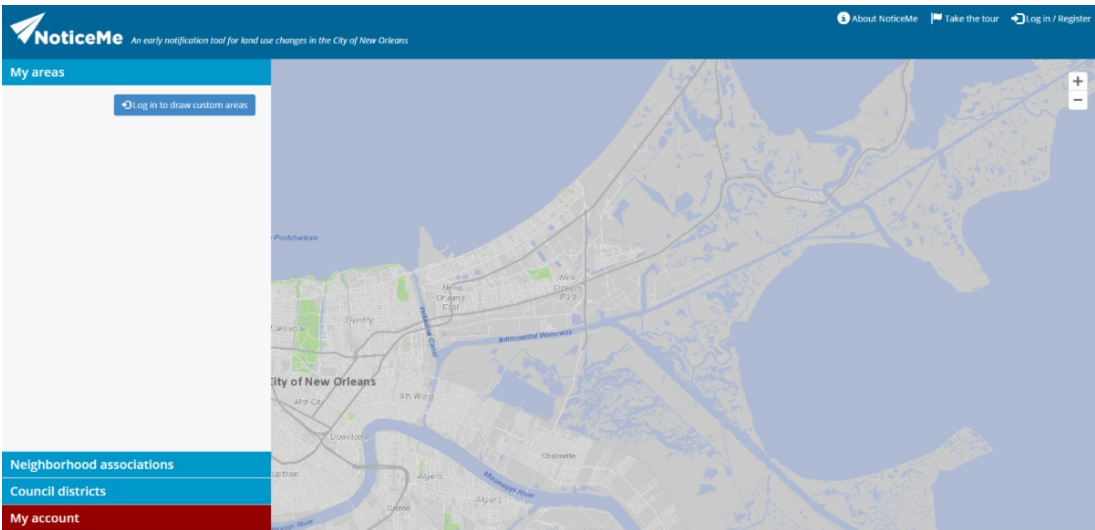
Legislative Updates

One of the biggest issues I hear from residents is the lack of notice before construction projects begin in their neighborhood. Most permitted construction and renovations don’t require any neighbor notice, only those seeking a substantial change, such as conditional uses or upzoning.

Now, after working with the Administration, all residential new construction and renovation permits will be noticed virtually via the City’s NoticeMe platform. This will allow residents to know when – and what – construction is permitted.

This new feature will be integrated into NoticeMe within three months. In the meantime, I encourage anyone interested in land use or development to subscribe to NoticeMe [here](#).

You can limit notices to properties within your neighborhood or even whole Council districts.



Established Multi-Family Land Conditional Uses

It is the government's job to make things easier and better for everyone. That's why I authored an ordinance, along with Councilmember Banks, creating an easier pathway for families seeking to bring their generational homes back into commerce.

Before my revision, conditional Use application fees for established multi-family residences ranged from \$1,160 to nearly \$5,000. My ordinance, which the Council unanimously approved in October, reduces the initial fee to \$500 plus a slightly higher fee for any addition in footprint. These reduced fees allow the city to provide services that help families re-establish multi-family homes without spending thousands of dollars in application fees.

You can read more about this new legislation [here](#).

Complete Streets/Truck Routes

Many residents were upset by the lane shrinkage on Marconi and the temporary closure of Moss Street earlier this year. As part of the City's Complete Streets program, we've worked with the Administration to create structured notices to the public when any street plans for substantive change. You can see a presentation of the Administration's new public notice [implementation here](#). That public engagement policy, pushed for by my office, is reflected in the **Chief Administrative Officer's policy memorandum**, which you can see [here](#).

For years, my office has been pushing for increased enforcement and more explicit identification of truck routes within residential neighborhoods. We've worked with the Administration to tighten up these routes and increase enforcement. The Department of Public Works will also be required to report on enforcement efforts annually. On Thursday, September 17, the Council unanimously adopted an ordinance clarifying, editing, and enforcing truck routes across the city.

This [ordinance](#) requires annual permitting reports, corrects street names, specifies boundaries, creates small extensions to connect existing routes, and removes streets no longer serving as truck routes. The Administration prepared an illustrative presentation, which you can find [here](#). There's also a new Trucks and Oversized Vehicle webpage, which will be updated with resources as we move forward.

Neighborhood Spotlight

The Central Carrollton Association, in partnership with Waterwise NOLA, installed a neighborhood rain garden and rain barrel at Faith New Orleans. The barrel and garden will serve as an example of how small communities can make significant impacts on green space and drainage. This project was possible through a \$1,000 grant from the city's Cleanup NOLA project and many volunteers.



Our next newsletter will be after budget season.
I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Questions or concerns? Contact my office at (504) 658-1010 or email me at Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov and continue to follow along on my social media pages below.



New Orleans City Council
Councilmember Joseph I. Giarrusso, District A