



Joseph I. Giarrusso III
New Orleans City Council
District A



Friends,

We’re gearing up for the 2024 city budget process, which will formally kick off on October 25 when the Mayor presents the budget publicly. The full budget hearing schedule is below. Additionally, I want to touch on two recently approved City Charter amendments, a small tweak to how you’ll see changes to the City’s existing laws and a public meeting on the redevelopment of the Sophie Gumbel House.

Best,

2024 BUDGET HEARINGS SCHEDULE

The City Council will receive the Administration’s proposed 2024 budget on October 25. By law, we must wait five days before public hearings can start. This year, departmental hearings will begin on October 31 and end on November 14.

All meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. and are open to the public. They will also be streamed on the Council’s YouTube page [linked here](#). Please see below for the full schedule:

[2024 Budget Hearing Schedule](#)

CITY CHARTER AMENDMENTS

This month, voters approved two New Orleans Home Rule Charter amendments. I want to thank Mayor Cantrell’s administration and my colleagues for supporting these amendments. Both will become effective in 2024.

The first charter amendment moves the date the City Council receives the annual budget from November 1 to October 1, allowing an extra month for review, participation, and engagement. In past years, the Council only had roughly 12 working days to hold departmental hearings and deliberate the \$1.5 billion budget. This left little time for public participation outside formal public hearings that could last up to 8 hours. Now, these hearings can be spread across two months with much more time for engagement and discussion.

The second change approved by voters creates a single, uniform Code Enforcement Department. As it stands now, Code Enforcement’s duties and funding are spread through a number of other departments. Code Enforcement is responsible for fighting blight, cutting overgrown lots, removing graffiti, policing abandoned or unsafe pools, demolishing homes in “Imminent Danger Conditions,” and partially managing the new Healthy Homes rental program. These are essential elements of a functioning city and a significant part of public safety and building healthy communities. And yet, the department does not have a single defined leader, funding source, or source for ultimate accountability. This charter change establishes Code Enforcement as its own office, with its own funding and a single, dedicated director.

2023 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

**GIVE THE PUBLIC & CITY OFFICIALS
MORE TIME TO REVIEW THE BUDGET**



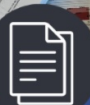
MORE TIME

More time to work with everyone.



MORE STUDY

Consideration of \$1.5 billion budget.



**MORE
TRANSPARENCY**

See where your tax dollars go.



**CREATE A SINGLE CODE
ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT**



LESS RED TAPE

One department instead of many.



ONE BUDGET

Easier to track spending & keeps all money in one place.



ONE DIRECTOR

With one dedicated function and staff.

CHANGES TO CITY CODE ORDINANCES

Earlier this year, I passed legislation to help the public more easily understand changes to the city’s existing laws, called “code.” Amendments to existing city codes must now be presented in a “redline” form so everyone can more easily understand what is being added or removed. This legislation was passed with

the support of all Councilmembers. It is a small change, but hopefully, one that will lead to more transparency.

Here is an example of what you would see going forward:

3. This off-street parking requirement shall not apply to new construction dwelling units with ~~four (4)~~ **three (3)** or fewer bedrooms, or renovations of existing dwelling units where the total number of bedrooms is ~~four (4)~~ **three (3) or fewer** or fewer as determined by the Department of Safety and Permits.
4. ~~This off-street parking requirement shall not apply to any new construction dwelling units where the total number of full bathrooms is less than three (3) per dwelling unit, or renovations of existing dwelling units where the total number of full bathrooms is less than three (3), as determined by the Department of Safety and Permits. Any increase in bathrooms where the total number is more than two full and one half (2.5) per dwelling unit shall be prohibited in this overlay, as determined by the Department of Safety and Permits.~~

SOPHIE GUMBEL HOUSE REDEVELOPMENT

The Sophie Gumbel House (5700 Loyola Ave.) has been vacant for several years. The City is in the process of preparing the property for redevelopment. The City will be holding a community meeting to provide residents and interested parties with information on the timeline of redevelopment, as well as give neighbors an opportunity to ask questions and voice their desires for the future of the site. Here is the information about that meeting:



City of New Orleans
Mayor LaToya Cantrell



District A Councilman:
Joe Giarrusso

**SOPHIE GUMBEL HOUSE
REDEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY MEETING**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 23RD
6PM-7PM
TEMPLE SINAI
(6227 ST. CHARLES AVE.)**

The City of New Orleans is preparing the Sophie Gumbel House (5600 Loyola Ave.) for redevelopment. Come learn about and provide input on the upcoming changes.



For more information, please visit:
nola.gov/neoevents

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