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***Most City Council Candidates Support FORWARD NEW ORLEANS
Majority of Candidates have agreed to platform mandates***

New Orleans (January 5, 2010)– Today FORWARD NEW ORLEANS announces the response of City Council candidates to its seven-issue platform which includes reform mandates on crime, blight, city finance, economic development, city services and infrastructure, city contracting and public education.

FORWARD NEW ORLEANS is a diverse coalition of more than 30 civic, neighborhood and business organizations, which are committed to improving the quality of life in New Orleans. Over the past few weeks, City Council candidates* were given the opportunity to review and discuss FORWARD NEW ORLEANS with members of the coalition. Candidates were then asked to commit, in writing, to the measures outlined in each platform.

All candidates who participated in the interviews now have responded to FORWARD NEW ORLEANS' request for commitment. FORWARD NEW ORLEANS has created a "scorecard" that will enable voters to easily assess each candidate's position on a particular issue. The scorecard showing the responses of each candidate is attached below.

According to Gregory Rusovich, chairman of the Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region and spokesperson for FORWARD NEW ORLEANS, "With the majority support of the candidates for these reform principles, the citizens should have a real sense of optimism about the opportunity for real change after these elections."

He explains, "After the elected officials take office, we will regularly assess whether or not those elected are living up to the commitments that they made and report back to the citizens in the most clear and public way possible."

While a written commitment is a step in the right direction, action and accountability are what New Orleans needs to move forward. The municipal elections of February and March, 2010 will, to a large extent, determine the health and well-being of the City of New Orleans for years—even decades, to come.

Rusovich adds, "It is our hope that the citizens will vote for candidates based on their support of the seven FORWARD NEW ORLEANS mandates. By doing so, we will elect leaders who have pledged to move New Orleans forward.

"Our scorecard indicates that City Council candidates are indeed in alignment with the citizens, and with this perspective—this way of doing things—we can expect to see principled reform."

For more information about FORWARD New Orleans, details on all seven issues and to pledge support, citizens are encouraged to visit www.forwardneworleans.com.

**While numerous attempts were made to meet with all of the announced candidates, some candidates could not be reached or scheduled, or chose not to participate.*

Editor's note: To schedule an interview with FORWARD NEW ORLEANS please contact Betsie Gambel at betsie@gambelcommunications.com.

Forward New Orleans is a diverse, issue-focused, community initiative led by the Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region in collaboration with more than thirty civic, neighborhood and business organizations, all of which are committed to improving the quality of life in New Orleans.

Scorecard Key: Yes = Does support, No = Does not support, NR = Did not respond to request for interview or would not sign pledge

	City Council Candidate	Crime	Blight	City Finance	Economic Development	City Services/ Infrastructure	City Contracting	Public Education
At Large	Jacqueline Brechtel Clarkson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	"Arnie" D. Fielkow	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	William "Poppa" Gant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Nolan Marshall	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Gregory "Chef" Sonnier	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	"Lance" W. von Uhde III	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Cynthia Willard-Lewis	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Dist. A	John "Jay" Batt	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Virginia Blanque	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Susan G. Guidry	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	"Fred" Robertson	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Dist. B	Stacy Head	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Corey Watson	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Dist. C	"Tom" Arnold	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Kristin Gisleson Palmer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Nathaniel Jones	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Carlos James Williams Jr.	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Dist. D	Cynthia Hedge-Morrell	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Denise Holden	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Dist. E	Austin Badon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Jerrela Drummer-Sanders	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Jon Johnson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Leonard Lucas Jr.	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Cyndi Nguyen	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Alicia Plummer	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR