

MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU, MAYOR  
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

June 23, 2011

Dr. George Amedee, Chair  
City Planning Commission  
1340 Poydras Street, Suite 900  
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear Dr. Amedee,

Following the review of the City Planning Commission's process initiated to pursue the creation of a Neighborhood Participation Program, I am pleased to share with you our alternative path forward for creating a Neighborhood Participation Program. The enclosed document demonstrates how we can advance a unified vision, reflecting input from City Planning Commission staff, various City departments, including the Office of Neighborhood Engagement, and the City Council. The team worked diligently to craft a process that I believe will enable all of us to move city government towards a more responsive and efficient process.

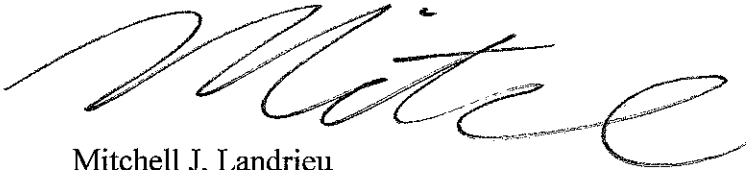
As I stated in my letter dated May 24, 2011, the Transition New Orleans Task Force that advised me before I took office last year set a high bar for neighborhood engagement. We've answered that call by developing the Office of Neighborhood Engagement. Meaningful neighborhood participation is something we are striving for across all city agencies, and I believe we are moving in the right direction. Your role in helping to further shape future engagement through a land use lens will be invaluable to our future implementation of a city government-wide neighborhood participation process. I applaud the City Planning Commission's leadership in responding to Councilmember Clarkson's Resolution No. R-10-439 of November 3, 2010. The subsequent creation of the Office of Neighborhood Engagement in the budget process that concluded in December 2010 allowed us to rethink how to better approach fulfilling the charter mandate for neighborhood participation.

In particular, rather than tasking a large assignment to a volunteer task force that reports to the City Planning Commission, the attached framework redirects the City Planning Commission's responsibility on neighborhood participation to land use decisions, while providing for collaboration with the Office of Neighborhood Engagement on the institutionalization of a neighborhood participation process that all of city government implements. Additionally, we have ensured that in moving forward we honor the energy, ideas and commitment of the community leaders who were invited to the previously envisioned task force. These individuals, with other key stakeholders, will participate in an advisory capacity, working with the administrative lead teams on both the land use participation framework and the broader neighborhood participation process.



Meaningful neighborhood participation will play a vital role in helping our city move in the direction that we all envision is possible. I look forward to seeing the results of this work in the coming months, as it will be key to building a strong foundation for a better future for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitchell J. Landrieu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Mitchell J. Landrieu  
Mayor

CC: Deputy Mayor Cedric Grant  
Deputy Mayor Judy Reese-Morse  
Deputy Mayor Andy D. Kopplin  
Commissioner Louis Volz  
Commissioner Lois Carlos-Lawrence  
Commissioner Sandra Duckworth  
Commissioner Poco Sloss  
Commissioner Kelly Brown  
Commissioner Joe Williams  
Commissioner Pamela Bryan  
Commissioner Craig Mitchell  
Executive Director Yolanda W. Rodriguez  
Deputy Director Leslie T. Alley  
Lucas Diaz, Director of Office of Neighborhood Engagement  
William Gilchrist, Director of Place-Based Planning

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