



THE COUNCIL
City of New Orleans

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 Councilmember District "E"

March 21, 2006

Most Reverend Alfred Hughes
 Archdiocese of New Orleans
 7887 Walmsley Avenue
 New Orleans, LA 70125

Your Excellency:

Please allow us to take this opportunity to thank you for the hard work you and other Archdiocesan representatives contribute to the City of New Orleans' rebuilding effort. The services provided by - and the institutions of - the Church help all of us in New Orleans face each day as we go about the arduous work of rebuilding our beloved community.

In that spirit, we want to take this opportunity to respectfully register support for the continued presence of St. Augustine Parish as a parish. All of us on the Council are aware of how strongly people throughout the entire community feel about their faith traditions and their neighborhood institutions. We also recognize that St. Augustine's influence and ministries extend far beyond its immediate community. Worshipers from the entire City, around the state, across the nation, and from all nations and all cultures find solace in visiting St. Augustine's.

On March 2, the New Orleans City Council honored Father Jerome LaDoux for his role as pastor at St. Augustine Parish. He follows in the tradition of many strong leaders representing that parish, all of whose voices have been important in preserving the cultural integrity inherent in the Treme, as well as African-American Roman Catholics' integral role in that culture.

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We urge you to reconsider the decision to close St. Augustine as a Parish and we pledge to do whatever we can to support the Parish as it continues the process of rebuilding itself after the storms.

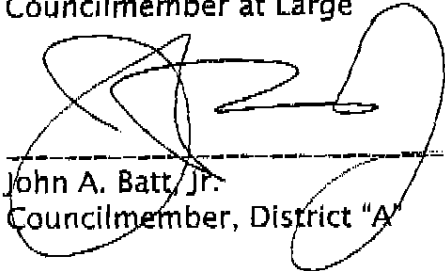
Sincerely,



Oliver M. Thomas, Jr.
Councilmember at Large



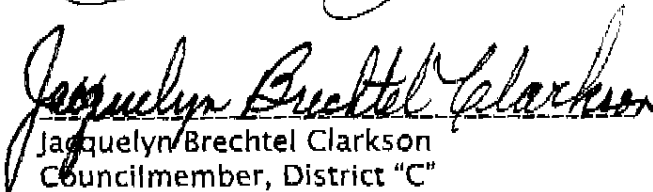
Eddie L. Sapir
Councilmember at Large



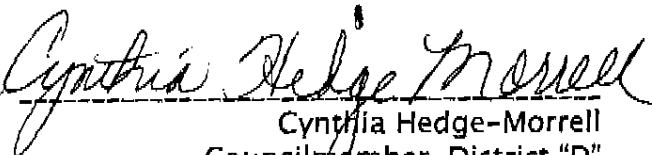
John A. Batt, Jr.
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Cynthia Willard-Lewis
Councilmember, District "E"