

**VCPORA's Weekly Vieux - May 22, 2020**

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Fri, May 22, 2020 at 5:08 PM



## VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, May 22, 2020

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*Several parklet examples provided by Councilmember Kristin Palmer's office*

## City Hall COVID-19 Efforts

### Expanded Outdoor Seating Options

Given the 25% indoor occupancy maximum for businesses during the City's Phase One COVID-19 reopening plan, efforts are being made to expand outdoor seating opportunities for restaurants.

Early this week Mayor Latoya Cantrell and the Department of Safety and Permits announced they will [temporarily suspend enforcement](#) of off-street parking requirements for restaurants and will issue temporary Sidewalk Use Permits in order to provide additional outdoor seating that is properly socially distanced.

Councilmember Kristin Palmer authored Resolution [R-20-134](#) encouraging Mayor LaToya Cantrell to design and implement a [parklet program](#) for restaurants and businesses located along commercial streets. Parklets are curbside parking areas that have been reclaimed as seating or green spaces and could allow businesses to increase their occupancy and revenues. The resolution recommends this program on Frenchmen Street, St. Claude Avenue, and commercial streets in the French Quarter.

### We want to hear from you!

What creative options do you see implementing in the French Quarter to support our neighborhood businesses as they begin to reopen?

### Hazard Pay for Essential Workers

The Council adopted two resolutions to ease the financial burden on New Orleanians still facing hardships as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Resolution [R-20-136](#), authored by Councilmember Jason Williams, supports and encourages the City's U.S. Congressional Delegation to include "hazard pay" funding for first responders, health care professionals, transit operators, grocery store clerks, sanitation workers, childcare providers, and other positions necessary to keep the city functioning.

### Rent Relief

Through Resolution [R-20-135](#), the Council calls upon Governor John Bel Edwards to use his emergency powers to impose immediate rent relief for impacted New Orleans tenants, and urge federal legislators to support an immediate moratorium on mortgage payments. The average monthly rent payment in New Orleans is around \$1,200, with most of the population paying more than half of their monthly income on housing costs prior to COVID-19.

### Utility Shut-Offs

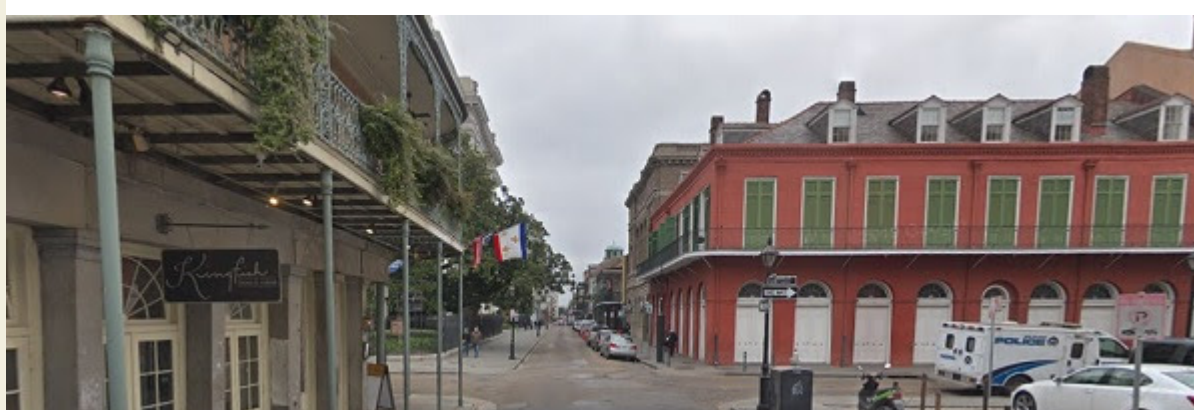
Led by Councilmember Moreno, the City Council adopted Resolution R-20-133 to suspend utility electric and gas disconnects through July 1.



## GiveNOLA Day

Tuesday, June 2nd is [Give NOLA Day](#), hosted by the Greater New Orleans Foundation. This one-day online giving event inspires people to give to the non-profit of their choice – and **we hope VCPORA is yours!** As virtually all VCPORA's fundraising events have been cancelled or indefinitely postponed this year, your donations are needed now more than ever to help advocate for the preservation and protection of the Vieux Carré as an international historic treasure.

Your donations will help cover operating costs so that we may continue to fight for residential quality of life, the retention of historic character, sustainable tourism, and much, much more. Schedule your gift today by visiting our profile at [www.givenola.org/vcpora](http://www.givenola.org/vcpora).



## Street Closure: Conti & Chartres

Starting today, the intersection of Conti and Chartres street will be intermittently closed to vehicular traffic to verify the location, depth and size of the utility lines underneath the roadway. This activity is anticipated to be completed on Saturday, May 23 at which point the intersection will reopen to vehicular traffic.

The City is in the process of designing a full reconstruction project of Conti Street between Bourbon and Chartres streets. That work is anticipated to begin in the 700 block of Conti Street in the June time frame and the entire project is expected to take approximately 10 months to complete. Read more about this project in [the City's press release](#).





## #FQThenandNow

VCPORA and the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) continue our #FQThenAndNow series this week with a post on Napoleon House. Head over to [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to check it out. This weekly series showcases historic pictures, current pictures, and fun facts about our favorite French Quarter locales. Follow #FQThenAndNow the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) so you don't miss any upcoming posts from this series.



## What We're Reading

What will the future look like after COVID? We can't say for certain, but many are speculating on lasting change. Here are a few articles that explore how the pandemic may impact New Orleans in the long-term:

- The future of Airbnb? [via Wired](#)
- 'A Bargain With the Devil'—Bill Comes Due for Overextended Airbnb Hosts [via The Wall Street Journal](#)
- Deserted Venice contemplates a future without tourist hordes after Covid-19 [via CNN](#)
- As Coronavirus Crushes Small Restaurants, Big Chains See Room To Move In [via HuffPost](#)
- Ian McNulty: Saving beloved New Orleans restaurants is up to us as chains eat up relief funds [via NOLA.com](#)
- Closed cities should open streets [via Smart Growth America](#)
- Amsterdam to embrace 'doughnut' model to mend post-coronavirus economy [via The Guardian](#)

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