

## Weekly Vieux - August 2, 2019

VCPORA <info@vcpora.org>  
Reply-To: info@vcpora.org  
To: "info@vcpora.org OFFICE" <info@vcpora.org>

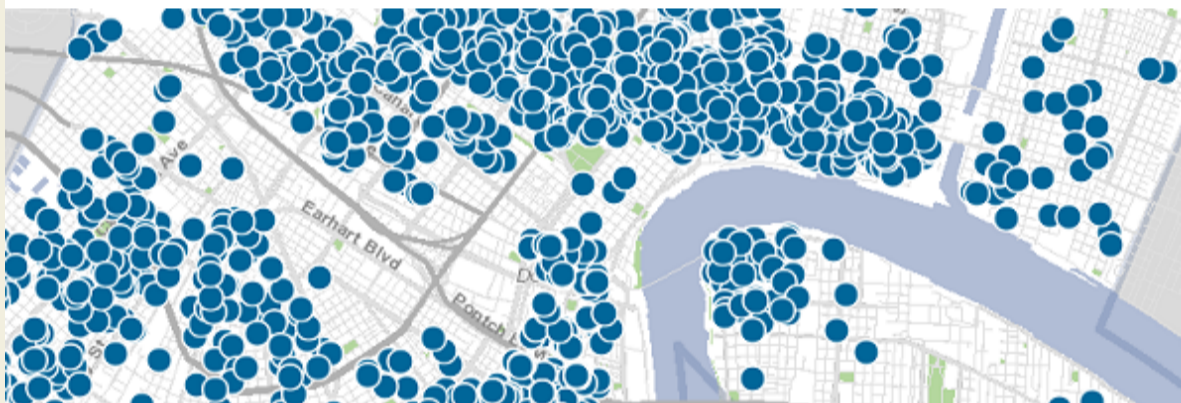
Fri, Aug 2, 2019 at 5:54 PM



## VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, August 2, 2019

### In This Issue:

Short Term Rental Update  
Moving New Orleans Bikes  
Community Office Hours Resume  
Museum Month  
COOLinary  
Satchmo Fest  
River Vieux Soirée Update



## Final STR Vote

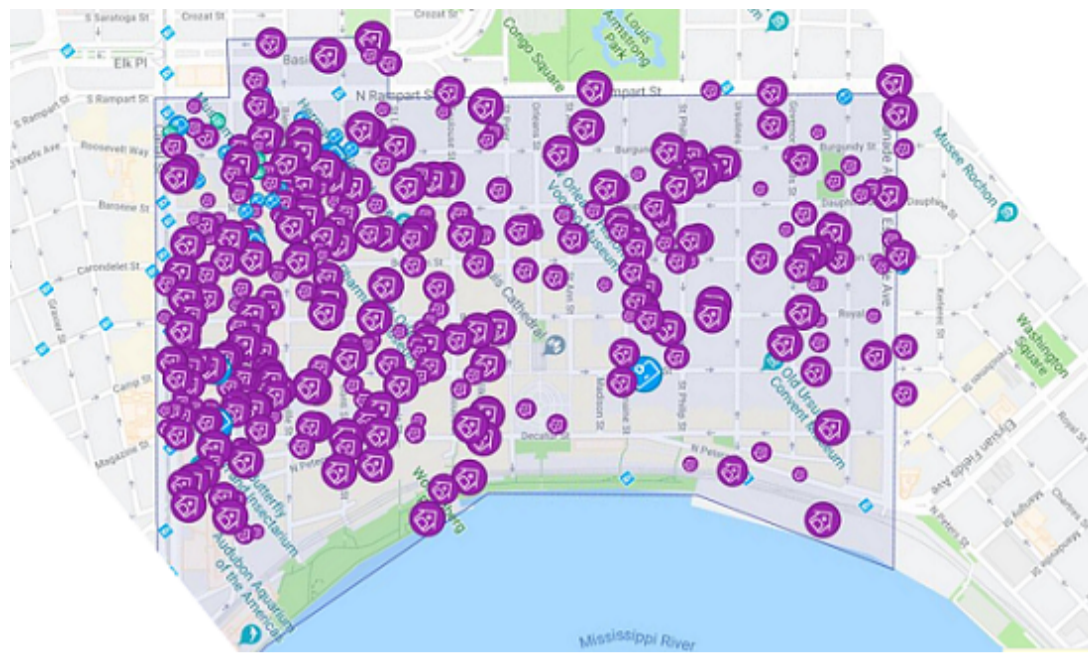
Thursday, August 8  
11:00 a.m. – till  
[1300 Perdido Street](#)

### **Urgent! The Final Vote for Short Term Rentals is Thursday, August 8!**

For over a year, the City Council has been completely overhauling the Short Term Rental regulations in efforts to protect neighborhoods from investment speculation. We are now entering the final countdown, but so much is still unclear.

What we know now: efforts to attach a **homestead exemption** requirement to all residential STRs have already been approved by the Council. They just need to cast their final vote. We fear that amendments in the form of **“grandfathering”** in non-owner occupied, whole home rentals will be presented by the Council next week. Additionally, other amendments may introduce the concept of allowing multiple permits for homeowners if they live somewhere in the city. This will not undo the damage already inflicted on our neighborhoods, including the conversion of available and affordable homes into hotels, [driving up property taxes](#), and displacing residents.

On May 16, the Council voted to maintain the prohibition of **Short Term Rentals in the French Quarter** and extended one to the Garden District. An unsuccessful attempt to carve out the VCE-1 area around the House of Blues will likely be revisited. **It is imperative that you remind the Council that the French Quarter cannot handle any spread of STRs, we are already battling dozens, if not hundreds, illegally!**



As for enforcement, we know that the platforms (Airbnb, VRBO, etc.) must be compelled to **share their data** and have some financial skin in the game. They must pay to operate in this city as any other business would and face steep fines for noncompliance, including listing any STRs on their website that do not have a valid New Orleans permit.

Even more uncertain is how the Council plans to address Short Term Rentals in **Commercial and Mixed Use zoning districts**. Earlier ordinance drafts called for capping STR units in multi-unit buildings at 25% and setting matching requirements to create affordable housing units. The Council was waiting to make a final determination while a [commissioned study examined feasibility realities](#). That study has come under [sharp criticism](#) when it was revealed that the company producing it has strong links to Airbnb, thus casting many of its recommendations into murky territory.

We support capping the number of Short term Rentals in any building at 25% to prevent the full blown conversion of entire apartment and condo structures into hotels. Even more important, neighborhood commercial corridors like Magazine Street, St. Claude Avenue, and Oretha Castle Haley are prime locations for residential units with easy access to transit and other amenities. A removal of commercial caps along these important mixed use corridors would eliminate hundreds of residential opportunities from the long-term market.

Lastly, Short Term Rentals are extremely lucrative businesses and New Orleans is experiencing an **affordable housing** crisis. This is the opportunity for the City to leverage this business model for the creation of affordable housing. We support matching STRs to affordable units in commercially zoned districts.

Again, we expect to learn a lot more next week. In the meantime,

**Please plan to attend, wear red, and stay tuned as we learn more!  
Let City Council know how important it is to get it right this time.**

| District   | Councilmember           | Email  | Phone          |
|------------|-------------------------|--|----------------|
| At-Large   | Helena Moreno           | <a href="mailto:morenocouncil@nola.gov">morenocouncil@nola.gov</a>       | (504) 658-1060 |
| At-Large   | Jason Williams          | <a href="mailto:jasonwilliams@nola.gov">jasonwilliams@nola.gov</a>       | (504) 658-1070 |
| District A | Joe Giarrusso           | <a href="mailto:joseph.giarrusso@nola.gov">joseph.giarrusso@nola.gov</a> | (504) 658-1010 |
| District B | Jay Banks               | <a href="mailto:jay.banks@nola.gov">jay.banks@nola.gov</a>               | (504) 658-1020 |
| District C | Kristin Gisleson Palmer | <a href="mailto:kristin.palmer@nola.gov">kristin.palmer@nola.gov</a>     | (504) 658-1030 |
| District D | Jared Brossett          | <a href="mailto:councildistrictd@nola.gov">councildistrictd@nola.gov</a> | (504) 658-1040 |
| District E | Cyndi Nguyen            | <a href="mailto:cyndi.nguyen@nola.gov">cyndi.nguyen@nola.gov</a>         | (504) 658-1050 |



## Moving New Orleans Bikes

Thursday, August 8

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

[219 Loyola Avenue](#)

The [Office of Transportation](#) is hosting a meeting next Thursday to [share plans](#) for creating a city-wide, low-stress bikeway network as part of the Moving New Orleans Bikes campaign. This meeting will showcase corridors likely to undergo

biking and walking improvements, the criteria used to determine where new facilities will be located, and what feedback residents gave from previous public meetings and an online survey earlier this spring and summer. The Office of Transportation will also hold a New Orleans East meeting on Monday, August 5. Additional details are available on the [Moving New Orleans Bikes](#) website.



## Community Office Hours Resume

In an effort to better connect residents with local government, City Hall has resumed the [Mayor's Community Office Hours Program](#). District C Eastbank residents will now be able to visit the Treme Coffee House (1501 St. Philip) from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on select days to meet with City representatives from various departments. Residents are encouraged to voice their concerns, ask questions, or just get to know City Hall workers. The days for District C Eastbank residents are:

**August:** 6, 12, 14, 20, 26 and 28  
**September:** 3, 9, 11, 17, 23 and 25  
**October:** 1, 7, 9, 15, 21, 23 and 29  
**November:** 4, 6, 12, 18 and 20



## Museum Month

For the month of August, 18 participating museums around the city are teaming up to offer free admission to museum members. Explore the French Quarter by visiting [The Historic New Orleans Collection](#), the [Old Ursuline Convent Museum](#), [Beauregard-Keyes House](#), [Herman-Grima + Gallier Historic Houses](#), the [New Orleans Jazz Museum](#), the [New Orleans Pharmacy Museum](#), and the [Audubon Butterfly Garden & Insectarium](#) – or venture outside the Quarter for much more. Not yet a member? Join a participating museum today and enjoy free admission to all other museums for the rest of the month. More information can be found on the [Museum Month website](#).



## COOLinary

This annual culinary tradition brings over 50 participating New Orleans restaurants together for a whole lot of feasting. All August, restaurants will offer fixed-price lunch, dinner, and brunch menus at some of the city's most famous eateries. More information can be found on the [Coolinary website](#).



## Satchmo Fest

Friday, August 2 - Sunday, August 4

11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

[400 Esplanade Avenue](#)

It's Louis Armstrong's birthday, and New Orleans is throwing a party. This annual festival at the Old US Mint showcases three days of live music, food, family activities, seminars, and even a jazz Mass. Expect street closures and parking limitations around the French Market and Old US Mint. Admission is \$6; children under 13 are free. From more information, visit the [Satchmo Fest website](#) or call (504) 522-5730.



## VCPORA's River Vieux Soirée

Tickets are now for sale online for [VCPORA's River Vieux Soirée](#). Payments can also be made over the phone during regular business hours or by check to PO Box 56095, New Orleans, LA 70156. This celebration is not to be missed!

The auction is also filling up with items from plenty of local donors, including [BEE Galleries](#), [Fair Grounds Race Course](#), [Herman Grima + Gallier Historic Homes](#), [Muriel's Jackson Square](#), [New Orleans Pharmacy Museum](#), [Seven Three Distilling Company](#), and many, many more. Be sure to check our Facebook in the weeks to come for special auction items previews.

VCPORA | [816 N. Rampart St. | New Orleans, LA 70116](#)  
504-581-7200 | [www.vcpora.org](#)



