

Weekly Vieux - August 9, 2019

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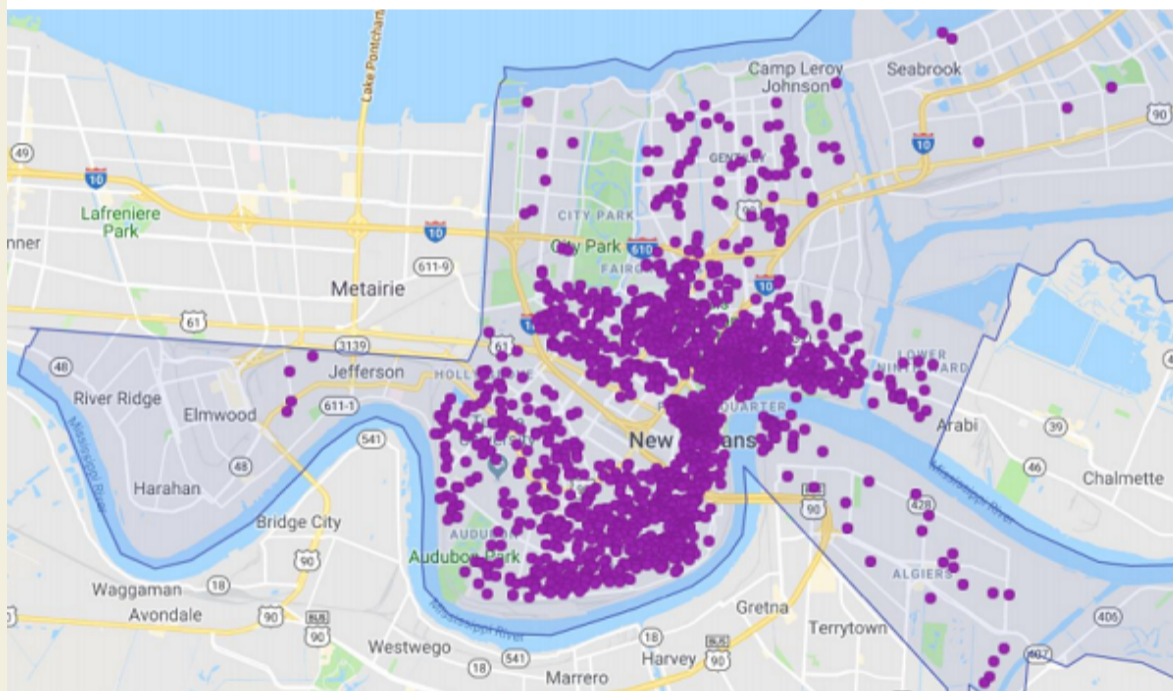
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VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, August 9, 2019

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Short Term Rental Victory!

After 14 months of deliberation, the City Council unanimously passed a set of Short Term Rental ordinances that will go a long way toward protecting residents and communities. **Led by Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer**, the council has crafted regulations that will prevent speculative investors from converting entire neighborhoods into tourist zones by requiring proof of a Homestead Exemption, meaning owner occupancy, for all residential Short Term Rentals. This means that homeowners can still financially gain from sharing their homes with visitors without removing thousands of dwelling units out of long term availability. Please take a moment to **THANK THEM** and their staff for their hard work!

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Additionally, all multi-unit buildings in commercial and mixed-use zoning districts will have a cap of 25% of allowable STRs. The Council briefly contemplated removing this cap in the Central Business District, but an outpouring of opposition convinced them to reconsider. **THANK YOU for your calls and emails to the Council - this victory is because you all stayed vigilant and committed to getting it right this time!**

The French Quarter will retain its near prohibition of Short Term Rentals! We have noted the recent residential growth resulting from enforcing illegal STRs in the neighborhood and look forward to seeing this trend increase!

On the enforcement side, all platforms, like AirBnB and VRBO, will now have to obtain \$10,000 annual permits requiring that they remove any listing that does not possess a valid, city-issued permit. The increase in owner permit fees will go towards staffing a more robust enforcement office. Nightly fees of \$5 (Residential STR) and \$12 (Commercial STR) will be used for the creation of affordable housing. Unfortunately, the Council was not able to fully incorporate other provisions that would go to the production of affordable housing but agreed that options can be revisited upon further study. We will continue to advocate for using this incredibly lucrative business practice as a way to significantly contribute to housing affordability.

We are proud to have been a part of this work, having spent countless hours in community meetings alongside neighbors and organizations across the city. Read more about the meeting at City Hall yesterday at [The Lens](#) and [nola.com](#).



Update on N Rampart Safety

Earlier this year, VCPORA began an [advocacy campaign](#) for safer street conditions along N Rampart in response to neighborhood concerns that this heavily trafficked street had become dangerous for people driving, biking, walking, and taking transit. We launched a [N Rampart Street Safety Survey](#), compiled concerns from neighbors and residents, and began conversations with City officials and transportation advocates to come up with solutions.

We are happy to announce that the Office of Transportation released their [Moving New Orleans Bikes](#) draft plan this week. The plan - [viewable here](#) - calls for for a protected bicycle lane on N Rampart. This means that existing bicycle infrastructure will now be separated from motor vehicle traffic with raised medians, on-street parking, or bollards.

The plan also calls for protected bike lanes on Canal Street, S Peters, and Decatur, along with protection along St. Louis and Basin to improve bicycle access between the French Quarter and the Lafitte Greenway. Additionally, a 15-mph speed limit for the entire French Quarter is recommended. The City says that the plan will be implemented over the next two years. Feedback on this draft [can be submitted](#) on the City's website.

This plan comes after [a series of deadly collisions earlier this year](#) demonstrated the need for safer bicycle infrastructure. We are happy to see transportation interventions that will help residents, workers, and visitors more securely navigate our streets regardless of how they choose to travel. We will keep you updated on how the Moving New Orleans Bikes plan will affect the French Quarter as we learn more.

Additionally, [New Links](#) and the RTA will be hosting a [transit network redesign open house](#) on Thursday, August 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Jazz & Heritage Foundation ([1205 N Rampart](#)). New Links is a year long project to study and develop a plan to redesign the public transportation network in Greater New Orleans. We encourage anybody who uses transit to access the French Quarter to plan on attending this meeting.



Civic Engagement Opportunities

District "C" Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer will host a **property assessment appeals informational session** on Tuesday, 13th from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Stallings Recreation Center ([4300 St. Claude Ave](#)) in partnership with

the [Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance](#). This session is for residents who have questions about appealing their recent property assessment. During the meeting, attendees will also receive details on what organizations will be offering free assistance to residents who need help filing their appeals online. The deadline to file a property assessment appeal online by 4:00 p.m. on August, 22nd.

Mayor LaToya Cantrell, working with the Department of Finance, is reminding residents that they have one more month left to participate in the [Amnesty Late Fee Forgiveness Program](#) to help clear past-due accounts with parking and camera tickets, sales and hotel/motel taxes, code enforcement violations, and library fees. The three-month program expires on September 3rd. Residents are being allowed in certain circumstances to pay fees without penalties or additional fees in order to get a fresh start when paying for City services.

The [Police Community Advisory Board](#) (PCAB) will be hosting a meeting at NOPD 8th District ([334 Royal Street](#)) next Tuesday, August 20th at 3:00 p.m. PCAB meets every quarter to discuss issues such as homelessness, law enforcement issues, and other quality of life concerns. Their aim is to maintain a consistent partnership between the community and law enforcement, serve to help reduce crime and enhance the quality of life for all citizens, and establish goals that can be accomplished through positive and open communications. This meeting is free and open to the public.



Blackouts, Bourbon Street & the Beauregard Center

Saturday, August 27

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

[1113 Chartres Street](#)

Get set for the next installment of our lecture series with the [Beauregard-Keyes House](#), "New Perspectives, Old Neighborhood: The Vieux Carre at 300 & Beyond." Please note that there will be no reservations for this event. Seating is first come, first serve, and will be limited to 75 guests. There will be a suggested donation of \$5.

Join us in listening to Kimberly Guise, Assistant Director for Curatorial Services at [The National WWII Museum](#), speak about New Orleans during the war. This presentation will draw on materials from The National WWII Museum collection and from the Beauregard-Keyes House, site of the Beauregard House Center for Service Men.

Lastly, [thank you](#) to all who came out to last week's lecture, "1919 - A Pivotal Year in French Quarter Preservation", with a special thanks to the fine young musicians in Junior Dixieland and to our incredibly knowledgeable lecturer Ann Masson.



Red Dress Run

Saturday, August 10

11:30 a.m. - till

French Quarter

The annual [Red Dress Run](#) will begin once again next Saturday morning in Crescent Park, [2300 N Peters Street](#). This annual charity run through the Bywater,

Marigny, and French Quarter brings thousands of red-clad runners to the streets. Expect road closures, parking limitations, and large crowds.



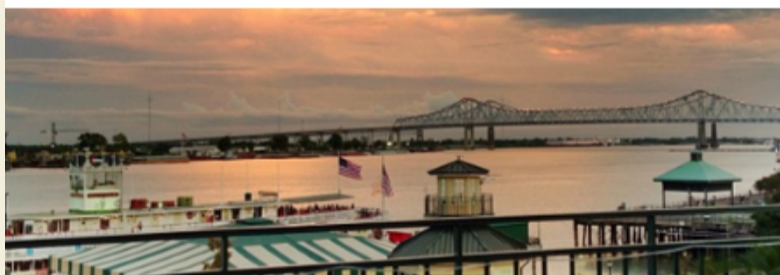
Dirty Linen

Saturday, August 10

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Royal Street

Hold off on the laundry this week. Dirty Linen Night invites New Orleanians to stroll along Royal Street (in their still-dirty white linens, no less) to admire street musicians, local artists, and over 30 participating galleries and shops. Expect road closures and parking limitations to go into effect next Saturday. This Royal Street block party is free to attend. Paid tickets will get you access to special food and drink specials. More information can be found on the [Dirty Linen website](#).



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 [Fleur de Paris](#), [Gallery Rinard](#), [Home Malone](#), [Michalopoulos Studios](#), and many, many more. Be sure to check our Facebook in the weeks to come for special auction items previews.

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