

Weekly Vieux - May 24, 2019

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## VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, January 7, 2019

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### VCPORA Gala

Friday, September 20  
[600 Decatur Street](#)  
6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Please join us for an unforgettable evening at [VCPORA's annual gala](#) presented by [Riverview Room](#). Enjoy live and silent auctions, delectable food and drink, marvelous music from [Bon Bon Vivant](#), and stunning views of the Crescent City right in the heart of the neighborhood that started it all. See you September 20.



### Summer Social

Friday, June 7  
[816 N Rampart Street](#)  
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Join us at the VCPORA office for our annual [Summer Social](#)! On the Friday of [New Orleans Pride 2019](#), we'll open the doors of our 1830s Creole cottage to members, neighbors, and friends for light refreshments - so stroll on over or hop on that [streetcar](#) and enjoy a drink on us!



## Quarterly Care Workshop

Wednesday, June 5

[400 Royal Street](#)

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

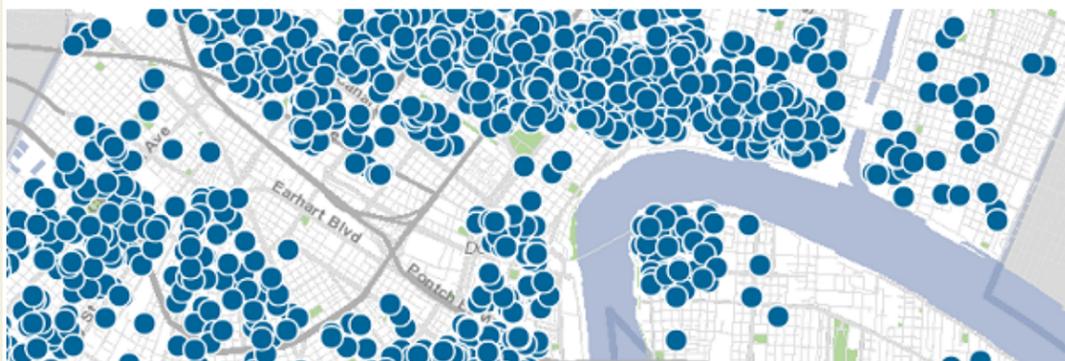
This Wednesday, [the Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) and Michelle Brenner will host [Quarterly Care Workshop: Historic Wood Windows](#) in the King's Room at Brennan's. This workshop covers the basics of identifying problems and troubleshooting window repairs, allowing property owners to meet today's energy savings goals, to preserve the character of the architecture, and to respect the exceptional craftsmanship of their original design. This event is free for [VCCF members](#) and \$10 for non-members. Space is limited, so [R.S.V.P.](#) is required for admission. to reserve a spot.



## North Rampart Street Safety Survey

VCPORA is advocating for safer street conditions along N Rampart. If you walk, bike, drive, or use transit along N Rampart, please take a minute to fill out our [N Rampart Street Safety Survey](#). We also encourage you to take the City's [Moving New Orleans Bike Survey](#), which will directly affect the placement of [protected bikeways](#) in the coming 2 years. The deadline for this survey is June 7.

The installation of the North Rampart streetcar line in 2016 led to the shaving of the neutral ground, the addition of a separated bike lane, a number of curb cuts - and to [a significant increase in people walking and biking](#) along the corridor since. However, this is not a case of safety in numbers. The sheer number of close calls, confrontations, and collisions we witness on a near-daily basis from our own office on N Rampart Street is worrisome enough. The [compounding stories](#) we hear from neighbors and members has confirmed our resolve to advocate for safer conditions. Our efforts come at a time when the City is reconsidering its [transportation network at large](#). We will keep you updated as this campaign develops.



## Short Term Rental Next Steps

**Short Term Rentals – so much more to come!** Last week, our City won **true victories** in the fight to craft Short Term Rental (STR) regulations that better reflect the needs of our communities. A Homestead Exemption requirement means residential STRs can only be operated in owner-occupied properties. Buying up multiple properties in sought-after areas will no longer be an STR investment opportunity. Hopefully, these dwelling units will be returned to the

market for would-be homeowners and long-term renters and the most impacted neighborhoods will see begin to be repopulated with neighbors.

Now for the French Quarter – in a very narrow 4-3 vote, with Councilmembers Palmer, Moreno, Banks, and Giarrusso voting in favor, the VCE-1 (Vieux Carré Entertainment district along the 200-300 blocks of North Peters and Decatur Streets) was saved from being carved out of the 50-year prohibition of hotel accommodations in the French Quarter.

**Please take a moment to thank the New Orleans City Council for their hard work by emailing them your appreciation and support! Particular thanks go to Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer, who initiated this process immediately upon taking office and whose tireless dedication prevented the spread of STRs in the French Quarter.**

It is imperative that the French Quarter is not further carved up for STR operations, for they will continue pushing our residents out through the conversion of residential units into hotel rooms. Though the Council made the vote last Thursday, this will need to be signed into ordinance within 60 to 90 days of that vote. Let them all know that the French Quarter cannot sustain any more STR creep. The risks are too high!



**Also, this victory is because of you! Thank you for attending long meetings, calling and emailing your Councilmembers, and staying engaged in this years-long process!**

The fight is not complete; there is still so much work to be done:

Another regulation package will lay out a fee structures for permits and address the specific provisions for effective enforcement. These will likely include dedicating appropriate staff levels and laying out accountability agreements with the individual STR Platforms, such as AirBnB and VRBO, in order to collect the necessary data for enforcement.

Still up for discussion are regulations for predominantly commercial areas, like the Central Business District. Caps on numbers of STRs in multi-unit buildings are being examined, particularly through the opportunity of tying the production of affordable housing to the conversion or creation of STRs in these large-scaled buildings. City planners are examining the feasibility of these tools, also including the imposition of impact fees, and allowing for bonuses in any recommended density caps.

Another potential ordinance package will look at the possibility of “grandfathering” existing permitted STRs that were in operation before the moratorium on whole-home STRs in residential neighborhoods went into effect. Some Councilmembers are looking at how to target specific areas for non-owner occupied whole home rentals through the creation of Economic Development Zones.

So, much more will be considered in the coming months. Stay tuned, stay engaged, and don’t forget to thank our New Orleans City Council for a job well done.

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