

VCPORA's Weekly Vieux - September 4, 2020

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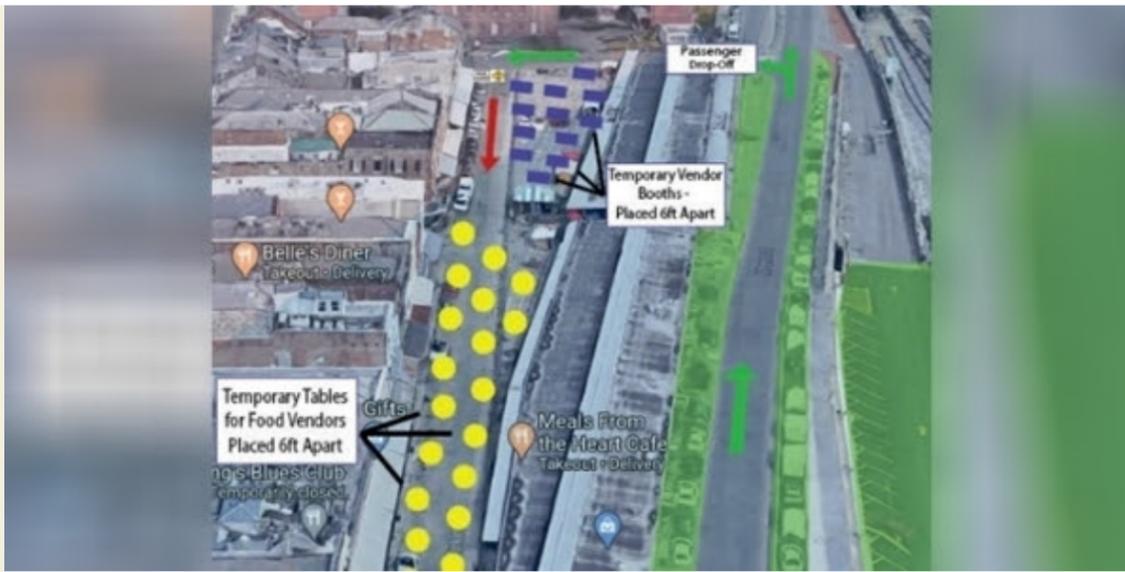


Hurricane Laura Relief Opportunities

Hurricane Laura made landfall on the Texas and Louisiana coast last week, destroying thousands of structures and displacing hundreds of thousands more. To provide relief to evacuees, the [Junior League of New Orleans](#) is accepting non-clothing donations next week from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at [4319 Carondelet Street](#). High demand items include strollers, diapers (especially Pull-Ups), and formula (especially Similac Advanced). [Second Harvest](#) is also accepting donations from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. next week at 700 Edwards Ave. High demand items include toiletries, diapers (especially Pull-Ups), cleaning products, and non-perishable food items.

Volunteers are needed to help the [NOLA Ready Volunteer Corps](#) distribute donated supplies to evacuees at the Ernest E. Morial Convention Center from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and noon - 4:00 p.m. Tuesday - Friday of next week.

Additionally, NOLA Ready has compiled a [list of organizations](#) that are responding directly to the damage on the ground. Consider donating today. Councilmember Moreno has also put together a list of [resources](#), [places to donate](#), and [volunteer opportunities](#) for those interested in helping relief efforts.



Pedestrianization Update

The Mayor's Tiger Team charged with ["Reimagining the French Quarter"](#) is moving forward in their outreach to various stakeholders. They will be developing discussions with hospitality workers, hoteliers, carriage drivers, neighborhood groups, and culture bearers in the coming weeks.

No new plans or concepts have been presented at this time. Since our last update, the City Council is moving forward with a recommendation to reduce the speed limit on interior French Quarter streets to 15 miles per hour. That discussion will be taken up at the [Joint Transportation-Public Works, Sanitation, & Environment Committee](#) meeting on September 9.

Additionally, a pilot demonstration of the French Market concept is coming later this month. For two to four weeks, the block of French Market Place between Gov. Nicholls and Ursulines will be closed from Thursday to Sunday with the assistance of the Department of Public Works. This is intended to test and solicit feedback for a potential parklet program by setting up street furniture and a family-friendly and interactive public art demonstration. The City will be gathering your input during this testing period to determine any future implementation. Virtual design charrettes are being planned for concept analysis. We will share more details with you as this develops.

In our conversations with the City's Tiger team, other organizations, and our members, we have consistently maintained a desire to explore some proposals, such as improvements to the French Market, comprehensive sidewalk repairs, and safety improvements on N. Rampart and Decatur Streets. Other concepts, including the expansion of pedestrian malls in both residential and commercial areas have received significant pushback from a variety of resident and business stakeholders. As the City continues to face limited resources, we look forward to promoting ideas that receive full community support and contribute to an improved experience and quality of life for all users of the French Quarter.

In case you missed it, read this Letter to the Editor from French Quarter resident, John Reed: [Plans should not harm residential character within French Quarter.](#)



Street Lights

We received an update this week on the installation of new lamp posts in the neighborhood. These 55 poles were paid for by the French Quarter Improvement Fund, passed in the September 2019 budget in response to the Vieux Carre Commission's 2018 Survey of Lighting. Installation began in June of this year. [Click here](#) to view the presentation and addresses of poles.

We have heard concerns from our members about the placement of some of these poles and are working with the Department of Public Works to implement a public notice system for the remainder of the install sites. You may contact them directly with any concerns at jordan.helveston@nola.gov.

FRENCH QUARTER PUBLIC SAFETY

FQMD & EDD Feedback Needed

The French Quarter Management District (FQMD) is still [collecting feedback](#) on public safety priorities to guide the development of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) that will govern the French Quarter Economic Development District (FQ EDD) Trust Fund. The Trust Fund will be supported by the "Quarter for the Quarter," a 0.2495% sales tax initiated in 2015 that is set to expire this year unless voters choose to renew it during a special election on December 5, 2020.

Under this CEA, FQMD will manage the funds to hire post-certified officers, bring the Supplemental Police Patrol Program under the supervision of NOPD, require consent decree adherence, and maintain the French Quarter Task Force app. Additional background on the FQ EDD and the security sales tax can be found on the [FQMD website](#).

Public safety is a priority for all who live, work, and play in this neighborhood. Your feedback will inform the successful creation of this CEA to help residents and businesses maintain accountability over security management and budgeting.

This [survey](#) will close Sunday night, so please respond if you have not already done so. FQMD will be reporting back on the common themes identified so they can then be evaluated by the stakeholders. Based on the responses so far, some priorities can be addressed in the agreement and some will inform programming for the Trust Fund dollars if the referendum passes. Thus far, the reoccurring themes include the following:

1. The Trust Fund is administrated by FQMD
 1. The CEA cannot be terminated after the election
 2. CEA is supplemental and not replacement of City resources
 3. Transparent financial management
 1. Audited financials
 2. Public budget process
2. Security increased and visible throughout the District
 1. NOPD Post Certified Officers and Supervision
 1. Trained in de-escalation techniques
 2. Strong understanding of the LEAD program
 3. Working relationship with the Department of Public Health
 2. The French Quarter Task Force app is maintained
 3. Homelessness resource service
 4. Worker and residential safety
3. Enforcement of Quality of Life
 1. Speeding
 2. Disorderly conduct
 3. Sanitation violations
 1. Garbage & Litter
 2. Graffiti
 4. Sound ordinance
4. Livability Issues be addressed
 1. Flooding
 2. Sidewalk repairs
 3. Improved sanitation
 4. Improved lighting



Photo by Jake Clapp via [NOLA.com](https://www.nola.com)

CDC Issues Eviction Moratorium

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a [residential eviction moratorium](#) through December 31, 2020 this week, to keep people safe and in their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. To be eligible for the eviction protection, each adult member of the household must print and complete [this form](#) affirming specific criteria and submit it to their property manager, landlord, or owner.

Unless the CDC order is extended, changed, or ended, the order prevents tenants from being evicted or removed from where they are living through the rest of the year. Tenants are still required to pay rent and follow all the other terms of their lease and rules of the place where they live. Tenants may also still be evicted for reasons other than not paying rent or making a housing payment.



#FQThenandNow

VCPORA and the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) continue our #FQThenAndNow series this week with a post on [530 Bourbon Street](#). 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.

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