

VCPORA's Weekly Vieux - Friday, October 2

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Pedestrianization Update

The City of New Orleans is rolling out a grant program to help restaurants and bars expand outdoor seating options into café sidewalks, courtyards, and off-street parking lots. More information on these efforts can be found on the [Outdoor Dining NOLA](#) website.

The City is also launching a program to enable restaurants, and potentially bars, to create outdoor dining and seating options in areas previously dedicated to on-street parking. This will start with a short "parklet" pilot program for restaurants operating within the Downtown Development District (DDD) running October 5 - 19. During this time, the criteria will be set for which parking designations are to be utilized, acceptable materials, and hours of operation.

Starting mid-October, a second pilot program will pedestrianize French Market Place between Governor Nicholls Street and Ursulines Avenue from 8:00 a.m. Thursdays to 8:00 a.m. Mondays. Vehicular traffic will be prohibited, exempting emergency and sanitation vehicles, in order to allow for full use of the public right-of-way for vending, seating, and walking. A virtual public design charrette will follow. We encourage all of our members to visit the demonstration safely.

More information can be found in this [press release](#). There have been no further updates on the other concepts in the [French Quarter Pedestrianization](#) proposal at this time.

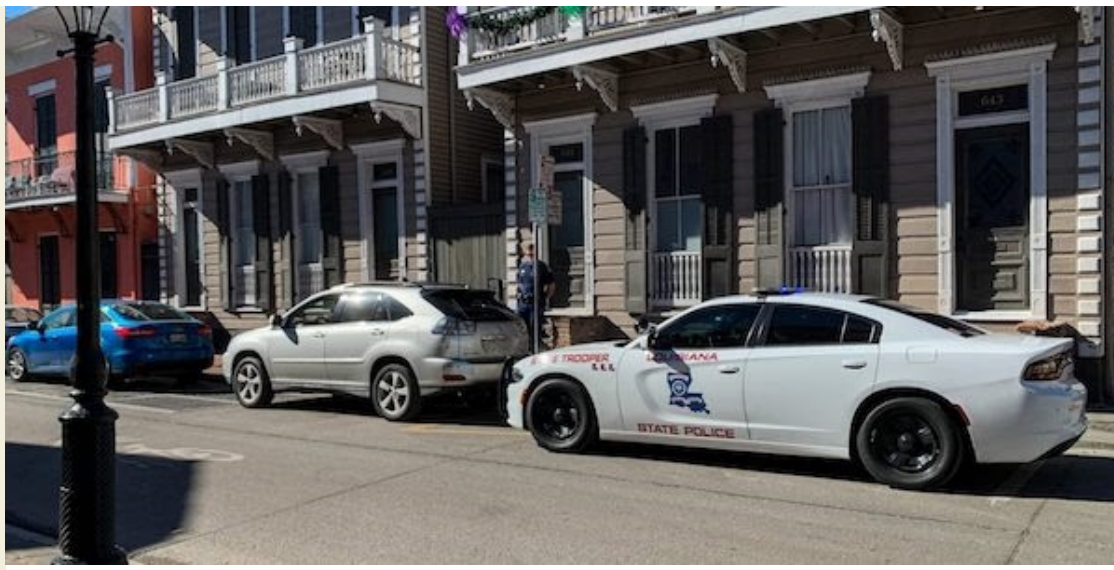


Photo by Marta Jewson via [The Lens](#)

Economic Development District Security Tax Update

The "Quarter for the Quarter," a 0.2495% sales tax within the French Quarter Economic Development District (FQEDD) will return to French Quarter voters on December 5. Since 2015, this tax has funded the Louisiana State Police's Troop N, but due to anticipated funding deficiencies, the City does not expect to be able to draw the necessary revenue to continue that program.

These are not the only funding woes facing security programs in the neighborhood. In June, the revenue agreement that supported both the [French Quarter Management District](#) "Task Force" and the French Quarter Improvement Fund ended due to a significant decrease in hotel assessment fees.

[Tourism industry groups cut funding for French Quarter security and improvements](#)

In an effort to support the existing [Supplemental Police Patrol Program](#) (aka the French Quarter Task Force), FQMD is working with the City Council to dedicate the Quarter for a Quarter revenues to this program. Last month, they solicited comments from residents. A report of those findings as well as details of a proposed Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) can be found [here](#). This CEA seeks to allocate these funds to FQMD 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.

However, Mayor Cantrell seems to have another security plan in the works to receive the FQEDD sales tax – a Grounds Patrol Unit organized under Homeland Security. This unit is proposed to be a mix of city employees providing security services and off-duty police officers.

[Two competing visions for French Quarter security as tax shifts from state police patrols](#)

With available resources dwindling, we understand the importance of public safety in the French Quarter for livability and economic recovery. VCPORA currently supports having the funds dedicated to the FQMD-run Task Force and will continue to provide updates as these conversations progress.



City of New Orleans
Mayor LaToya Cantrell

Still Required in 3.1

PHASE 3
New Orleans



Social
Distancing



Masks



Handwashing

New Orleans Moves into Phase 3

The City of New Orleans announced this week that it will be moving into [Phase 3, priority 1](#), effective tomorrow, October 3.

Certain businesses will be allowed to open at 75% capacity with social distancing measures, including beauty salons, barber shops, nail salons, libraries, museums, zoos, aquariums, office buildings and businesses, restaurants, shopping malls and

retail stores, tattoo shops, massage parlors, and esthetician services. Bars will be allowed to sell to-go drinks from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., with package liquor sales in the French Quarter limited to those same times. Indoor gathering sizes will be limited to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.

The City has pledged to move to Phase 3 with enhanced enforcement measures by increasing its after-hours presence. The City is also pursuing enforcement actions against illegal or unlicensed short-term rental activity, with adjudication anticipated to resume October 21. This hearing will mark the first adjudication since the City Hall cyber attack on December 13, 2019.



OBSE Satellite Services

4300 S Broad
Tuesdays and Thursdays in October
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The City of New Orleans today announced the launch of the newly formed [Office of Business & External Services](#) (OBES) satellite program for residents. As part of a gradual rollout, OBES will provide residents an opportunity to do business with City Hall at select New Orleans Public Library locations.

Representatives from Safety & Permits, Code Enforcement, Workforce Development, Economic Development, City Planning Commission, Historic District Landmarks Commission, and Vieux Carré Commission will be able to provide support for residents, including helping them access the City website in order to more efficiently use City services.

The first satellite location will operate at the Rosa Keller Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the month of October, from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Please remember that adherence to all City of New Orleans Health Department guidelines, including mask wearing, is required. Learn more about Phase 3 including guidelines at [NOLA Ready](#) here. The City is especially grateful for the assistance from the Broadmoor Improvement Association and NOPL. For additional information, please email permitinfo@nola.gov.



Fire at 1031 Canal

A fire broke out at the partially-collapsed Hard Rock Hotel at [1031 Canal Street](#) this past Monday morning. According to [a statement by the New Orleans Fire Department](#), “demolition contractors were in the process of cutting steel girders when sparks ignited roofing materials on one of the upper floors.” The one-alarm fire was under control within about an hour.

Two Mondays from now will mark the one year anniversary that the partial collapse at [1031 Canal Street](#) killed Anthony Magrette, Quinnyon Wimberly, and Jose Ponce Arreola and injured dozens more. This June, the City greenlit the demolition of three adjacent structures - the 150-year-old [1019-25 Canal](#), 111-year-old [1027 Canal](#), and a parking garage at 1022 Iberville. In August, the City of

New Orleans filed suit against building owner Mohan Kailas, his partners, and their contractors for \$12.3 million in damages.



Vote!

Register to vote today! Monday, October 5 is the deadline to [register to vote in person or by mail](#). Following that, the deadline to register to vote through the [GeauxVote online registration](#) system is Tuesday, October 13. Early voting in Orleans Parish begins October 16 and runs through October 27 (excluding Sundays) from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. October 30 is the deadline to [request an absentee ballot](#) for the November 3 election.



2020 Census

Did you know that each person counted in the 2020 Census brings \$2,291 of federal funding back to our community? Help us reclaim federal funds by filling out the Census today! Respond by mail, phone, or online at my2020census.gov. It's quick, easy, safe, secure, and confidential. Both American citizens and non-citizens should respond.

The results of the census are used to reapportion seats in the House of Representatives; to redraw boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts; and to help determine the distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal spending on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs. Due to a low response to the census in 2010, Louisiana lost a seat in Congress. Encourage a higher response in 2020. View updated response rates online [on the census website](#).



Freeze Shelter Training

NOLA Ready Volunteers Needed

Thursday, October 29

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Join NOLA Ready and the New Orleans Health Department to learn how to [volunteer in an emergency freeze shelter](#). During cold snaps when the temperature drops to below freezing, the City of New Orleans will open short-term shelters for residents who temporarily need a safe place to stay. These shelters, and freeze shelters at partner agencies, are staffed by City staff, Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers, and NOLA Ready Volunteers.

Volunteers are involved with various areas including registration, feeding, information collection, and other critical tasks. This training will also include best practices around COVID-19 precautions in a shelter environment. Questions about this training can be directed to shalini.persaud@nola.gov.



#FQThenandNow

VCPORA and the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) continue our #FQThenAndNow series this week with a post on [830 N Rampart](#). 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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