

VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, April 23, 2021

1 message

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FQEDD - Vote **Yes** Tomorrow!

Tomorrow, French Quarter residents will be asked to vote on the "Quarter for the

VCPORA supports a **Yes Vote** because:

- 1. The tax will provide security funding for 3 times the Blue Light Patrols in the French Quarter.** For the past year, the FQ NOPD Blue Light Patrols have been running 32 officer patrol hours per day. The FQEDD sales tax is estimated to generate \$2 million to \$3 million per year, allowing the patrols to almost triple in size to 92 officer hours per day upon full implementation.
- 2. The majority of this tax will be paid by tourists visiting the French Quarter.** It is estimated that 95% of this quarter of a penny (.245%) sales tax will be paid by visitors.
- 3. This funding will support the continuation of the Blue Light Patrols staffed by POST Certified NOPD officers.** Also known as the [Supplemental Police Patrol Program](#), these funds are designed to supplement the existing NOPD 8th District and will allow for increased public safety for residents, businesses, and visitors to the French Quarter.
- 4. This tax is estimated to generate \$2 - \$3 million per year** with the first \$2 million dedicated to expanding patrols and the remainder to be split between growing the patrols and public safety programs such as homeless issues, code enforcement, and quality of life issues.
- 5. NOPD 8th District Captain Caprera has strongly advocated for passage of this tax.**

[Click here](#) to see our eblast on the issue.



Hard Rock Update - Support Needed

Over 18 months ago, on October 12, 2019, the city watched with horror as the 18-story Hard Rock Hotel collapsed mid-construction, killing three workers and injuring dozens others. Now that the debris has been cleared, the City is making important decisions regarding the future use of this site.

On Tuesday, April 27, the City Planning Commission will review a Council request, introduced by Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer, to rescind the Conditional Use that permitted increases in height and floor area ratio, along with a non-accessory parking garage, to the parcels where the catastrophic hotel project was built. [Read the staff report here.](#)

The original Conditional Use was granted on a proposed plan that called for a mixed use, commercial and residential development. It was only after the additional height and floor-area-ratio were granted, that the applicants were able to shift the project into a hotel development. VCPORA strongly opposed these variances in 2011 and continues to advocate that any future redevelopment of this site must comply with the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance.

We encourage you to submit your support for the revocation of these entitlements so that any future redevelopment of these parcels would have to conform to the underlying zoning restrictions or proceed through a full public vetting before being granted any new variances for redevelopment.

The owners of 1031 Canal have violated the public trust, and any future redevelopment that would honor these “bonuses” would allow them to financially profit from their negligence.

Because these meetings are still being held virtually, **please mark your calendar to email your comments at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, April 27.** The [public comment form](#) will be made available at the start of the meeting and will close at the end of the 30 minute recess.

You can watch this meeting [here](#) and view the full agenda [here](#).



The Built Environment of New Orleans Lecture & Tour

Saturday, May 1

3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

1113 Chartres

Join us next Saturday for [The Built Environment of New Orleans](#) with co-founder and CEO of the New Orleans Master Crafts Guild, Jonn Hankins, who will lecture on the craftsmen who helped build the French Quarter and why their work continues to stand the test of time. Jonn will also lead a walking tour of the lower French Quarter to highlight important architectural features.

Space for the tour is limited and attendees must [register in advance on Eventbrite](#). Guests will be asked to remain socially distanced and are required to wear a mask. The lecture will also be live-streamed to our Facebook page.

This event marks the first in a lecture series collaboration by [the Beauregard-Keyes House](#) and VCPORA celebrating the craftsmanship and artistry of the master builders responsible for the architecture of New Orleans. Be on the lookout for additional installments over the next six months highlighting trades such as plasterwork, ironwork, masonry, and carpentry.



Slow Quarter Survey

The [updated survey](#) on the [Slow Quarter concept](#) will close this Monday, April 26. We encourage everybody to take the survey to help generate more nuanced feedback on this concept of the Mayor's [Reimagining the French Quarter pedestrianization plan](#). Please see [VCPORA's analysis](#) of the plan for our thoughts on the Slow Quarter concept as well as the six other concepts proposed in the pedestrianization plan.



Let's Keep the Quarter Clean! Report Organic Waste to 311

You can report organic waste (feces and vomit) to 311 and Empire Services, the French Quarter sanitation contract holder, must remove it within one hour. Go to nola311.org and submit a [service request](#). Make sure to enter the address or location and upload a picture of the waste.

For more information on sanitation in the French quarter, please visit the [FQMD sanitation page](#).



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Volunteers Needed - Graffiti Clean Up

Saturday, May 8

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

[334 Royal St.](#)

The FQBA's [Vieux Carré Graffiti Abatement Program](#) is gearing up for their all volunteer French Quarter graffiti cleanup on Saturday, May 8th! Bring your friends and neighbors!

See the [event flyer](#) or sign up on the [FQBA website](#).



Traffic Advisory - 4 week closure of Royal/Chartres Intersection

On Monday, April 26, weather permitting, the City of New Orleans, Department of Public Works will close the intersection of Conti and Royal streets to accommodate utility upgrades. To prioritize public safety, signage and flaggers will be in place to direct vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

- **Current Full Roadway Closure:** 700 block of Conti Street is closed to vehicular traffic for the duration of the project. Commuters are advised to detour from Bourbon Street onto Toulouse Street and then onto Royal Street.
- **Workday Closure:** 600 block of Conti Street is being intermittently closed to vehicular traffic daily while Entergy Gas and Entergy Electric crews are upgrading their utilities. Intermittent closures will continue through the duration of the project. During the day, commuters are advised to detour from Bourbon Street onto Toulouse Street and then onto Decatur Street. The 600 block will reopen to vehicular traffic each night.

Read the city's press release [here](#) and please visit www.roadwork.nola.gov for more information. Questions about this project or RoadworkNOLA should be directed to 504.658.ROAD (7623) or roadwork@nola.gov.



From the Fat Man to Mahalia

Thursday, April 29

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

400 Esplanade

James Michalopoulos will debut his new exhibit [From the Fat Man to Mahalia](#) at the [New Orleans Jazz Museum](#) next week with performances by the Adonis Rose Ensemble and refreshments by Celebration Distillation and Louisiana Pizza Kitchen. This retrospective will span Michalopoulos' most recent paintings of street musicians to his more rarely seen works loaned from private collections across the United States. This event is free and open to the public with a limited capacity. Guests, staff, and musicians are required to wear a mask unless actively eating, drinking, or performing.



GiveNOLA Day Planned Giving Available

Planned giving for [GiveNOLA Day](#) is now available. [Donate to VCPORA today](#) to ensure that the Vieux Carré is protected and preserved as an international historic treasure, a major cultural and economic asset, and a living residential neighborhood that is valued and respected by all.

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