
VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Saturday, May 7, 2022

1 message

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 **GULF COAST BANK**
& Trust Company



Mother's Day Concert & Picnic
with the New Leviathan Oriental Fox-Trot Orchestra



"Mother's Day Concert" is NEXT SUNDAY!

Sunday, May 15, 2022
Cabrini Park - Dauphine and Barracks
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Please join us and our **Presenting Sponsor, Gulf Coast Bank & Trust Company**,
at **Cabrini Park on May 15, 2022.**

We know, **that's a week after Mother's Day...**but this year, the last day of Jazz Fest falls on May 8th, and we didn't want you to have to make that tough choice! And it just so happens that **May 15th is International Families Day** – so bring Mom and the whole family, along with your picnic basket, lawn chairs, and your dancing shoes to Cabrini Park for an afternoon of fun!

As always we will be enjoying the sounds of American revivalist ensemble **New Leviathan Oriental Foxtrot Orchestra**. Don't forget the playground and face-painting for the kids!

Interested in volunteering? Contact us at info@vcpora.org.

With the generous sponsorship of Gulf Coast Bank & Trust Company, the 23rd Annual Mother's Day Concert & Picnic is VCPORA's gift to the community. This event is free and open to the public. **Although we love them, please leave the pets at home.** Please note that the park will be closed Sunday so that we may clean & set up for the event.



GiveNola Day 2022 - Thank you!

VCPORA's 2022 GiveNOLA Day was an immense success! We want to extend a tremendous thank you to the 53 donors who helped us BEAT OUR GOAL and donated \$4,540! Additionally, we had 5 Unique (repeat) Donors! We sincerely appreciate your participation and generosity.

Your support enables us to:

- Continue fighting for quality of life in this fragile and endangered neighborhood;
- Work on issues like public safety, illegal short-term rentals, and sanitation;
- Maintain commercial diversity and authenticity;
- Protect our remarkable architecture;
- and Keep the Weekly Vieux coming to your inboxes with up-to-date information on important issues and how you can help.

Thank you again from the Board and Staff at VCPORA!

**Outdoor Live Entertainment
Study**
City of New Orleans



Advocacy Updates

Outdoor Live Entertainment Study

What you Need to Know

In February, the City Council requested the City Planning staff to formulate amendments incorporating the Phase 1 proposals outlined in its [Outdoor Live Entertainment Study](#) (see pages 73-81). These recommendations will be reviewed by the City Planning Commission as early as May 24, after which the City Council can review the proposal. In addition to how this study will affect the entire city, we have some serious reservations about the proposed expansion of special event permits that could be allowed in the French Quarter.

This report was compiled between March 2020 and January 2021, during the first year of the Coronavirus pandemic. For this reason, it is largely reactionary to the shuttering of indoor performance space, and recommends a 1 year **“Temporary Special Events Permit”** to allow businesses a major increase in the number of outdoor (and indoor) live entertainment events they may hold. This one year Temporary Permit program will act as a pilot for subsequent potential permanent changes.

- **What is currently allowed:** 8 events per year with max 3 days per event (24 days/year)
- **Study recommendations:** 2- 3 times per week (104 - 156 days per year)

Will this rely on the sound ordinance for enforcement?

No. The study continuously references the unenforceability of the current sound ordinance, noting it as “an unhelpful partner in assuring peaceful cohabitation of outdoor live entertainment with its neighbors.”

How will this be regulated? Through hours of operation, furniture and speaker placement, and distancing between residential uses:

- **Hours are limited to:** (with extended hours for Arts & Cultural Overlays)
Mon-Thurs 12pm - 8pm, Friday 12pm - 9pm, Saturday 11am - 9pm, Sunday 11am - 8pm.
- Tables and chairs should occupy at least 50% of the outdoor floor area (not including landscape areas.)
- Speakers and instruments shall be directed away from adjacent residences to the greatest extent possible.
- Permits will require a rear yard buffer to an adjacent residential district equivalent to the required rear yard, or a minimum of 15 ft., whichever is greater.
- Permits will require a noise/sound abatement plan for mitigation and complaints. Documentation of repeated violations may result in revocation of a temporary permit.
- Regulation and enforcement will be performed by Safety & Permits with Code Enforcement.

Who can get the 1 year temporary permit?

“An occupiable building and business” on public or private property, which can include, but is not limited to, restaurants, bars, breweries, cultural facilities, hotels, bed and breakfasts, etc.

Available for all zoning districts

What happens next?

Zoning Docket 030/22 may be heard as early as May 24 by the City Planning Commission. Their recommendation will then go to the New Orleans City Council for consideration.

You can submit comments to the City Planning Commission via cpcinfo@nola.gov (make sure to include Zoning Docket 030/22 in the subject line).

Questions you should be asking:

- What is the review process to evaluate the success of the pilot?
- When will the Sound Ordinance be updated to effectively regulate and manage sound to mitigate potential negative impacts?
- Does the city have the personnel to enforce the rules in the pilot program?
- Will the proposed buffer and hour limitations be effective in balancing the needs of businesses and nearby residents?

We will be compiling more information to share with you next week - stay tuned.



(Advocacy Updates Cont.)

Parklets

On Tuesday, April 26, the City Planning Commission (CPC) reviewed the first steps in creating a permanent Parklet Program citywide. The Commission approved the recommendations in the [staff report](#) which outline the allowable zoning districts, hours of operation and use standards.

Per these recommendations, parklets are not allowed in residential zoning districts ([VCR-1](#) & [VCR-2](#)) and are restricted to locations where both sides of the street, from corner to corner, are within nonresidential zoning districts. Parklets will only be permitted in an establishment that sells food and beverages for consumption on premises. Parklet operational hours are limited between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Seating or other uses within Parklets is prohibited outside these hours. Lastly, parklets for bars will require a Conditional Use through the CPC.

A [companion ordinance](#) details more specifics in the city code, including permit requirements and fees, location criteria, and the future development of design guidelines. More information can be reviewed in the City's Department of Economic Development [parklet presentation](#).

We are pleased that the CPC staff and commissioners recognize the need to separate these outdoor businesses from residential zones. However, VCPORA remains opposed to any permanent parklet program within the French Quarter, a position which the Vieux Carré Commission has also recommended.

Read more about our position [here](#).

The City Council will likely consider both pieces of parklet legislation in June.

841 Bourbon Zoning Change

On April 12, the City Planning Commission unanimously recommended denial for the proposed zoning change at [841 Bourbon Street](#). Formerly operating as the Washing Well, which closed several years ago, the building had lost its grandfathered commercial status and must now revert to resident use, per the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. The owners are seeking a permanent zoning change for a gelato shop, and were this to happen, there will be no limit the range of potential future uses. It could become something much more intensive and history has shown us that commercial properties in the French Quarter generally do. Commissioner Wedberg noted that during spot-zoning requests, “The question is not, and never is, what business is intending to go in. The question is where could that business end up.” Now, this matter will go before the City Council, maybe as early as May 19. Thank you for your letters of opposition to this spot-zone but **the Council also needs to hear from you** to make an informed decision.

City Councilmember emails:

helena.moreno@nola.gov

JP.Morrell@nola.gov

Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov

Lesli.Harris@nola.gov

Freddie.King@nola.gov

eugene.green@nola.gov

Oliver.Thomas@nola.gov

[View the staff report and public comments here.](#)

Filming in the Quarter

Last Thursday, the [Film New Orleans](#) office hosted a public meeting to discuss filming productions in the French Quarter. 2022 kicked off with a frenzy of filming in the neighborhood with four separate productions happening in January alone. Blocks of parking, both residential and metered, were reserved for weeks and streets were regularly closed, blocking deliveries and day-to-day travel needs. We shared your frustrations about over-filming in the Quarter with the City and pushed for better regulation and management of these productions.

The Film Office responded to your concerns by holding this public meeting to engage directly with those most impacted. They have also updated some of their policies for French Quarter Filming, including limiting the area to only two productions at a time and those have to be spaced at least 6 blocks apart. Additional policies can be viewed [here](#) (Note: click on the Film New Orleans Policies and Procedures link in the orange box on the right).

If you have feedback on these new regulations, or questions about filming, please contact Carroll Morton at cgmorton@nola.gov and cc us (info@vcpora.org).



Other Upcoming Events in the Neighborhood

French Quarter Museum Association: Spring Arts Market Saturday, May 14, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy spring in the French Quarter by visiting local museums! For one day only on Saturday, May 14 from 10am to 4pm, vendors will be set up in the member institution courtyards of the [French Quarter Museum Association](#) (FQMA)!

Make a day of enjoying the history and culture of the French Quarter that these museums have to offer by walking between The [Beauregard-Keyes Historic House](#), The [New Orleans Pharmacy Museum](#), and the [Hermann-Grima Historic House](#). By visiting the markets, you'll not only be supporting local artists and vendors but also several of your local museums!

Patio Planters - French Quarter Secret Garden Tour Saturday, May 28, 12:00 p.m. - 4 p.m.

[Patio Planters](#) and French Quarter homeowners are once again partnering to bring you their annual self-guided walking tour of gardens and courtyards.

"The casual stroll offers a glimpse into how designers and residents take advantage of small spaces, adorned with greenery and flora to provide cool hideaways suited to the New Orleans climate in styles of early Spanish and French architecture."

More information and tickets can be found [here](#).



Helpful Resources

Safety

The NOPD 8th District *Non-Emergency* Line **(504) 658-6080**.
Watch the weekly NOPD 8th District MAX Meetings [here](#).
Download the French Quarter Task Force "Blue Light Patrol" App [here](#).

Quality of Life

See a public works issue or have quality of life complaints regarding construction, sanitation, illegal business operations, sound, and all other factors? **You can report these by dialing 311 or by submitting violations [here](#)**. It is **imperative** that we *continuously report quality of life issues* so as to provide further support in future cases and it will furthermore help to keep the reports on the authorities' radar.

Filming in the French Quarter

Questions and concerns regarding filming in the Vieux Carré can be sent to:

Carroll Morton
Director, Film New Orleans
(504) 658-4341 (office)
(504) 240-9504 (mobile)
cgmorton@nola.gov

Isabella Renner
Production Manager
(504) 658-4355 (office)
(504) 295-7734 (mobile)
isabella.renner@nola.gov

5G in the French Quarter

For information regarding 5G installation in the Vieux Carré, please see our website [here](#).

Questions and concerns regarding 5G can be sent to:

mayorcantrell@nola.gov
Ramsey.Green@nola.gov
Jonathan.Rhodes@nola.gov
bdblock@nola.gov
erinholmes@vcpora.org

Vieux Carré Resources

Apply for a permit or find an existing permit [here](#).
Find Vieux Carré Commission Design Guidelines [here](#).
VCC and VCCAC meeting schedules and past meeting materials can be found [here](#).
City Council and additional City Council Committee meeting schedules can be found [here](#).

Historic Research Tools

[Vieux Carré Virtual Library](#)
[The Collins C. Diboll Vieux Carré Digital Survey](#)
[Louisiana Digital Library](#)

VCPORA is a nonprofit organization that advocates for the preservation and protection of the Vieux Carré as an international historic treasure, a major cultural and economic asset, and a living residential neighborhood that is valued and respected by all.



Your generosity **today** helps preservationists and advocates create strategic and powerful campaigns to defend and elevate the French Quarter and surrounding neighborhoods **tomorrow!**

Donate

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