

LATOYA CANTRELL, MAYOR  
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

April 26, 2022

Ms. Lora W. Johnson  
Clerk of Council  
New Orleans City Council  
1300 Perdido Street, Room 1E09  
New Orleans, LA 70112

**RE: MAYORAL VETO OF ORDINANCE CAL. NO. 33,625**

Dear Madam Clerk:

Pursuant to Article III, Section 3-113[2] of the New Orleans Home Rule Charter, I, LaToya Cantrell, Mayor of New Orleans, do hereby disapprove of and veto Ordinance Cal. No. 33,625 as passed by the City Council, based on the following objections:

- Any reconsideration of the form of government in the City of New Orleans should be done in a holistic manner. The Council's approach could produce unintended consequences by taking an ordinance-by-ordinance, piecemeal approach to re-evaluating the Charter. It is dangerous to bring charter changes to the voters without expert review or sufficient public engagement. Two public City Council meetings is not enough time to assess the changes being proposed. While in-person Council meetings have returned, with public comment opportunities --- many of our residents have not yet resumed in-person engagement. The residents of this City deserve a more thoughtful process and more time for public input and expert analysis. My administration would gladly embrace and support a more expansive, deliberative process like a charter review commission to do a full review of the Charter.
- With the potential for our City to be the focus and beneficiary of unprecedented amounts of federal spending and infrastructure investment, this is not the time for our City government to be seen as dysfunctional. We cannot appear to be in internal turmoil or gridlock with investors watching, the federal government watching, and most importantly: with the people of New Orleans watching. We must be unified so our City can access the resources our people need and deserve.
- The last three and a half years have seen our City and her people challenged by unprecedented, overlapping crises --- including the collapse of the Hard Rock, the cyber-attack, multiple storm and hurricane events, and the global pandemic that killed over thousands of our brothers and sisters. We have had to issue multiple, overlapping emergency declarations. All of that has placed enormous strain on our economy and on the people that make it run. This is not the time to add to those burdens with a struggle between branches of government over how our City is fundamentally run. The immediate priorities must be on keeping our people safe and healthy, and managing through the trifecta of economic challenges we are faced with: nationwide inflation, the Great Resignation, and supply chain struggles created by the pandemic.

1300 PERDIDO STREET | SUITE 2E04 | NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA | 70112  
PHONE 504.658.4900 | FAX 504.658.4938 | WWW.NOLA.GOV



- As written, this Confirmation Ordinance is both duplicative and duplicitous. The City Council, under the current charter, has ample authority to check mayoral appointments and to bring charges against any person appointed to the unclassified service for lack of qualifications, incompetence, or neglect of duty. Framed by its supporters as a restraint on executive authority -- - this Ordinance is in fact an explicit claim to executive authority. The role of the Council is to legislate, not administrate. This ordinance is a power grab for control, and a bad-faith attempt to hobble the authority of the duly-elected executive.

Our City is at a pivotal point in her history. We have once-in-a-generation opportunities. And while our form of government may not be perfect, no form of government is. Our City faces a variety of challenges, but we as her people need to work together to make this City stronger. What we do in the next four years will shape this City for the next fifty.

For the reasons stated above, I am called upon for the first time in my tenure as Mayor to exercise my veto power pursuant to Article IV Chapter 2 Section 4-206[2] of the New Orleans Home Rule Charter. I hereby veto the ordinance, for the good of our City and the residents we serve.



LaToya Cantrell  
Mayor, City of New Orleans