



**MICHAEL SIGUR**  
ACTING MAYOR

# **CITY OF KENNER**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Jan. 15, 2016**

### **AUCTION FOR AIRPORT BUYOUT PROPERTY SET FOR JAN. 29 IN NEW ORLEANS**

**Kenner, LA.** – An auction for 31 bundles of vacant land, much of it south and just east of Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 29 in New Orleans.

The auction will be held in the New Orleans City Council Chambers at City Hall, 1300 Perdido St. Minimum starting bids have been established for each of the bundles and range from \$11,000 to \$309,000.

Much of the land has been vacant since the late 1980s, when the Federal Aviation Administration approved the recommendations of a noise mitigation study. Nearly 400 properties surrounding the airport and located on 23 different city blocks were purchased by the FAA because of noise readings measured on those properties.

Kenner administrations have been working to get those properties back into commerce for some time, but the process has been complicated because the land is located in Kenner and controlled by FAA and the city of New Orleans, said Kenner's Chief Administrative Officer Mike Quigley.

The money from the sales will go to the FAA, but Kenner will benefit with new businesses offering important services, paying taxes and perhaps expanding in the future. None of the tracts can be used as residential property.

Acting Mayor Michael Sigur, who also is the District 2 councilman where some of the bundles are located, said he will work with the administration and other council members to oversee any new developments.

"This is good news," he said. "But, with the help of our zoning laws and other regulations, we will make sure any new projects follow all of the city's zoning and other regulations and do not negatively impact any current residents."

The airport was built in 1950 when Kenner had just 2,375 residents, but as the city grew to become the 6<sup>th</sup> largest in the city by 1980 – at the same time airport traffic increased dramatically – noise became a major issue.

Quigley said the idea to sell the vacant land in bundles came from a 2013 report that the city commissioned on ways to handle sales of the noise mitigation property. Bundling the land reduces the chances that

developers pick and choose individual pieces of property, leaving some nearby vacant tracts that may be small or oddly-shaped.

“This is an important economic opportunity for Kenner, and it is due to the collaborative efforts of the Yenni administration, City Council members, the Aviation Director and his staff and the city of New Orleans.”

For more information on the auction and the specific bundles involved, go to <http://www.nola.gov/city-surplus-real-estate-auctions/airport-noise-property/>

###