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PRESS RELEASE

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DRAFT OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR KENNER'S FUTURE COMPLETED

Kenner, LA. – A 2-year process to draft a comprehensive land-use plan to help guide Kenner's future is finished with a draft of the plan, dubbed *Pattern for Progress*, available for viewing on the city's website

Kenner officials decided in 2001 to update the city's initial land-use plan, and that task was all but completed in 2005 when hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the area. The plan was approved in 2008, but a \$238,000 state grant to address ways for local governments to be more resilient in the aftermath of hurricanes, economic downturns or other forms of upheaval required city planning officials, along with experts from the University of New Orleans, to expand the document.

A comprehensive land-use plan is vital for the stable growth of a city. It is used, according to Kenner Planning Director Jay Hebert, "as a blueprint to guide a city's future development. It also is used to assist local elected officials as they make land-use and zoning decisions."

The public played a key role in providing feedback used to put together *Pattern for Progress*. Officials relied on two rounds of 11 public meetings, as well as consultations with elected officials, boards and commissions and department heads and a community image survey in which participants ranked zoning and other land-use issues in order of preference.

The result is a detailed plan designed to increase Kenner's resilience against storms and other disasters while also complying with a state law that requires communities to have comprehensive land-use plans to guide local development.

Following public viewing, the plan will be prepared for local adoption, which is anticipated to occur sometime during the first quarter of 2015.

The plan will be followed by a new comprehensive zoning ordinance. The zoning ordinance will be the public policy tool that assists in the implementation of the comprehensive plan. The University of New Orleans' Planning Division is overseeing the zoning ordinance project, as it did the comprehensive plan. That is expected to be completed in 2015, Hebert said.

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