



**MICHAEL S. YENNI**

Mayor

# **CITY OF KENNER**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Oct. 17, 2014**

### ***KENNER COUNCIL PASSES ORDINANCE ON THE SALE OF CITY STREETS, PROPERTY***

**Kenner, LA.** – The Kenner City Council approved an ordinance that changes what happens to proceeds received from the sale of city streets, buildings and other property, benefitting the Police Department and ending the practice of keeping the money in the district where the property was located.

In the past, money from the sale of property remained in the district, irrespective of any other city needs, making it available only to that council member.

But under the ordinance authored by District 2 Councilman Mike Sigur and at-large Councilman Keith Conley, 24 percent of the proceeds will first go to the Police Department. The 76 percent that remains goes into a capital account and is spent on the most pressing capital need in the city at the time.

Sigur and Conley's ordinance overturns a 2006 law that that favored the district where the property was located over any other needs in the city.

The decision on what projects to fund under the new ordinance would only be made after a public hearing in which council members and Mayor Michael Yenni can suggest projects that should be funded.

Sigur said the new system is "a whole lot more transparent" and makes it easier for residents to understand where the money came from and how it will be spent.

The ordinance passed by a 4-1 vote at Thursday's meeting. District 1 Councilman Gregory Carroll voted against the measure. District 3 Councilman Keith Renaud was not at the meeting and at-large Councilwoman Maria DeFrancesch did not vote because she was acting mayor for the meeting.

Carroll argued that the 2006 council that created the original law had much more experience than the current board, which includes four new members. He also argued that the process to decide what projects in the city to choose when money is available from the sale of property would become a political battle.

But council members, including Dominick Impastato of District 5, strongly disagreed.

Impastato said when he ran for office earlier this year, he pledged “to always do what is best for the city as a whole. That is what I believe this ordinance does.”

Impastato said he was confident Kenner voters have elected and would continue to elect council members that are focused on working for the best interests of the city, and said when the city as a whole prospers, so do all of its districts.

“There are no district assets – there are city assets.”

Kenner Police Chief Mike Glaser said the Police Department can certainly use any additional funding and would dedicate any money received to purchase new cars because the department has no separate capital fund.

“Right now, cars are purchased using seized funds,” he said.

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