



# CITY OF KENNER

## PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### KENNER CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM OCT. 2 MEETING

**Kenner, LA.** – An ordinance was introduced at Thursday night’s Kenner City Council meeting that would replace a 2006 law and allow proceeds from the sale of streets or many other types of property to be spent on the most pressing current capital project in the city – after 24 percent is sent to the Police Department.

The ordinance, authored by District 2 Councilman Mike Sigur and at-large Councilman Keith Conley, would require that the remaining 76 percent go into a citywide capital asset fund. Sigur said the council would then hold a public hearing and bring in experts to decide which current project on the drawing board – no matter where it is located in the city - should be funded with the money.

“The intent is for more transparency,” Sigur said. “The public is involved in the process this way and experts are relied upon to provide a ranking so the council can determine how to best spend that money.”

While the 2006 law would be rescinded in the process, At-large Councilman Keith Conley said the new ordinance keeps alive the essence of that 8-year-old law.

“The spirit of that 2006 ordinance was to make sure the funds were dedicated for district needs,” Conley said. “That is still what is happening with the new law, only we are recognizing that if there is a greater citywide need – such as a firehouse in disrepair, for example – the money would go to that pressing need.”

The normal prior practice was for money from the sale of streets to remain in whatever district the streets were located. That gave the councilman for the district complete control over the money.

Sigur said the problem with that procedure is a lack of transparency - there is no guaranteed way for residents to voice their opinion and to follow the money trail.

“The intent here is to redirect the funds to a capital account for citywide use that professionals – such as engineers, department directors or members of the administration, as well as each council member – can say: ‘Hey, we’ve got this capital need and here’s the logic and the rationale behind the need for it.’ There is then a ranking of those needs, and after public hearings, a vote of the council.”

Sigur said the 24 percent to the Police Department was added in the new law because the department is currently funded under a formula that calls for 24 percent of all anticipated revenue to go for police needs.

“The desire here is simply not to shortchange the police department.”

District 5 Councilman Dominick Impastato said the proposed ordinance is something Kenner citizens deserve.

“I think it sends a statement that the city of Kenner is getting beyond territorial political issues and putting the best interests of the city as a whole first and foremost,” he said. “If we can’t agree on what the best interests of the city are – then we need to work that much harder to determine where those funds should be spent in the best interests of the city as a whole rather than limit it to the needs of one district alone.”

Council President Maria DeFrancesch also agreed: “I’m 100 percent behind rescinding the old ordinance and replacing it with the new one,” she said.

The ordinance is scheduled to be voted on during the Oct. 16 meeting. Mayor Michael Yenni said he believes the proposed law is an example of good government in action.

“I want to commend Councilmen Sigur and Conley for this ordinance,” the mayor said. “I think this is a great idea and ensures that any proceeds that come in are spent on the most pressing citywide need. I’m also happy that the public will be fully involved in the process, which is exactly what should happen.”

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