

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER HM 26-16**

**NORDC REFORM TASK FORCE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of New Orleans is committed to providing safe, accessible, high-quality recreation and youth development opportunities across the City’s network of recreation centers, parks, and athletic facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, following a 2010 referendum, the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (“NORDC”)—then operating as an executive branch department known as the New Orleans Recreation Department—was reconstituted as a quasi-independent, unattached board of the City under Article V of the Home Rule Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor believes there is a need to evaluate the structure, programming, operations, and funding of NORDC (i) to ensure effective and responsible governance and oversight; (ii) to expand partnerships for programming, (iii) to identify opportunities for consolidating city services being provided through multiple city agencies; (iv) to improve community confidence through improved customer service, transparency, and metrics, (v) to revitalize philanthropic interest in City recreation programming, currently overseen by the largely defunct NORD Foundation, and (vi) to consider options to identify and address safety and environmental concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, the City’s immediate priority is to evaluate the current strengths and weaknesses of the City’s recreation program and, where appropriate, to develop a comprehensive, durable, and operationally actionable slate of reforms that can be implemented through legislation, administrative policies, and intergovernmental/partner agreements;

**NOW THEREFORE, I, HELENA MORENO**, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the City of New Orleans by Section 4-206(3) of the New Orleans Home Rule Charter and other applicable law, **DO HEREBY ORDER AS FOLLOWS:**

1. **Effective Date.** This Executive Order shall become effective upon execution.
2. **Establishment of NORDC Reform Task Force.**
  - A. There is hereby established an interdepartmental task force to be known as the = NORDC Reform Task Force (“Task Force”). The Task Force is established as an operational implementation arm of the executive branch, managed by the Mayor’s Office, to coordinate work products, draft

implementation instruments, and manage interdepartmental execution of the Mayor's policies.

B. Because it is established as an operational unit, the Task Force shall not be deemed a mayoral advisory committee pursuant to Section 4-104 of the Home Rule Charter or otherwise operate as a public body whose meetings are governed by the Louisiana Open Meetings Law, but shall prepare staff work product and implementation recommendations for consideration by the Mayor and, where applicable, the City Council, NORDC, and other authorized decision-makers.

3. **Purpose and Scope.** The Task Force shall evaluate and prepare actionable recommendations regarding a comprehensive suite of reforms addressing the following policy priorities:

A. *Governance.* The Task Force is hereby directed to analyze and evaluate NORDC's governance, appointment structure, funding, and accountability mechanisms. As part of that evaluation, the Task Force shall study and make recommendations regarding (i) whether and to what extent the establishment of NORDC in 2011 has resulted in both an effective and cost-effective delivery of recreation services and (ii) what reforms to existing structures and operations might improve efficiency, performance, financial stability, and accountability. In making these recommendations, the Task Force should consider options that may be implemented by ordinance, by agreement, or by amendment to the Home Rule Charter.

B. *Partnerships and Programming.* The Task Force shall develop and make recommendations regarding a scalable operational model under which NORDC maintains facility stewardship and maximizes programming where it is currently effective, while expanding programming across a majority of facilities through standardized agreements with community programming partners. As part of this evaluation, the Task Force shall consider a plan to develop accreditation criteria and a contracting framework (e.g., cooperative endeavor agreements) that ensures public access, affordability, and measurable outcomes.

C. *Operational Consolidation.* The Task Force shall study and make recommendations regarding whether and how to consolidate the labor operations of NORDC and the Department of Parks and Parkways to promote operating efficiencies with respect to parks, playgrounds, and green spaces currently administered by NORDC.

D. *Community Engagement.* The Task Force shall develop recommendations for modernizing the operations of NORDC, including initiatives to simplify registration, improve communications, and establish transparency through audits, surveys, and performance metrics. As part of those recommendations, the Task Force shall consider and make recommendations for the establishment of stakeholder entities, such as a NORDC Parents Association and a Coaches Council, to facilitate community engagement.

E. *Funding and Philanthropy.* The Task Force should evaluate the funding and fund-raising structure and operations of NORDC, including the performance of the NORDC Foundation. The Task Force should study and make recommendations regarding how to bolster external fundraising and private philanthropy for NORDC in an effective and durable manner.

F. *Safety and Environment.* The Task Force shall consider and make recommendations regarding the costs and practicalities of implementing a program to assess and remediate safety and environmental concerns at NORDC facilities and playgrounds, including the existence of lead in soil and other environmental issue. The Task Force shall examine how other cities have evaluated, addressed, and funded remediation, as well as make recommendations regarding the availability of federal, state, and philanthropic resources to address environmental safety issues, and a timeline for implementation of any needed remediation.

#### **4. Task Force Membership and Governance.**

A. The Chief Administrative Officer (“CAO”) (or the CAO’s designee) shall serve as the chair of the Task Force, and the Mayor’s Chief of Staff shall serve as Vice Chair.

B. The Chair or Vice Chair shall appoint Task Force members from the following non-exclusive list of offices and departments and shall be empowered to assign staff to workstreams:

- Office of the Mayor;
- CAO’s Office (including Procurement/Contracts, Performance & Accountability, and/or Budget);
- City Attorney’s Office;
- Department of Parks & Parkways (Director or designee);
- NORDC administration;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Property Management
- Information Technology (for registration modernization);
- Communications (for customer service and transparency initiatives).

C. The CAO shall designate a Task Force Director (project manager) responsible for timelines, deliverables, and interdepartmental coordination.

#### **5. Participation by Subject-Matter Experts and Community Stakeholders.**

A. The Task Force may solicit input, research, drafting support, and operational consultation from non-City individuals and organizations, including but not limited to:

- Governance and nonprofit experts;
- Recreation and youth-development practitioners;
- School, church, and neighborhood association leaders;
- Philanthropic leaders and volunteer corps operators;
- Coaches, parents, and facility users;
- Representatives of the Library Board, School Board, and the existing NORD Foundation (as appropriate).

B. External participants may be engaged as individual subject-matter experts, consultants, or listening-session participants, and may be invited to attend meetings at the discretion of the Chair. External participants shall not exercise delegated governmental authority on behalf of the City unless separately authorized by law and contract.

6. **Workstreams.** The Chair shall establish the workstreams, each with a lead, to address and provide written recommendations and deliverables for each of the items identified in Section 3(A)-(F).

7. **Deliverables.** The Task Force shall prepare, at minimum, the following deliverables (all in formats ready for immediate implementation):

A. The Task Force shall prepare a baseline assessment memorandum outlining the current structure and operational status of NORDC, identifying any immediate opportunities to improve NORD governance and operations.

B. The Task Force shall schedule and conduct listening sessions and stakeholder interviews with key constituencies.

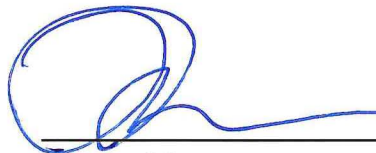
C. The Task Force shall prepare a report of recommendations for improving NORDC governance and operations, to be considered by the Mayor and, as appropriate, the City Council and NORDC.

D. The Task Force, upon approval of any recommendation, shall prepare a legislative package and implementation plan to implement any authorized changes.

8. **Reporting.** The Task Force Director shall provide the Mayor with a written progress update at least biweekly.

9. **Duration.** This Order shall remain effective until amended, rescinded, or terminated in accordance with applicable law.

**WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL THIS 7TH DAY OF APRIL, 2026 AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'H' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that ends in a small hook.

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**Helena Moreno**  
**Mayor**  
**City of New Orleans**