

LATOYA CANTRELL, MAYOR
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

July 14, 2021

RE: EXPECTATIONS FOR WORKING ON CITY OF NEW ORLEANS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Dear City of New Orleans Infrastructure Contractors:

New Orleans is a city of rich culture, tradition, and strong sense of community. Together, we have worked hard to build back stronger and to raise our standard of living. These improvements come with increasingly higher expectations from residents and visitors alike for the services that we provide. As City contractors, you are held to the same high standard when working on infrastructure projects for the Department of Public Works, Capital Projects or the Sewerage & Water Board.

As you know, we have more than **\$600M** in construction with much more coming down the pipeline. It is incumbent upon us all to work together as we move through this unprecedented amount of infrastructure work in our city. That means finding opportunities for more consistent coordination and communication between all contractors to understand how your individual projects may be impacting the neighborhood in which you are working. That also means being mindful not only of the long-term benefits these improvements will bring, but also of the short-term impacts residents and visitors are experiencing on a daily basis that affect their quality of life.

Missing deadlines, leaving construction sites unclean and residents without access to driveways for months on end is not acceptable. We can do better, and we must do better. If capacity is an issue that is leading to scheduling delays, please take advantage of our Job1 Business and Career Solutions. We have on-the-job training programs that can provide reimbursement to employers who hire and train workers, we have apprenticeship programs and more. I encourage you to use this resource and reach out to our Director of Workforce Development Sunae Villavaso Sunae.Villavaso@nola.gov for additional information.

I have asked leadership from the Department of Public Works (DPW) to review and issue revised expectations around communication and scheduling protocols, traffic and business impacts, contract requirements, etc. in the coming weeks. In turn, I ask for your commitment to adhering to these expectations as that is the only way to successfully complete our projects and ensure that residents will be supportive partners in future infrastructure projects. I take the work we do very seriously, and I expect you to do the same. As a reminder, DPW will be conducting periodic performance evaluations for every project in construction. Failure to follow contract requirements may result in a negative performance evaluation, which in turn could impact your ability to successfully bid on future projects with the City of New Orleans.

This can be a win-win situation for all parties, but everyone needs to come to the table with the willingness to work together.

Questions or concerns regarding the expectations of your firm can be submitted, in writing, to Josh Hartley, Acting Director, DPW, at jwhartley@nola.gov.

Sincerely,



LaToya Cantrell
Mayor, City of New Orleans

1300 PERDIDO STREET | SUITE 2E04 | NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA | 70112
PHONE 504.658.4900 | FAX 504.658.4938 | WWW.NOLA.GOV

