

**RESOLUTION**  
**(LYING OVER)**  
**NO. R-25-604**

**CITY HALL: December 4, 2025**

**BY: COUNCILMEMBER MORRELL**

**SECONDED BY:**

A **RESOLUTION** requesting the Industrial Development Board of the City of New Orleans consider changes to its by-laws to increase transparency, maximize stakeholder engagement, and ensure economic development projects provide a strong financial return that benefits both businesses and residents.

**WHEREAS**, the Industrial Development Board of the City of New Orleans (IDB) serves as an economic development driver for Orleans Parish; and

**WHEREAS**, the IDB's primary tool for incentivizing new projects, creation and retention of jobs, and revitalization of existing sites is by the granting of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs) and tax-exempt bonds; and

**WHEREAS**, PILOTs provide reductions in ad valorem taxes as an incentive for economic development, this incentive has a direct impact on local governing authorities, like the City and the Orleans Parish School Board, whose operating budgets are substantially dependent on ad valorem tax revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, the process for granting reductions in ad valorem taxes should be done judiciously and with careful scrutiny of projects to ensure that local governing authorities are receiving a return for their investment; and

**WHEREAS**, the current process for granting PILOTs is not codified in law or in the IDB by-laws, IDB meetings are often held in inconvenient locations or locations with limited space for public participation, and the IDB's ranked list of primary activity priorities is out-of-step with the City's economic development goals; and

**WHEREAS**, prioritizing agriculture over major industry, and parking lot development over transportation development are just a few examples of how the IDB by-laws do not reflect the economic development needs of Orleans Parish; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council encourages the IDB to engage in a comprehensive evaluation and amendment process for its by-laws to improve transparency, public engagement, oversight, and process; **NOW THEREFORE**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS**, That the New Orleans City Council requests the Industrial Development Board (“IDB”) approval process, to vest in the City Council the final approval of the payment in lieu of tax (“PILOT”) incentive for a development project upon IDB’s recommendation, and establish in its by-laws a detailed process for a development project to proceed from initial application to IDB recommendation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City Council requests the IDB refrain from approving any new tax incentives until the incoming mayoral administration announces its economic development plans and goals for the next four years.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City Council requests the IDB perform a comprehensive audit of all PILOTs granted in the last ten years analyzing all of the following criteria: (1) the project’s proposed benefit versus the proven benefit to businesses and residents; (2) whether applicants undervalued property for lower taxes, and how did applicant valuations differ from third party appraisals; (3) detailed accounting of how long projects took to complete after the initial granting of a PILOT, if delays played a role in diminished project return, if re-negotiation could have improved the projected return, and how IDB can improve its evaluation criteria to ensure PILOTs are recommended for projects with the highest benefit return.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Clerk of Council transmit certified copies of this resolution to all members of the Industrial Development Board of the City of New Orleans.

**THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, THE RESULT WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

**YEAS:**

**NAYS:**

**ABSENT:**

**RECUSED:**

**AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**