RESOLUTION

NO. R-26-146

CITY HALL: April 23, 2026

BY: COUNCILMEMBERS HUGHES, MORRELL, WILLARD, MCCARRON, HARRIS, KING AND GREEN

A RESOLUTION endorsing and supporting House Bill 573 by Representative Stephanie Hilferty, relative to the governance, oversight, and accountability of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, and urging its favorable passage by the Louisiana Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans is responsible for the construction, control, maintenance, and operation of the public water, sewerage, and drainage systems serving the people of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, under current state law, the Board is composed of the Mayor of New Orleans, the chair of the Council's Public Works, Sanitation and Environment Committee or a qualified designee, two members of the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, and seven citizen members appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council; and

WHEREAS, the Council exercises important oversight over the Sewerage and Water Board, including authority related to rates, billing-policy procedures, investigations, and certain approvals tied to Board operations and financing; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that New Orleans residents deserve a governance structure for the Sewerage and Water Board that is more transparent, more accountable, and more responsive to local needs; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 573 by Representative Stephanie Hilferty strengthens local accountability by allowing the Council to prescribe board-member rules by ordinance and require Council approval of rates, annual operating budgets, capital budgets and plans, governance and billing policies, contracts, and the election of the executive director and hiring of board employees, while preserving existing legal and financial obligations of the Board; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the Council hereby endorses and supports House Bill 573 by Representative Stephanie Hilferty, together with any amendments consistent with its purpose of strengthening local accountability,

modernizing governance, preserving legal and financial obligations, and improving service to the people of New Orleans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Council urges the Louisiana Legislature to consider House Bill 573 that enacts reforms that provide the City of New Orleans with durable local tools to improve oversight, governance, and performance at the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Representative Stephanie Hilferty, all members of the Orleans Parish delegation: Representative Delisha Boyd, Representative Jacob Braud, Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman, Representative Stephanie Hilferty, Representative Alonzo L. Knox, Representative Mandie Landry, Representative Shaun Raphael Mena, Representative Ed Murray, Representative Candace N. Newell, Senator Gary Carter, Senator Royce Duplessis, and Senator Jimmy Harris, all members of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial, and Cultural Affairs: Chairman Foy Bryan Gadberry, Vice Chair Barbara Reich Freiberg, Representative Beth Anne Billings, Representative Kim Carver, Representative Vincent E. Cox, III, Representative Jessica Domangue, Representative Les Farnum, Representative Dana Henry, Representative Steven Jackson, Representative Alonzo L. Knox, Representative Rodney Lyons, Representative C. Denise Marcelle, Representative Pat Moore, Representative Ed Murray, Representative Paul Sawyer, Representative Joseph A. Stagni, and Representative Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House Representative Phillip DeVillier, Mayor Helena Moreno, Executive Director Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, Randy Hayman, and the Governance Committee of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

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

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

RECUSED:

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.