

ORDINANCE

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

CITY HALL: July 23, 2026

CALENDAR NO. 35,512

NO. _____ MAYOR COUNCIL SERIES

BY: COUNCILMEMBERS MORRELL AND HUGHES

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Article 19 of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (Ordinance No. 4264 M.C.S., as amended by Ordinance No. 26,413 M.C.S. and subsequent amendments) to create a new Interim Zoning District to be named the Data Center Interim Zoning District, the intent of which is prohibit the issuance of an occupational license or otherwise permit the operation of data centers citywide; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, Zoning Docket Number 37/26 was initiated by City Council Motion No. M-26-63 and referred to the City Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission held a public hearing on this zoning petition and recommended approval of the requested text amendment use in its report to the City Council dated May 15, 2026, presented in **Zoning Docket Number 37/26**; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation of the City Planning Commission was upheld, and the changes were deemed necessary and in the best interest of the City of New Orleans and the request was approved by the City Council, as stated in Motion Number M-26-264 of the Council of the City of New Orleans on June 24, 2026.

1 **SECTION 1. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS HEREBY**
2 **ORDAINS,** That Article 19 of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (Ordinance No. 4264 M.C.S., as
3 amended by Ordinance No. 26,413 M.C.S. and subsequent amendments), be, and is hereby amended
4 and reordained to read as follows:

5 **“ARTICLE 19. TEMPORARY PROHIBITIONS**

6 * * *

7 **19.4 TEMPORARY PROHIBITIONS**

8 **19.4.A INTERIM ZONING DISTRICT(S) (IZD)**

9 * * *

10 **19.4.A.24 – DATA CENTER INTERIM ZONING DISTRICT**

11 **A. Intent of the District**

12 The IZD is intended to temporarily ban the approval of “Data Center” uses, which includes data
13 centers, server farms, crypto-currency mining facilities, or any other facilities designed or used
14 primarily to house information technology infrastructure and equipment for the storage, management,
15 processing, and transmission of digital data.

16 **B. Boundaries**

17 The Interim Zoning District applies citywide.

18 **C. Prohibited Uses**

19 The issuance of permits or occupational licenses for Data Centers is prohibited citywide. Data Centers
20 are defined as follows:

21 Data Center. A physical room, building, facility, or group of facilities designed and
22 used primarily for the housing, operation, and maintenance of computer servers,
23 network infrastructure, or data storage systems, and associated mechanical,
24 electrical, and cooling equipment, for the purpose of processing, storing, managing,
25 transmitting, or distributing digital data. The term includes colocation data centers,
26 retail data centers, enterprise data centers, cloud computing data centers, hyperscale
27 data centers, data mining facilities or other similarly functioning facility, but does

not include server rooms or telecommunications equipment rooms accessory to a primary non-data-center use and occupying less than 2,000 square feet.

D. Appeals

Applications to appeal this IZD shall be submitted to the Executive Director of the City Planning Commission. Every application for appeal shall be made on forms provided by the City and shall be accompanied by the payment of a filing fee in the amount of \$1,000.00 and the data required in such form. The Executive Director may request for the applicant to provide such additional information and data as may be required to fully advise the Council, whether such information and data is called for by the official form or not. CPC shall review the appeal and make recommendations relative to the appeal within sixty (60) days of receipt using the following standards:

1. Is requested appeal compatible with the surrounding land uses and structures?
2. Does the requested appeal provide for an efficient use of land?
3. Will the requested appeal increase community environmental or quality-of-life impacts?
4. Does the requested appeal provide appropriate health safeguards for neighboring or nearby properties, including but not limited to soundproofing measures and other safety best practices?
5. In consultation with utility experts, including but not limited to the Council Utilities Regulatory Office, does the requested appeal unduly tax the City's utility systems, including but not limited to the electrical grid?
6. Does the appellant have reasonable investment-backed expectations in the use of the property as prohibited by the IZD?

The Council shall have 60 days from the receipt of the Executive Director's recommendation to act by motion directing the drafting of an ordinance to grant the appeal (with or without modifications) or to

50 deny the appeal. If the Council fails to act within 60 days from the receipt of the recommendation, the
51 appeal shall be deemed to be denied.

20 * * *”

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS _____

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

DELIVERED TO THE MAYOR ON _____

APPROVED:
DISAPPROVED: _____

MAYOR

RETURNED BY THE MAYOR ON _____ **AT** _____

CLERK OF COUNCIL

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

RECUSED:

MOTION
NO. M-26-264

CITY HALL: June 18, 2026

BY: COUNCILMEMBERS MORRELL AND HUGHES

BE IT MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, that the City Planning Commission's report and recommendation of **approval** related to **ZONING DOCKET 37/26**, initiated by Council Motion No. M-26-63, requesting consideration of an amendment to Article 19 of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to create a new Interim Zoning District called the Data Center Interim Zoning District, the intent of which is prohibit the issuance of an occupational license or otherwise permit the operation of data centers citywide, is hereby received and the request is **APPROVED**.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, that the Clerk of Council is directed to forward copies of this motion to the Law Department, which is directed to prepare an ordinance to effectuate this motion and is granted flexibility to make any changes necessary to achieve the will of the Council as set forth in this motion.

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

YEAS: Green, Harris, Hughes, McCarron, Morrell, Willard - 6

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: King - 1

RECUSED: 0

AND THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.

**THE FOREGOING IS CERTIFIED
TO BE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY**



CLERK OF COUNCIL

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