

RESOLUTION

NO. R-26-114

CITY HALL: March 12, 2026

BY: COUNCILMEMBER HUGHES

SECONDED BY:

A RESOLUTION requesting the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans to provide monthly operational and compliance updates to the Public Works, Sanitation and Environment Committee of the New Orleans City Council and establishing a standing agenda item to ensure transparency regarding system performance, environmental compliance, and infrastructure improvements.

WHEREAS reliable water, sewer, and drainage infrastructure is essential to the safety, public health, and economic stability of the City of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS residents throughout the city continue to express concerns regarding drainage capacity, water infrastructure reliability, and the condition of critical infrastructure systems; and

WHEREAS the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans operates under a federal consent decree requiring significant improvements to sewer and drainage infrastructure and mandating ongoing compliance reporting to regulatory authorities; and

WHEREAS environmental incidents such as sewer discharges and sanitary sewer overflows are reported to regulatory agencies including the Louisiana Department of Health and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality but are not consistently reported in a public forum before the City Council; and

WHEREAS regular reporting to the City Council will improve transparency and ensure that residents and policymakers remain informed regarding both infrastructure progress and environmental conditions affecting public health; and

WHEREAS identifying operational barriers, regulatory requirements, and infrastructure challenges will allow the City Council and relevant agencies to work collaboratively to remove obstacles and accelerate improvements to the City's water, sewer, and drainage systems; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED; that the New Orleans City Council hereby requests that the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans provide monthly operational updates to the Public Works, Sanitation and Environment Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these updates shall be included as a standing agenda item at meetings of the Public Works, Sanitation and Environment Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such updates should include, but not be limited to: status of drainage pump stations and drainage system capacity; status of water and sewer system operations; progress on major infrastructure repairs and capital improvement projects; major service interruptions or system failures since the previous report; upcoming infrastructure milestones or maintenance activities; updates regarding compliance with the federal consent decree governing sewer and drainage system improvements; reports of sewer discharges, sanitary sewer overflows, or other environmental incidents; any notifications or reporting submitted to the Louisiana Department of Health, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, or federal regulatory agencies related to sewer discharges or environmental compliance; findings from investigations related to sewer discharges or environmental incidents and the corrective actions being taken; operational barriers, infrastructure challenges, funding constraints, or regulatory issues impacting system performance or project timelines; and actions or coordination needed from the City Council, Administration, or partner agencies to help resolve those challenges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the purpose of these updates is to ensure transparency regarding infrastructure operations and environmental conditions while allowing the Council and relevant agencies to work collaboratively to address challenges and accelerate improvements.

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.