RESOLUTION

NO. R-16-132

BY: COUNCILMEMBERS WILLIAMS, HEAD, GUIDRY, BROSETT AND GRAY

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Council institute best practices to install public confidence in the Council’s role as the regulator of public utilities operating within the City; and

WHEREAS, the regulatory function of the Council involves and impacts various participants within the regulatory system; and

WHEREAS, the ultimate goal of the Council is the best interest of utility ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, the Council has the authority to award certain professional services contracts, and to engage in various RFP and RFQ processes, and to render decisions and rulings, all in connection with its regulatory functions; and

WHEREAS, political campaign contributions to Councilmembers by participants in the Council’s utility regulatory process might create negative perceptions; and

WHEREAS, the Council firmly intends that there be maximum public confidence in its utility regulatory process, which intent has been previously expressed by the Council in resolution R-06-404 (as amended), R-07-185 and R-10-253; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that expanding and strengthening the existing prohibitions will demonstrate further to the public that the Council is dedicated to creating an environment where politics have no place in the utility regulatory responsibilities of the Council; and

WHEREAS, there is precedent for the Council to renounce campaign contributions as prior Councils approved Resolution 07-185 and Resolution 10-253, which banned accepting
campaign contributions from ENPAC (Entergy’s Political Action Committee) and/or persons or firms with professional services contracts related to the Council’s regulatory authority over public utilities in New Orleans; NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That each Councilmember shall agree to maintain and expand the spirit and purposes of prior related resolutions, and not accept any future campaign contributions from: 1) ENPAC; 2) and/or any of the Council’s Utility Advisors with professional services contracts to assist the Council in its regulation of public utilities; 3) or any proposers or respondents to any RFQ or RFP, from the time the RFQ or RFP is issued by the Council in connection with its utility regulatory authority pursuant to Section 3-130 et seq. of the Home Rule Charter of the City of New Orleans until the conclusion of the RFQ or RFP process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That each Councilmember shall agree not to accept campaign contributions from any person(s), firm(s), or entities with professional services contracts awarded by or pertaining to the Council of the City of New Orleans provided, however that contributions made before the passage of this resolution shall not disqualify any proposer or responder.

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

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.