

**RESOLUTION**

**NO. R-08-331**

CITY HALL: June 19, 2008

**BY: COUNCILMEMBERS CARTER, WILLARD-LEWIS, CLARKSON, FIELKOW, MIDURA, HEAD AND HEDGE-MORRELL**

**WHEREAS**, New Orleans has historically been a diverse community comprised of individuals from a wide range of national and ethnic backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, New Orleans has long been the home to a vibrant Vietnamese community, and since Hurricane Katrina, the Latin American community in the Greater New Orleans area has increased dramatically; and

**WHEREAS**, members of these communities often face many barriers to becoming proficient in the English language; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of New Orleans Human Relations Commission recommended supporting efforts to promote awareness of and respect for diversity and to value members of Spanish-, Portuguese- and Vietnamese-speaking communities, helping them to participate equally and fully in the educational and economic opportunities New Orleans offers; and

**WHEREAS**, leaders of these communities have recently formed the Language Access Coalition, with the goal of improving services for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals in the Greater New Orleans area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Language Access Coalition is hosting a community leaders forum to promote discussion regarding the challenges Limited English Proficiency individuals face and to encourage private and public services to develop creative

responses for overcoming the language barriers with which individuals struggle in their everyday lives and work; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS,** That the Council of the City of New Orleans strongly supports and encourages the work of New Orleans's Language Access Coalition; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this Council strongly encourages all community leaders to participate actively in breaking down language barriers in the New Orleans community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That, to further this end, this Council strongly encourages all community leaders to attend the Language Access Coalition forum on June 24, 2008, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in Jones Hall (Room102) at Tulane University.

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

**YEAS:        6**

**NAYS:            0**

**ABSENT:    1**

**AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**