

LATOYA CANTRELL, MAYOR
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

LC 19-02

WHEREAS, Sewerage and Water Board New Orleans (“SWBNO”) was authorized by the Louisiana Legislature to furnish, construct, operate, and maintain a water treatment and distribution system and a sanitary sewerage system for New Orleans;

WHEREAS, SWBNO was created by state law, it is and independent city agency placed under the executive branch by Home Rule Charter of the City of New Orleans thus both the city and the state have control over the agency’s powers and governance;

WHEREAS, SWBNO is governed by an eleven-member Board of Directors (Board) comprised of the Mayor, two members of the Board of Liquidation, one member of the City Council and seven citizen members, including representatives from each of the five council districts and two consumer advocates;

WHEREAS, SWBNO was once tasked with oversight of the entire drainage system, a ballot measure was passed in 1991 transferring responsibility to the City for all pipes smaller than thirty-six (36) inches without identifying or providing a funding source;

WHEREAS, current funding for SWBNO comes from user fees, millages, and bonds, dedicated funding for each division prevents financial intermingling unless a 2/3 Board vote can divert funds from one division to another in the case of a declared emergency;

WHEREAS, the agency’s aging infrastructure and deferred maintenance due to lack of funding and the flood events of August 2017 resulted in significant financial and operational failures;

WHEREAS, in response to the August 2017 flooding SWBNO reserves were depleted to provide for the emergency repair equipment vital to SWBNO;

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the 2019 Louisiana Legislative Session, the Governor signed into law a series of bills to provide one time and recurring funds for infrastructure investment and maintenance in the City of New Orleans;

WHEREAS, the expenditure of these funds should be monitored by a public body that can also support the Executive Director of SWBNO to ensure confidence in and proper oversight of spending of any stabilization funds, recurring and new revenue, and to lead reform activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LATOYA CANTRELL, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of New Orleans by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana and the Home Rule Charter and laws of the City of New Orleans, **HEREBY ORDER AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Effective Date

This Executive Order is effective upon the date of its issuance.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Executive Order is the creation of the **Infrastructure Advisory Board** (“Advisory Board”) as a Mayoral Advisory Committee pursuant to Section 4-104 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of New Orleans. The Advisory Board shall be guided by the findings and recommendations of the Task Force on New Orleans Sewerage, Water, and Drainage Utilities.

3. Membership

The Advisory Board shall be comprised of a diverse membership representing various stakeholders with clear accountability to multiple levels of government. (*Political, Engineering, Finance, Hospitality, Community, Healthcare*)

The Advisory Board shall be composed of four (4) members appointed by the Mayor and three (3) members appointed by the Governor for a total of (7) board members. The Mayor shall appoint the Chairman of the Board and the Governor will appoint the Vice-Chairman.

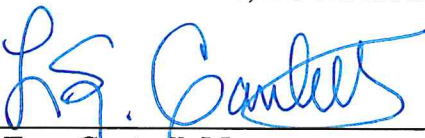
4. Advisory Board shall be charged as follows

- A. To review spending of revenue deposited into the Infrastructure Maintenance Fund (“IMF”) as provided for by CEA between the City and S&WB for the benefit of SWBNO;
- B. Provide Quarterly reports to the Mayor and SWBNO Board of directors on the group’s activities;
- C. Make recommendations as needed to the Mayor, the Governor, the New Orleans City Council, and the Louisiana Legislature regarding any identified improvements or reforms necessary to ensure the SWBNO is a high performing utility;
- D. To facilitate meaningful discussions within the Advisory Board by a process adopted by the Advisory Board

5. Duration

This Executive Order will remain in effect until amended or suspended by a subsequent order approved in accordance with Section 4-206(3)(c) of the Charter.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL THIS 6 DAY OF August, 2019,
AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.



LaToya Cantrell, Mayor
City of New Orleans