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August 29, 2022

Councilmember Helena N. Moreno
City Hall, Room 2W40
1300 Perdido Street
New Orleans, LA 70112

Councilmember Lesli Harris
City Hall, Room 2W10
1300 Perdido Street
New Orleans, LA 70112

Councilmember Jean Paul "JP" Morrell
City Hall, Room 2W50
1300 Perdido Street
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Councilmember Freddie King, III
City Hall, Room 2W70
1300 Perdido Street
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Councilmember Joseph I. Giarrusso, III
City Hall, Room 2W80
1300 Perdido Street
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Councilmember Eugene J. Green
City Hall, Room 2W20
1300 Perdido Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Councilmember Oliver Thomas
City Hall, Room 2W60
1300 Perdido Street
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear Members of the City Council of New Orleans:

On behalf of LSU Health New Orleans, I write to you today to express my enthusiastic support of the BioDistrict New Orleans' request for economic development district financing, and I urge you to vote in favor of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) establishing this financing mechanism between the City of New Orleans and the BioDistrict.

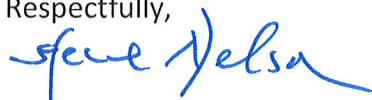
If funded, the BioDistrict can actively begin to position New Orleans as a global center of excellence in healthcare specialties including cancer, neurosciences, infectious disease, cardiovascular disease, and oral health, all areas of research specialty at LSU Health. We support the BioDistrict's vision as organizer of a regional hub for the job-creating potential of healthcare industry anchors, biotech startups, and small businesses in an innovation district.

Momentum is building in the BioDistrict, with major investments already underway. At LSU Health, we will soon open our Center for Advanced Learning & Simulation (CALs) as a total renovation of the old Hotel Dieu Hospital, and in January we will launch a 3-year, multi-million-dollar renovation of our basic medical education & research labs to transform opportunities for future faculty and students. Each of these additions will significantly enhance the BioDistrict and help attract the business growth that drives economic opportunity for our citizens.

We are at the intersection of a transformational opportunity for our city and our region. It is time for New Orleans to take the lead and strategically invest in ourselves and our future. Please support the ordinance establishing a CEA between the City Council and the BioDistrict, which will provide needed financing for the BioDistrict to actively support development of a high growth, high wage industry that all New Orleanians can benefit from.

Thank you in advance for supporting the investment into the future of New Orleans.

Respectfully,



Steve Nelson, MD, CM, FCCP, FACP
Interim Chancellor, LSU HSC New Orleans