

RESOLUTION

NO. R- 23-85

CITY HALL: March 8, 2023

BY: COUNCILMEMBER MORRELL

SECONDED BY:

WHEREAS, Article III of the Home Rule Charter vests all legislative power in the City of New Orleans in the City Council and empowers the Council to conduct investigations, as more fully described in Home Rule Charter Section 3-124, and

WHEREAS, The City Council has the authority to conduct investigations into the operation of any office, department or board administering the affairs of the City, along with any entity that receives funds from the City, and

WHEREAS, In conducting investigations, the Council has the right to administer oaths, subpoena witnesses and compel the production of pertinent documents; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the City Council, in accordance with Home Rule Charter Section 3-124, does hereby commence an investigation into written communication directed to Orleans Parish residents commissioned by the Mayor’s Office of Communications entitled “City of New Orleans 2022 Recap” and mailed out to residents in January and February 2023, including, without limitation, the contents of the communications; the involvement of third parties in the development, printing, and mailing of the communications; any Request for Proposals relevant to the development, production, or mailing of the communications; the list of recipients targeted by the communications; and, the funds used to pay for the communications (the “Investigation”).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That in conducting the Investigation, the Council shall have the authority to investigate any other office, department or board facilitating or involved in any way with communications covered by the Investigation, including without limitation the Office of the Mayor as well as any credible allegations of criminal activity, violations of the State and/or City ethics laws, or any other misconduct by any City employee relative to the substance of the Investigation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the President of the Council, in accordance with Home Rule Charter Section 3-124 and City Code Section 2-57, is hereby authorized to execute any subpoenas, to compel the production of any documents, to request any testimony under oath, or to take any other lawful investigatory step that the President deems reasonably necessary or appropriate to further the Investigation. The foregoing shall include, without limitation, the authority to subpoena and propound document requests upon any person, agency, or entity with information likely to be relevant to the Investigation, including without limitation the following: Gregory Joseph, all employees of the Mayor's Office of Communications, Arthur Walton, Gilbert Montañó, MPress New Orleans, and Mercury Public Affairs.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION 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.