



JP MORRELL
COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE

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New Orleans City Council

August 22, 2025

Donesia Turner
City Attorney
1300 Perdido Street, Room 5E06
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear City Attorney Turner:

I am reaching out to you about Section 70-565 of the City Code. Section 70-565 became law on April 20, 2025 following its unanimous adoption by the City Council at its April 10, 2025 Regular Meeting and its return by the Mayor without approval or disapproval on April 21, 2025.

It was with great frustration that the City Council learned at the August 13, 2025 Budget Committee Meeting that the Bureau of Revenue continues to charge sales and use tax collection fees to the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB). The law is unambiguous: "... the Department of Finance shall collect ad valorem and sales and use taxes dedicated to the Orleans Parish School Board **without fees or charge through tax year 2026.**" Cal. No. 35,039, pg. 2, lines 17-18, certified copy enclosed, emphasis added.

It is clear that the collection of the sales tax fee by Revenue is expressly prohibited by law as of 12:00 noon on April 20, 2025. Despite this, the Department of Revenue admitted under penalty of perjury before the Budget Committee that they continue to charge sales and use tax collection fees to OPSB.

Considering the unanimous passage of Cal. No. 35,039 and the lack of disapproval by the Mayor, Section 70-565 is the law of the City of New Orleans. It is the expectation of the City Council, who is your client under Section 4-401 of the City Charter, that the Law Department will not challenge the validity of Section 70-565 in any court of law or in any communications.

I appreciate your time, attention, and understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JP Morrell".

JP Morrell
President, New Orleans City Council