



HELENA MORENO
COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE

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New Orleans City Council

February 10, 2023

Gregory Joseph – Communications Director
Office of Mayor LaToya Cantrell
1300 Perdido Street 2nd Floor East
New Orleans, LA 70112

Mr. Joseph,

We are writing to seek further clarification about a campaign-style mailer that many in our community received over the last two weeks. The mailer was entitled “City of New Orleans 2022 Recap” and focused on promoting politicized Mayoral accomplishments to influence public opinion. It also contained numerous photos of the Mayor and civil service employees, who are limited in their participation in political campaigns. Last week, after we relayed questions, you issued a partial explanation to the press. Unfortunately, that statement was not a through explanation and only inspired further questions from our constituents:

1. What was the source of the \$50,946 spent on the mailer?
2. How were the reported 106,633 recipients chosen and how and from whom did you acquire this mailing list?
3. Did you seek any legal opinion regarding the content within the mailer or whether it is legal to send such a mailer at all? From whom did you seek it? Please provide a copy of any legal opinion requested.
4. How did you choose the vendor that printed and mailed the pamphlet? Was an RFP conducted? If so, how was it advertised and who responded?

We have been consistent in the need for transparency and accountability for all public expenditures. If this mailer was publicly funded, there are several state and local laws and regulations that guide the content of this type of public communication.

We look forward to your response and continued dialogue on enhancing accountability in government. Please return the requested information by 3:00 pm on Monday, February 13, 2023.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of JP Morrell in black ink.

JP Morrell
New Orleans City Council President

Handwritten signature of Helena Moreno in black ink.

Helena Moreno
New Orleans City Council Vice President