

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 195

BY REPRESENTATIVE JIMMY HARRIS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the city of New Orleans to develop and implement initiatives to attract quality retail and dining establishments to neighborhoods east of the Industrial Canal and to those within planning districts seven, eight, nine, ten, and eleven.

WHEREAS, increasing access to quality retail and dining establishments is an important strategy for improving the economic viability and nutritional health of underserved communities within the city of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, prior to 2005, there were numerous retail and dining establishments located throughout the city of New Orleans that provided the city's residents with a multitude of quality shopping and dining options; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Hurricane Katrina caused catastrophic damage to many areas of the city, including the destruction of many of these retail and dining establishments; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the recession, many department stores, malls, and dining establishments throughout the United States, including some in the city of New Orleans, were forced to close their doors as consumers began tightening their belts in the face of stagnant wages and reduced employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, since that time, very few quality retail and dining establishments have returned to the neighborhoods east of the Industrial Canal or to those within planning districts seven, eight, nine, ten, and eleven; and

WHEREAS, in these areas, there has been an influx of dollar stores, or deep-discount retailers, that do not offer quality merchandise or fresh fruits, vegetables, or other healthy food; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the city attract quality retail and dining establishments to these areas as they will become economic anchors in the community, providing merchandise and fresh food at competitive prices, creating jobs, and attracting additional investment; and

WHEREAS, the city of New Orleans should work diligently to ensure that all residents of the city of New Orleans have access to quality merchandise and healthy food.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the city of New Orleans to develop and implement initiatives to attract quality retail and dining establishments to neighborhoods east of the Industrial Canal and to those within planning districts seven, eight, nine, ten, and eleven.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the mayor of the city of New Orleans.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES