

**MOTION**

**NO. M-21-72**

**CITY HALL: February 25, 2021**

**BY: COUNCILMEMBERS MORENO, GLAPION, GIARRUSSO, BANKS, GISLESON  
PALMER, BROSSETT AND NGUYEN**

**WHEREAS**, Louisiana Revised Statute 18:534(B)(1) provides that once a polling place has been established, its location shall not be changed from the date when qualifying period opens until after the date of the general election, “unless the polling place becomes unavailable due to an emergency caused by an act of God or when privately owned property being used as a polling place becomes unavailable through no fault of the governing authority”; and

**WHEREAS**, the earliest qualifying period for the March 20, 2021 election began on January 20, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, since that time, the polling place for Ward 15, Precinct 8 (McDonogh #32 School, 800 De Armas Street) sustained extensive damage, including electrical and water damage, resulting from unauthorized persons’ use of the site; and

**WHEREAS**, this damage, which is unable to be remediated by the March 20, 2021 election, constitutes an emergency due to an act of God/force majeure, rendering McDonogh #32 School unavailable to serve as a polling place through no fault of the governing authority, in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 18:534(B)(1);

**WHEREAS**, the status of McDonogh #32 School and its unavailability to serve as a polling place are documented in a February 22, 2021 memorandum from Arthur A. Morrell, Clerk of Criminal District Court, which requests to change the Ward 15, Precinct 8 polling place to Arthur Monday M.S.C. (1111 Newton Street);

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS,** That the following emergency permanent polling location change shall be established as the official polling place for the specified precinct within the Parish of Orleans, including without limitation for the upcoming March 20, 2021 Municipal Primary/Special Congressional Primary and, unless changed in accordance with law, any future elections:

**Ward/**

**Precinct:**

**Original Site:**

**Permanent New Site:**

15/08

McDonogh #32 School  
800 De Armas St.

Arthur Monday M.S.C.  
1111 Newton St.

**BE IT FURTHER MOVED,** That the Clerk of Council shall immediately provide a certified copy of this motion to the Governor of the State of Louisiana, the Louisiana Secretary of State, the Clerk of Criminal District Court of Orleans Parish, the City Attorney, and the Registrar of Voters for Orleans Parish for their further handling.

**THE FOREGOING MOTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:**

**YEAS:**

**NAYS:**

**ABSENT:**

**AND THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.**



ARTHUR A. MORRELL  
CLERK OF COURT



2700 Tulane Ave. #114  
New Orleans, LA 70119

CLERK'S OFFICE  
CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT  
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER

OFFICE (504) 658-9000  
FAX (504) 658-9183

## MEMORANDUM

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

CLERK OF CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

TO: Honorable Council Members, City of New Orleans  
Lora W. Johnson, Clerk of Council

CC: Paul Harang, Chief of Staff

FROM: Arthur A. Morrell, Clerk of Criminal District Court

DATE: February 22, 2021

SUBJECT: Polling Location Changes

With the recommendation of Councilmember Gisleson Palmer, the following Emergency Polling relocation is recommended to the City Council. La. R.S. 18:534(B)(1) of the Louisiana Election Code states:

*B.(1) The location of a polling place shall not be changed during the period commencing on the date the qualifying period opens and ending on the date of the general election or, in the case of an election date exclusively for bond, tax, or other propositions or questions, during the period commencing on the forty-sixth day prior to the election and ending on the day of the election unless the polling place becomes unavailable due to an emergency caused by an act of God or when privately owned property being used as a polling place becomes unavailable through no fault of the governing authority.*

Because of extensive damage to the Electrical and Water system, McDonogh #32 is no longer available or suitable to serve as an Election Day polling location. Therefore, this will be a permanent polling location change.

Ward/Precinct : From:

15/08 McDonogh #32 School  
800 De Armas St.

To:

Arthur Monday M.S. C.  
1111 Newton St.