

RESOLUTION

NO. R-21-44

CITY HALL: January 28, 2021

BY: COUNCILMEMBERS NGUYEN AND BANKS

WHEREAS, the area called New Orleans East comprises nearly two-thirds of the geographical area of New Orleans, stretching from the densely populated neighborhoods abutting the Industrial Canal to rural Lake Catherine; and

WHEREAS, this massive area houses incredible racial, cultural, and socio-economic diversity and proudly boasts an array of vibrant and unique communities that contribute to the culture of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, local media coverage – and, in particular, coverage related to crime – tends to ignore this rich neighborhood diversity and, instead, broadly characterizes all events east of the Industrial Canal as occurring “in New Orleans East;” and

WHEREAS, the blanket references to “New Orleans East” in negative news stories – as opposed to the handful of troubled areas where crime is unfortunately prevalent – create the false impression that an entire community is unsafe; and

WHEREAS the categorical stigmatization of “the East” dissuades community investment, erodes civic pride, and erects barriers to economic development; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the Council hereby calls upon the media, including print, digital, radio and television, to be sensitive to the detrimental impacts that using imprecise terminology to describe occurrences in New Orleans East has on the social, cultural, and economic development on the area as a whole.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council asks the media and its representatives to reference individual neighborhoods, subdivisions, and/or intersections when reporting on events, incidents, and criminal activity in the City.

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

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.