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AND SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES

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May 9, 2012

Jacquelyn Clarkson
President, New Orleans City Council
City Hall, Room 2W50
1300 Perdido Street
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear Councilwoman Clarkson: *Jackie*

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you and your colleagues for your continued commitment to keep New Orleans moving forward on its path towards recovery. Tulane University and its students play a pivotal role in that progress and recovery. However, moving forward requires equipping our local universities with the facilities necessary to sustain their expansion efforts.

With the community setting the bar high for Tulane's continued advancement, I am disappointed in the recent City Council vote regarding the proposed Interim Zoning District to limit the size of structures built by universities in the Uptown area. This measure jeopardizes plans to bring Green Wave football back to the campus and impedes all subsequent benefits the surrounding community and student body stand to receive as a result.

As a lifelong resident of New Orleans and proud Tulane alum, I can attest to the value of Tulane to the city of New Orleans. Not only is Tulane the largest private employer in the city but, more importantly, Tulane is a great corporate citizen. Service and civic engagement are key elements of Tulane's mission. The University's commitment to those values is exhibited daily by its students, staff, and faculty. Furthermore, at a time when student loan debt is reaching unprecedented levels, it is important for the community to support schools like Tulane that offer hundreds of scholarships each year.

Tulane is truly a world-class institution and nearly a quarter of its student body makes Louisiana their home choosing to live and work in our city which provides a valuable addition to our educated workforce. The planned stadium will undoubtedly help

Tulane in its efforts to recruit and retain the students it needs to further grow and prosper as a premier academic institution.

I support the work done by the Council to establish the citywide Master Plan and while it has the force of law, it is only a broad policy guide and lacks detailed zoning rules. I am concerned that this motion attempts to circumvent the zoning process by applying the not yet adopted Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) to universities without the benefit of a full vetting process. To adopt only a portion of the CZO as it affects a facility of a certain size at only certain universities is punitive and amounts to "spot zoning".

I join Mayor Landrieu, the Saints, and many others in seeking a timely resolution to any roadblocks impeding Tulane's progression.

Endorsing Tulane's expansion is a step in a progressive direction not just for the University, but for the city of New Orleans and the great state of Louisiana. I truly hope we can expedite a resolution to bring Green Wave football back to Tulane's campus, where it belongs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Richmond", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress