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Charlotte A. Randolph, Parish President

PRESS RELEASE

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Parish President Cleared of Ethics Charges

Ethics Board Puzzled by Charges Against Parish President

The Louisiana Board of Ethics unanimously rejected charges against Lafourche Parish President Charlotte Randolph. Board members grilled the Ethics Attorney after they presented their case puzzled by the charge that President Randolph participated in discussions regarding a council meeting decision whether to pay invoices related to a 2005 accident involving a parish vehicle driven by her husband. At the December 2005 Council meeting, Parish President answered questions about the accident raised on the floor by Councilmen Lasseigne and on issues regarding funding for a local project by Councilmen Lorraine. Defending herself in the Ethics matter, President Randolph simply stated, "I answered the direct questions asked regarding the accident and in a separate conversation, I responded to Councilman Lorraine's concerns about funding for his project."

Ethics Board Attorneys suggested that President Randolph had a substantial economic interest in the matter and should have refrained from answering the councilmen's questions. Board members questioned the economic interest noting that Mr. Randolph was a properly covered driver in the accident and that the parish's insurance had recommended payment of the damages of the other vehicle. Ethics attorney stated that as the driver of the vehicle Mr. Randolph was primarily liable could be sued if the parish failed to pay vehicle expenses. Claims were filed against the parish's insurance policy and were handled by the parish's third party claims adjuster. No claims or suits were ever filed against Mr. Randolph. President Randolph rebutted stating that this would suggest that the parish should turn around and sue any employee involved in an accident to recoup moneys paid in the parish's \$50,000 deductible. Board members agreed that insurance coverage, which was never denied, defeated the claim of substantial economic interest by the Parish President in this matter.

Rejecting the arguments of their own attorney, the Board of Ethics dismissed the charges finding that Parish President Charlotte Randolph was not in violation of Ethics Laws.

For further information contact Cullen Curole at (985) 446-8427 or (985) 665-7324.

Charlotte A. Randolph	Parish President	Mark Atzenhoffer	District 5
Tyrone Williams	District 1	Lindel Toups	District 6
Michael Delatte	District 2	Phillip Gouaux	District 7
Michael Matherne	District 3	Brent Callais	District 8
Tommy Lasseigne	District 4	Daniel Lorraine	District 9