



Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans

Let your voice be heard in rebuilding the Greater New Orleans Area


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Chamber honors group, partners to promote grassroots efforts

The St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce formally recognized Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans for its key role in engaging the public to speak up for reform and renewal of the New Orleans region and the state of Louisiana. The presentation came during an event, which featured Sean Reilly of the Louisiana Recovery Authority.

Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans formed post-Katrina. The group's first and foremost purpose was to support levee board consolidation and reform to ultimately provide greater flood protection.



St. Tammany West Chamber Honors Citizens for

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Through volunteer participation and a daily physical presence at the legislature, their efforts played a major role in milestone legislation that will dissolve local levee commissions and create a regional flood protection authority. Members continue to provide a venue and resources for citizens to voice their concerns and to take action for rebuilding Greater New Orleans.

"We are appreciative of their efforts, including their recognition of Greater New Orleans as a greater region, not just as a city or a single parish with geographic borders that create barriers to connecting and surrounding parishes and cities within the region, but as a greater region, of which St. Tammany is a major population base," said chamber President and CEO Lacey Toledano. "They have been pivotal to improving both the city's and the state's image, signaling that Louisiana citizens will support bold reform measures as it recovers and rebuilds."

She added that the chamber is working side-by-side with the group, exercising the voice of its 1,000 members and their 27,000 employees in order to support legislation to consolidate the tax assessors offices in Orleans Parish from seven to one. She said several other chambers in the region actively endorse and support the same. The measure has passed the Senate and is currently pending in the House of Representatives.

"We cannot sacrifice citizen safety and wellbeing to politics. We will continue to be daily advocates for reform of our government and renewal of our beloved city. Citizen involvement is essential in the rebuilding of Greater New Orleans," Frierson said during acceptance remarks. She encouraged the over 100 St. Tammany business professionals present to become engaged, and encouraged them to join ongoing efforts toward government reform.

Jean Champagne, chairman of the chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee, said when presenting the award, "As a business organization actively committed to building coalitions for the truly Greater New Orleans region, actively working toward stronger partnerships for a strong voice on behalf of all businesses in this region, we salute Ruthie Frierson and her members of Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans."

The chamber's website, <http://www.sttammanyachamber.org/> features a link on its Community Partners Page to the <http://www.citizensfor1greaterneworleans.com/> site.

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