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STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
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May 13, 2026

**VIA Email**

The Honorable Calvin Johnson

Dear Judge Johnson:

I write regarding the New Orleans City Council's May 11 resolutions purporting to appoint you as interim clerk of court for Orleans Parish. I recognize that you appear to have been placed in this position through no fault of your own, and I appreciate your longstanding commitment to public service. But because the Council's action implicates Louisiana's usurper statutes, I must provide this notice before any further steps are taken. *See* La. R.S. 42:71 *et seq.*

Act 15 did not create a new or vacant office. It abolished the former criminal clerk's office, transferred that office's authority, duties, records, and funds to the former civil clerk's office, and renamed that continuing office the clerk of court for the parish of Orleans. Chelsey Richard Napoleon is the clerk of court for the parish of Orleans. There is no vacancy for the Council to fill. Because Louisiana law treats a person who attempts to assume a public office or exercise its authority without lawful authority to do so as a "usurper," La. R.S. 42:71, any action taken under the Council's purported appointment could require judicial intervention and may carry consequences, including damages and litigation costs. *See* La. R.S. 42:82, 84.

I therefore respectfully ask that you decline the Council's purported appointment and take no action to assume the non-existent office or exercise its authority. Ms. Napoleon would remain free to appoint you as a deputy clerk or special advisor, if you are willing to assist her during this transition. This dispute is already before the Louisiana Supreme Court, which stayed a preliminary injunction Sunday night and should

soon confirm that Act 15 created no vacancy and Chelsey Richard Napoleon remains the clerk of court for Orleans Parish. Until that Court rules, no public official should attempt to displace her or give effect to a competing claim to her office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liz Murrill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Liz Murrill  
Attorney General

cc: Mayor Helena Moreno  
District Attorney Jason Williams  
Council President J.P. Morrell  
Council Vice President Matthew Willard  
Council Member Aimee McCarron  
Council Member Freddie King III  
Council Member Jason Hughes