



# City of Slidell

Dept. of Cultural & Public Affairs • Press Release for Immediate Release

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## PRESS RELEASE

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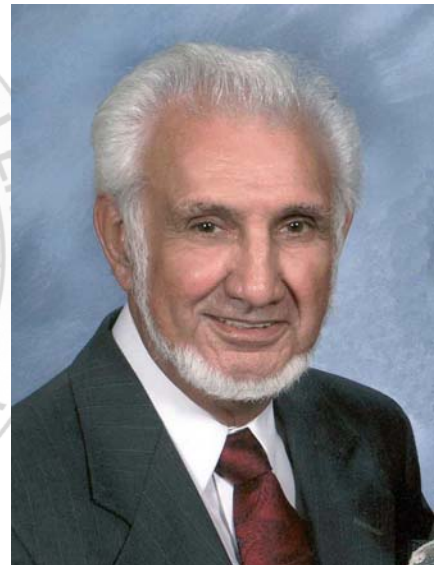
## City of Slidell Welcomes New Commissioner

The City of Slidell and the Department of Cultural & Public Affairs is pleased to announce that John Perkins has joined the city's Commission on the Arts. Perkins took his seats on the commission and attended their first meeting in August 2009.

A long time resident of Slidell, John Perkins hails originally from Toronto, Canada where he attended St. Michael's Cathedral Choir School, receiving the foundations of a musical career while singing with the boys' choir that was the major choir for St. Michael's Cathedral. He attended St. Michael's College and the University of Toronto.

While at the choir school, he was a member of a quartet that was to lead him to a career in show business. In 1954, the group – John, with brother Ray, and fellow choir school classmates Pat Barrett and Rudy Maugeri - originally called The Canadaires was booked on a television show in Cleveland, Ohio that would bring many changes including a name change to The Crew-Cuts and being signed to a recording contract with Mercury Records that led to the release of a series of songs that would become big hits, including "Crazy 'Bout Ya Baby" featured in the hit Broadway show "Forever Plaid" and the multi-millions selling "Sh-Boom and "Earth Angel" among them. Over the next decade, the group had records that were consistently in the top ten of the nation's hits.

In 1957 John married Gilda Casella in New Orleans and they have raised four children. Earlier this year, they celebrated 52 years of married life. They moved to Slidell in 1967 and have been an active part of the community since then. Both Gilda and John pursued careers in the newspaper business first with *The Daily Times* beginning in the mid 1970s and then with the *Slidell Sentry-News* for more than 25 years where John was the entertainment editor and Gilda a news writer and popular columnist. John also became the choir director at St. Margaret Mary Church – a position he continues to hold – and an actor and award-winning director at Slidell Little Theatre. He continues to perform as



PRESS RELEASE – ADD ONE

a solo artist primarily with Ronnie Kole at events such as the French Quarter Fest. The Crew-Cuts have gotten together on several occasions for recording sessions and recently were part of a PBS special “Magic Moments: Top Pops of the ’50s” which continues to be seen from time to time on WYES-TV.

The Commission on the Arts is a community advisory board to the City of Slidell’s Department of Cultural & Public Affairs. Established in 1979, the commission provides guidance and advice to the mayor, city council, and other appropriate agencies of the City of Slidell regarding grants, cultural projects and policies. Commissioners are appointed by the mayor with the primary function to develop, nurture and sustain the cultural life of the community.

Also seated on the Commission on the Arts are Mary DuBuisson, Chair; Elizabeth Lamulle, Vice-Chair; Mary Christopher; Leo Ehrhardt; Phil Galatas; Beth Gendusa; Nicholas Kooney; Mary MacCurdy and William Stadler.

Commission on the Arts meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month (excluding July and December) at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room on the first floor of City Hall.

For more information please visit the city’s website at [www.slidell.la.us](http://www.slidell.la.us) or call the Department of Cultural & Public Affairs at (985) 646-4375.

