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**NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC OFFICIALS LIONIZE BLACK NEWS CHANNEL
AND ITS CULTURALLY-SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING TO KICK-OFF THE
25TH ESSENCE FESTIVAL CELEBRATION**

*New Orleans, Louisiana—July 5, 2019--*Louisiana state lawmakers and New Orleans city elected officials welcome the the nation’s only African American news network with open arms. In a joint press conference, Councilman Mark Spears, Jr. was joined by state lawmakers and local officials to recognize Black News Chanel for its contribution to the African American community and for programming culturally-specific news and educational programming that is long overdue. Councilman Spears used the press conference to reach local residents and and more than 550,000 guests visiting the great state of Louisiana to kick-off the 25th Essence Festival in New Orleans.

