

## **March 17, 2011 - Mayor Announces Changes in Economic Development**

Today Mayor Cedric B. Glover announced planned changes to the way economic development efforts are handled at the city level as well as the departure of a current staffer.

Mayor Glover is working with the City Council and Parish officials to create a joint Shreveport-Caddo Office of Economic Development. The concept incorporates suggestions from community leaders and recommendations included in the Shreveport-Caddo Master Plan. The City will retain professional economic developers David Dodd and Ronnie Bryant to study the viability and potential outline of such an organization.

"I am excited about the potential that a new, joint economic development entity holds for Shreveport and Caddo Parish," Mayor Glover said. "Over the next few weeks, we'll look to David and Ronnie to gather the facts, survey the scene, and come back to us with their recommendation on putting this idea into action. Once I have their report, I'll work with members of the Council and Commission to see if this is something we want to carry forward."

The Mayor also announced that Economic Development Coordinator Matt Bailey has resigned, effective March 18th. Bailey has been part of the Mayor's staff since August of 2009.

"Matt has provided excellent coordination and project management over the last year and a half," Mayor Glover said. "From being our office's liaison on special projects such as the Air Service Task Force to working closely with the North Louisiana Economic Partnership and other economic development organizations, he has been a valuable member of my team. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors."

"I applaud the Mayor's leadership and thank him for the opportunity to serve," Bailey said. "I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with and learn from those who are helping make Shreveport a better place to live and work."

In the interim, the remaining members of the City's economic development team will continue to provide assistance and coordination on the city's behalf. Those members include Karen Barnes, Fair Share and Small Business Assistance, Kendra Garrison, Administrative Assistant and Arlena Acree, Film and Media, who previously served as Economic Development Director. Any of them may be reached through 673-5050.

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