

August 8, 2011 - LMA Participants Praise City's Efforts

A 60-minute workshop conducted by Mayor Cedric Glover left participants at last week's Louisiana Municipal Association state convention praising the City and seeking additional information to take home.

The Mayor's presentation outlined the City's program to help citizens reclaim their neighborhoods by working with code enforcement and police to repair homes, beautify streets and fight crime. The session was a hit with mayors and other officials who attended.

"I think every municipality can take a lesson from Mayor Glover's presentation at the LMA meeting," City of Hammond Mayor Mayson Foster said today. "T.B.O.N.E (Taking Back Our Neighborhoods Everyday) is a program that we are discussing implementing in Hammond, perhaps not with that name but with the goal of improving every area in our city."

Mayor Foster moderated the presentation, which also recognized some of the "top" lists Shreveport has landed on in recent months. Those accolades include:

- Shreveport selected as a top retirement destination (Where to Retire Magazine)
- Seventh-best mid-sized City for jobs (Forbes Magazine)
- One of the top 25 "Best Destinations for Recent College Graduates" (Newsweek)

"People often ask me how we measure whether we're making progress, in terms of becoming a better city," Glover said. "And my response typically is one way we can measure our progress is by looking at how we're moving up on the good lists and down on the bad lists."

New Iberia Mayor Hilda Curry also came away impressed by the positive impact Operation T.B.O.N.E had in a relatively short period of time. The award-winning program, which started in 2007, has helped drop overall crime in Shreveport to a 35-year low.

"I think a light bulb went off for many of the participants who were taking notes and preparing to go home with good ideas they can implement in their respective communities," Mayor Curry said. "I was just really impressed with the collaborative effort between code enforcement and law enforcement. You guys just pulled it off and that's impressive."

"This was an outstanding convention, one of the best which I have attended in my eight years of being involved in the LMA, and I commend the City of Shreveport for a job well done," Mayor Foster said.

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