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PRESS RELEASE

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Landfill owner offers inadequate fire mitigation plan

The fire mitigation plan presented by the owner of a landfill that's been directed to limit its operation after accruing page after page of zoning and operating violations since the mid-1990s is simply inadequate, Mayor Cedric Glover says.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has ordered Harrelson Material Management, Inc., to stop receiving and disposing of new material, which is believed to be causing fire and smoke issues at the site. The order requires Harrelson to submit a revised version of a fire mitigation plan by July 1 so that the fire can be extinguished.

Harrelson has proposed expanding the landfill to create a better angle in which to battle the fire. However, Shreveport Fire Department officials have offered several reasons why that won't work, including the following:

- Moving burning debris from one area of the landfill to another geographical location on the property will compound the burning problem.
- There is no adequate water supply to conduct the extinguishment operations referred to in the (Harrelson) plan.
- There is a lack of proper size and working heavy equipment to accomplish the plan.
- SFD does not have the resources and personnel and equipment to dedicate and support an extended extinguishment operation referred to in the plan, without potentially compromising efficient response to the remainder of the city.

At Mayor Glover's direction, the fire department provided the following recommendations:

- Due to this being an "emergency declaration," Harrelson is required to exercise the means necessary to extinguish the fire and should hire a third-party professional company that specializes in deep seated land-fill fires.
- That third-party company should provide all the necessary resources to fully extinguish the fire and a copy of their action plan should be provided to the city of Shreveport.
- SFD would still respond there for emergencies, however, the fire mitigation process would be the sole responsibility of the third-party company.

“This company has continued to operate in spite of the multiple violations and citations that have been issued and it still insists on draining city resources to contain a fire that it's been basically



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fueling for far too long," Mayor Glover said. ``It's time for that to end and for the people of Shreveport to receive the relief that we all deserve."

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