

**RESOLUTION NO. 122 OF 2022**

**A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE SHREVEPORT CRISIS RESPONSE COALITION GOAL STATEMENT, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO**

**BY: COUNCILMEN TABATHA TAYLOR, LEVETTE FULLER AND JOHN NICKELSON**

**WHEREAS**, more than 50 percent of all 911 calls received by law enforcement include symptomatic displays of mental illness or mental health disorders; and

**WHEREAS**, with an average of 900 calls monthly, it is possible that more than 5,000 calls for law enforcement service annually are triggered in response to a mental health crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, from 2019 to 2021, the Part 1 violent crimes of homicide, aggravated battery, and aggravated assault increased each year for the period of January to May within the City of Shreveport; and

**WHEREAS**, these outcomes are indicators of increased distress and deteriorating well-being in the city; and

**WHEREAS**, in hope of more individuals getting mental health treatment, the City of Shreveport and LSU Health Shreveport formed a team of community organizations focused on improving 911 responses involving individuals with mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, in June 2021, LSU Health Shreveport and the Shreveport Police Department were awarded a Training and Technical Assistance Grant from the U. S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance to participate in the Academic Training to Inform Police Responses; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Shreveport and LSU Health Shreveport in partnership have created an action plan to address the growing mental illness problem in Northwest Louisiana as well as next steps to improve the local 911 Crisis Response System; and

**WHEREAS**, the action plan, which was developed by numerous local stakeholders, provides a treatment-oriented response to mentally ill persons. Improving crisis response will reduce demands on our overburdened law enforcement and public health systems, while increasing both public and officer safety.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Shreveport in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Shreveport City Council supports LSU Health Shreveport and the team of community organizations in their efforts on improving 911 responses involving the growing issue of mental illness in the community.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Shreveport City Council endorses the Shreveport Crisis Response Coalition goal statement, “*The Shreveport Crisis Response Coalition will develop a community-based crisis mental health response which ensures public safety, delivers effective treatment, and provides an alternative to arrest or hospitalization where appropriate*”, and encourages all citizens to increase their awareness of mental illness and ways to be advocates for services and assistance.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or application, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:**

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**City Attorney’s Office**