## July 17, 2012 - Mayor Announces Additional Funding For Project Swim

Mayor Cedric Glover on Wednesday, July 18, will announce additional funding to pay for swim lessons for 450 children eligible for Project Swim, the City's free program that already has provided lessons for hundreds of children.

A press conference will be held at 10 a.m. tomorrow at Bill Cockrell Community Center, 4109 Pines Road.

Project Swim is funded through a grant from the Community Foundation. It was developed following the tragic deaths of six young people in August 2010. The youth were wading in the Red River when a member of the group suddenly sank. None of the six who tried to rescue the distressed boy knew how to swim.

In 2011, SPAR through its contractor Rock Solid taught free swim lessons to more than 1,000 children. There were an additional 250 children who took paid lessons from Rock Solid and the City of Shreveport. This year, about 450 children enrolled in free classes, with about 200 on a waiting list.

The Mayor's ability to secure additional funding will enable the children on the waiting list plus 250 more to receive free lessons beginning Monday.

"With budgets as tight as they are, it's important to stay aggressive and creative in terms of how to secure the resources needed to maintain the programs that I know are most needed throughout our neighborhoods," Mayor Glover said. "And I am so encouraged by the philanthropic-minded citizens and organizations who continue to recognize the need to give of their time and money to those who need it most."

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