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CITY OF SHREVEPORT WILL NOT ISSUE PERMITS FOR PARADES DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19.

The City of Shreveport has decided against issuing permits for first-quarter parades, including Mardi Gras, due to the acute public health risks associated with large gatherings and restrictions issued by Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards limiting crowd sizes.

"We're all anxious to see life return to normal, and with news of vaccines on the horizon, there is light at the end of the tunnel. But that light is still months away, and we have to protect lives right now," said Mayor Adrian Perkins. "With Shreveport experiencing an alarming rise in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, it would be unwise and irresponsible to permit large community gatherings, like parades, that lead to considerable viral spread and endanger the lives of area residents."

Shreveport is in a third COVID wave. Since the onset of the pandemic, cases and hospitalizations have surged following holiday events, including Mardi Gras 2019. Shreveport enters this third wave and the holiday season in a vulnerable position. Region 7's prior plateau was elevated, making our area more susceptible to significant spread. Therefore, Mayor Adrian Perkins and public health officials urge everyone to exercise extreme caution during the holiday season.

This Thanksgiving, families are advised to celebrate with their immediate households, eat and mingle outdoors, wear masks, wash hands frequently, deliver meals to at risk family members, and please avoid densely packed Black Friday shopping crowds.

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