

# *Shreveport Police Dept.*



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Chief Raymond asks Representative Seabaugh to pull HB121**

Shreveport Police Chief Ben Raymond has asked State Representative Alan Seabaugh to pull HB 121 after further discussions with police officers.

“I approached Representative Seabaugh about sponsoring a bill which would allow the Chief of Police to consider a 12-hour shift option for our department,” said Chief Raymond. “Currently, there are statutory limitations to my ability to make changes to our shift schedule and I believed decisions effecting the efficient operation of the police department are best made at the local level, not state level.”

The intent of considering 12-hour shifts was to prevent officers from working mandatory overtime, a practice that has been in place since August 2020, and will continue for the foreseeable future due to manpower shortages. Raymond said moving to a 12-hour shift schedule would have prevented mandatory overtime at our current staffing.

“After further discussion with our officers regarding HB 121, I reached out to Representative Alan Seabaugh and asked if he would withdraw the bill at this time,” said Chief Raymond. “The possibility of moving to a 12-hour shift schedule is a big change for our department and some of the men and women who would be most affected by the transition were not ready to move in that direction. We will continue to work with the citizens and our officers to make decisions in the best interest of everyone involved. I want to express my gratitude to Representative Seabaugh for his support of our law enforcement officers. I also want to express my disappointment for the lack of professionalism shown by some of the opposition.”

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