

## Overview of Listening Sessions

Mayor Adrian Perkins held listening-sessions throughout Shreveport during the months of May and June to hear from citizens on how they thought \$48 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds should be spent in the City. Nearly 500 people showed up for the sessions. The administration also hosted a survey on the city's website to allow citizens to rank four categories in which the money should be spent. The survey was completed by 1,160 people with the results prioritizing the following categories respectively:

1. Public Safety
2. Infrastructure
3. Economic Development
4. Technology

The survey rankings were very much in line with what Mayor Perkins was hearing at the listening sessions around town. Public Safety dominated most of the discussions. Each session was livestreamed on the Mayor's Facebook Page and are archived there for review. Below is a summary of the topics in each of the listening sessions.

### C.E. Byrd Listening Session (May 13, 2021)

Here are some of the issues and concerns that were discussed at the first session. Topics included:

- Guidelines for the funding  
<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Compliance-and-Reporting-Guidance.pdf>
- Public safety
- Staffing for police department
- Road conditions that cause car repairs
- Funding for training of law enforcement

- Water infrastructure
- Initiatives for youth
- Introducing youth to the workforce
- Law enforcement
- An economic development cooperative endeavor that includes Caddo Parish schools, trade technology program, careers in automotive, and healthcare
- Street repairs
- Concrete road repairs instead of the asphalt
- Citizen safety concerns in neighborhoods
- Increased gun violence
- Place programs in schools to combat the violence among youth, also work with organizations like the YWCA.
- Self-respect program for youth
- Poverty
- Teen pregnancy
- Curfew
- New approach to public safety
- Increased police presence
- Equal resources to neighborhood
- Reduced fines for tickets
- Build up inner city with economic development
- Collective efforts in combating crime
- Crime cameras
- Growing concern about crime
- Grow movie industry
- Address homeless population
- Put most of money into policing
- Increase community policing
- \$48 million dollars is not enough for city's problems with infrastructure, crime, social programs, education, etc.

## **Broadmoor Community Listening Session (May 18, 2020)**

Topics of discussion included:

- Drainage issues on Monrovia
- Fire station number 11
- Sewage issues within a private subdivision
- Increased police patrols in the community
- Concern about gang activity
- Various crime issues
- Arrest criminals and keep them off the streets
- Prioritize infrastructure, public safety, and technology
- Cameras for red lights that send pictures to everyone that is in violation.
- Violent crime and concerned about rolling shootouts on Line Avenue.
- Blight issues at former Notre Dame School
- Housing for the homeless population
- Incomplete projects on Carrollton and Pennsylvania avenues
- Blighted property on Youree Drive and Leo Street
- Aesthetics of the Knight Street area due to the construction project
- Wheelchair accessibility on sidewalks
- Violent crimes in the black community
- Funding for Universal Pre-K
- Restoration of the recycling program
- Response time to reports on water leaks
- Lack of economic opportunities in the city
- Speed bumps on Preston Avenue
- Improve trust between the black community and police
- Obstacles to senior citizens getting their houses fixed
- Trash
- Dilapidated houses
- Low performing schools and students reading at grade level

- Solar energy for senior citizens
- Neighborhood cleanup efforts
- Road conditions on 70<sup>th</sup> Street damaging vehicles
- Parking concerns on Preston Avenue making it difficult to travel that street.
- Possible uses for Arthur Circle School

### **Mamie Hicks Community Center (May 20, 2020)**

Topics of discussion included:

- Mental health programs for youth
- Swepeco Park
- Sidewalks for a more walkable neighborhood
- Walking paths
- Noise concerns with trains passing through in the inner city
- Quick road repairs that block traffic
- Job training for positions from Amazon
- Ensure Shreveport residents get Amazon jobs
- Improvement of community facilities, particularly C.C. Antoine Park
- Mentorship opportunities for young people
- Heritage preservation for Allendale
- Flooding concerns
- Walking bayou and trails instead of just a ditch in the neighborhoods
- More community murals
- I-49 extension
- Ailing infrastructure
- Increase funding for public works equipment
- More broadband
- Surveillance for public safety
- Improved technology
- Drainage system issues

- Lack of opportunities in Shreveport
- Better promotion of available jobs
- Road erosion on Poland Street
- Lighting around Anna Elder on the backside of Booker T. Washington High School
- Decay on Laurel Street bridge
- Trash and potholes on Corbitt/Alta Vista
- Flooding and lighting concerns
- Community policing that has officers more engaged with the community.
- Concerned about identity being leaked when reporting crime information.
- Teaching prevention and life skills in schools
- Crime in Cherokee Park
- Safety of residents and property
- Trash pickup issues
- Police brutality
- Police response times in the black neighborhoods
- Maintenance of City property
- More community meetings
- Illegal dump sites
- Neighborhood watch program
- Mental health in schools
- Street and sidewalk improvements in Allendale
- Drainage ditch on Clay Street with sitting water and a foul smell
- Capturing information of attendees at listening sessions
- Gunshots on Herndon and safety of the children
- Activities to deepen programming with SPAR
- Damaged playground equipment due to a fire
- Grass cutting
- Street sweeping and cleaning

- Better oversight in law enforcement
- Food deserts

### **David Raines Community Listening Session (June 1, 2021)**

Topics of discussion included:

- Public safety, concern about uptick in crime
- Neighborhood crime districts
- Mental health issues related to crime
- My Brother's Keeper Initiative
- Plans to get youth connected to positive activities
- Jobs program
- Drug awareness
- Relationship between SPD and DA
- Housing concerns
- Grass cutting
- Keeping property clean, free of junk and debris in yards
- Broadband access near Cooper Road Plaza on Peach Street
- Street improvements
- Revitalization
- Economic development
- Permitting process for businesses
- City and Parish work together on ARP fund spending
- Adjudicated property issues
- Improved street lighting
- Job opportunities
- Dedicated police officers
- Neglected roads cause damage to vehicles
- Cameras in neighborhoods
- Citywide prayer meeting

## **A.B. Palmer Community Center (June 3, 2021)**

Topics discussed included:

- Speed bumps in Eden Gardens
- Cameras to combat high crime
- More summer jobs
- Delays in trash and bulk pickup
- Funds for urban farming for Cedar Grove to help with the abandoned, adjudicated properties
- Address employment need
- Partner with school board
- Public Safety
- Minimum wage
- Road conditions
- Correlation between crime and blight
- Burned building on Fairfield
- Flooding
- Customer service with trash pick up
- I-49 dividing Cedar Grove
- Industrial impact on neighborhoods
- Neglect in black communities
- Delinquent landlords
- Safe places for kids to play
- Duck pond in Cedar Grove
- Shelter at bus stops
- Careers in trade
- Economic Development should mirror larger cities that have experienced success
- Water main break repair and its impact on sidewalks and yards
- Blue recycling bins
- Educate the public on how city government works
- Grant competition for entrepreneurs in technology and business
- Youth businesses to deter them from crime

- Broadband
- Give developers opportunity at blighted neighborhoods
- Mentorship for youth
- Illegal weapons
- Concern about a new liquor establishment
- Fairness in funding distribution
- Lack of lending institutions in Cedar Grove
- Civics and Free Enterprise curriculum
- Concerned about informants involved in crimes getting a pass who are actually involved
- Opportunities for college graduates in Shreveport
- Gentrification in Eden Gardens and Allendale
- Review of the old laws that are holding Shreveport back
- Broken drainage is broken in Andrew Curry Park
- Grass cutting
- Free trash dumpster in every neighborhood
- Pay raises for sanitation workers
- Restoration of recycling program
- More activities for children

### **Southern Hills (June 10, 2021)**

Topics of discussion included:

- New police headquarters
- Hire more police officers
- New police training facility
- February Winter Storm impact on water
- Build substations in community for police
- Vacant buildings
- Programs for youth
- Public safety
- WiFi access for youth



- Self esteem ties to delinquency
- Peer influence
- Educational standards
- STEM
- Invest money in youth
- Street infrastructure
- Citywide beautification
- Attracting new industry
- Amtrak
- Tax revenue
- Government collaboration
- Vocational training
- Investment in people
- Auxiliary Policing
- Neighborhood Watch
- Water billing concerns
- More direct, cheaper flights in and out of Shreveport
- Properties on Poinsetta Street
- Railroad track repair on Bert Kouns
- Street repairs
- Speeding
- Sidewalk erosion
- Outdated policies
- Swimming pool near Allendale and Lakeside
- Collaboration with the grassroots organizations to address crime
- Update park equipment

### **Airport Park (June 15, 2021)**

Topics discussed included:

- Kindness of helping neighbors during water outage
- Stop negative talk about city and help make it better

- Plans for land purchased by the airport
- Airport work with consultants to create a land reuse plan
- Speed bumps
- Damaged welcome sign in Mooretown
- Update recreational facilities
- Multipurpose field for Airport Park
- Food desert
- Pollution from industrial plants
- Crime cameras on the streets
- Blighted property
- Curfew
- Loud music
- Parking at Airport Park
- Upkeep in the road median
- Realtime Crime Center
- Funding for senior citizen programs
- Road conditions
- Bus terminal
- Daytime patrol plentiful giving tickets
- Need more nighttime patrol
- Outdoor park restrooms
- Bus stops
- Safety concern for elderly
- City contractors with incomplete work
- Mentors in Ingleside
- More opportunities for autistic students like the community garden walking trail
- Rehabilitation for inmates to allow them to help in community upon release
- Education and technology for youth
- Hip hop competition, similar to competitive sports

- Foster parents
- Drug programs and counselors

### **Bill Cockrell Listening Session ( June 17, 2021)**

- Additional parking at Bill Cockrell Community Center
- Multipurpose room at Bill Cockrell
- Swimming pool
- Police precinct in north Shreveport
- Broadband
- Contract with economic development firm
- Cyber security concern with water system
- Overgrown trees
- Potholes
- Sewage troubles
- Job opportunities
- Economic development
- Hire people to clean up the streets
- Invest money in low crime neighborhoods as a reward for those doing the right thing
- Collaboration between City, Parish and Caddo Schools on broadband
- Cleanliness as a deterrent to crime
- Ford Park close times
- Lighting
- Livable wages
- Bond Proposal
- Summer technology programs for at-risk youth
- Crime cameras
- Declining population
- Talent drain
- Grass cutting

- Broken vehicles in yards
- Satellite police substation in west Shreveport
- Real Time Crime Center
- Police substation by the Airport or on Hollywood
- Property standards concerns
- Rental issues
- Community oriented policing
- Incentives to attract people from other cities to Shreveport
- Mentorship for the men who have been incarcerated
- Municipal government and how it works
- Financial deserts
- Publicity campaigns
- Spending money on Fair Share, Community Development, Property Standards, and Economic Development
- Promote the positive

### **Downtown Listening Session (June 14, 2021)**

Topics discussed included:

- Plans for the homeless population
- Downtown parking issues
- Sidewalk improvements
- Upgrade street lights
- Unkept property
- Economic plan for downtown
- Restoring faith back into the city
- Entertainment in some of the vacant buildings  
media/entertainment
- Flip the City housing program
- Downtown bus station
- Retail stores
- Improve entrance ramps to Spring and Texas
- Water system

- I-49 expansion
- Music industry
- Street navigation
- Eliminate the one-way streets
- Street scape
- Investment of ARP funds for an ROI
- Master Plan
- Perception about safety of downtown
- More police presence
- Improve the water and sewerage
- Parking study to unlock economic potential
- Upgrade Princess Park
- SPAR facility, Princess Park, near the interstate
- Invest in alleyways to make paths smoother
- Guidelines for ARP funds
- Public Health
- Spending money in ways that will truly change people's lives
- Committee to reach out to owners of vacant buildings
- Downtown substation for police

### **Bilberry Recreational Center (June 24, 2021)**

Topics discussed included:

- Public safety
- Community oriented policing
- Working with kids
- Safety workshops for adults
- More inspectors for Property Standards
- Dilapidated property
- Expand Environmental Crime Unit
- Major intersection pedestrian walkways
- Handicap accessibility

- Repurpose vacant buildings
- Technology, cable
- Park near Country Club neighborhood
- Job experience
- Water fountains at recreation facilities
- Street improvements
- Helping those in need
- Gated community
- Increased patrols
- Overgrown grass
- Contractor neglect
- Improve alleys
- Abandoned houses
- Slumlords
- Garbage collection
- Invest in elderly and veterans
- Create residual income in communities
- Neighborhood Association
- Gang violence
- Water and sewerage system
- Tree cutting
- Interagency collaboration on crime
- Broadband and Wifi

### **Norris Ferry Listening Session (June 29, 2021)**

Topics discussed included:

- Entertainment
- Road erosion
- New restaurants
- Broadband
- Bus route on 70<sup>th</sup> Street

- Public Safety
- Standup to Violence Program
- Partnership between hospitals and colleges
- Economic Development
- Technology
- Program where youth compete for funding
- Connect youth with CEOs
- Profit/Nonprofit entrepreneurships
- Financial literacy
- Special needs park
- Water quality
- Recycling
- Raises for police and fire
- Sales tax
- Drag racing on Ellerbe Road
- I-49
- Think tank
- Invest in parks for tournaments and economic development
- Wallace Lake Project
- Recruitment of officers
- Testing in schools
- Impact of crime in real estate
- Fire stations
- Bond Proposal
- Business-sponsored cleanups
- Adjudicated properties