



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
TOM ARCENEUX**

For Media Inquiries Only

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Mayor Arceneaux has issued the following statement regarding weekend violence on Saturday, January 7, 2023

“At approximately 2:40 a.m., Renata Lewis, who was in her bed in her home on Bond Drive, was shot, apparently by a stray bullet intended for another person. Unfortunately, Ms. Lewis died from her injuries. The City expresses its sorrow for Ms. Lewis death and we mourn with her family. Her death affects us all. Shreveport Police are continuing to investigate the homicide.

“Shortly after noon, the mother of a four-year-old child was told that her child had been struck by a stray bullet while playing in the playground at the Cooper Road Plaza Apartments. Fortunately, the child’s injuries apparently are not life-threatening. The suspects, who exchanged gunfire fled in a white sedan. SPD is investigating the crime.

“At approximately 3:15 p.m., a gunman interrupted an outdoor dice game at North Dale Avenue and Alston Street by firing multiple shots at the participants, striking some of them and a spectator. The injuries sustained are not believed to be life-threatening.

“Later in the afternoon, an assailant shot a man at 4314 Hollywood from a sedan. There are conflicting reports about the color of the vehicle from which the assailant fired and whether there might be a connection between one of the prior incidents and this one.

“While SPD conducts its investigations, we hope that any citizen with knowledge about any of these incidents will step forward with information that would lead to the arrest and conviction of those responsible. We also pray for the family and friends of Ms. Lewis and for the swift and complete recovery of the other victims.

“The Mayor’s office will continue to monitor SPD’s investigation about these incidents, and the Mayor will meet with SPD leadership to determine more assertive steps to get guns off the street. SPD seized over 1200 illegally possessed firearms in 2022. Increasing that number in 2023 hopefully will contribute to reducing incidents like the ones on Saturday, making our City safer.

“Today also is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Please join the Mayor in thanking our law enforcement officers for their difficult and brave service.”