



CITY OF SHREVEPORT
MAYOR TOM ARCENEUX

For Media Inquiries Only:

Leigh Anne Evensky

Communications Director

Leigh.Evensky@ShreveportLa.gov

318-205-4993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 17, 2024

**MAYOR ARCENEUX ISSUES STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO FRIENDS OF FAIRGROUNDS
FIELD, LLC'S LETTER**

It is the long-standing policy of the City of Shreveport not to comment in the media on ongoing litigation. Following this policy, the Arceneux Administration has no comment on *Friends of Fairgrounds Field, LLC et al. v. City of Shreveport, et al.* However, because certain statements have been made to the press regarding revitalizing Fair Grounds Field, I feel it necessary to outline the facts for the public.

On April 4, 2024, I met with Bill Robertson, the author of a letter to me released to the media, to discuss several issues for which he approached me as a self-described "lobbyist" for three different groups. When he brought up his request that the City reconsider the planned Fair Grounds Field demolition, I repeated the position I've held consistently for nearly two years. I told him that my conditions for any project, from any source, to revitalize Fair Grounds Field are:

1. The source must deposit cash to be held in escrow for the cost of the demolition of the property;
2. The City's contribution to the restoration of the property is not to exceed the remainder of the funds currently available for the demolition of the property;
3. All other contribution to the restoration of the property must come from a non-City source; and
4. Operations at the restored Fair Grounds Field must be self-sustaining – not subsidized by the City in any way.

As far as my Administration can tell, Friends of Fair Grounds Field, LLC has made no progress on any of those conditions in the two years since they were first communicated during the 2022 Mayoral campaign, through counsel, to one of their representatives. The Administration is happy to entertain alternative options that meet the conditions outlined above from any source. Unless the City can be assured that these conditions are met, the demolition of Fair Grounds Field will continue as planned with proper safeguards in place.

###