



Shreveport Police Department Chief Wayne Smith

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Preparing for a Safe Mardi Gras!



As the excitement builds for this year's Mardi Gras celebrations, local law enforcement and emergency response agencies are working diligently to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all attendees.

On Friday, members of the Shreveport Police Department, Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, Shreveport City Marshal's Office, Louisiana Probation and Parole, and the Shreveport Fire Department convened to continue preparations for the upcoming parades.

Under the leadership of Chief Wayne Smith, these meetings focus on seamless collaboration between all public safety partners, ensuring that proper security measures, emergency response plans, and crowd management strategies are in place.

"Our top priority is the safety and well-being of our community," said Chief Smith. "Mardi Gras is a time of celebration, and we want everyone to enjoy it with confidence, knowing that our law enforcement and first responders are working tirelessly behind the scenes to protect them."

As the parades draw near, residents and visitors are encouraged to follow safety guidelines, be aware of their surroundings, and cooperate with law enforcement to help make this Mardi Gras season a safe and memorable one.

Prohibited Items/Acts:

- No glass bottles or containers are allowed on the parade route.
- No one may cross parade barricades during the parade.
- No animals allowed within 200 yards of the parade route, except animals that are in secured yards of residents living along the parade route and service animals.
- No dangerous objects or silly string.
- No one may throw anything at a parade float.
- Large flags or banners are not allowed within 50 feet of the parade route.
- No underage possession of alcohol. Violators will be arrested.
- No public nudity will be tolerated. Violators will be arrested.
- No ATV's, side by side, dirt bikes, or any other motorized recreational vehicles are allowed on any public property along the parade route, this includes the grassy areas along Clyde Fant Memorial Parkway and city streets. Violators will be subject to citation, arrest, and towing of the vehicle.
- No Drones permitted on parade route.

Safety Tips:

- Do not leave children unattended! Designate a meeting place in the event you find yourself accidentally separated from your children or other family members/friends.
- Do not fight or struggle over beads.
- Keep a safe distance from the floats.
- Leave valuables at home and secure your vehicles. Keep your keys secured.
- Do not take purses or wallets to parades. Keep money, keys, and identification secured on your person.
- Extinguish hot coals after cooking. Do not dump hot coals on the grass.
- Obey all traffic signs and directions from officers.

For more information, please contact the Shreveport Police Department at (318) 673-7300.