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City Responds to Administrative Order from Louisiana Department of Health

The City of Shreveport's Water and Sewerage Department has received an Administrative Order from the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) following a "Sanitary Survey" conducted in September 2021. This order outlines necessary remedial actions for the City's drinking water system, including repairs to water storage tanks and emergency generators.

The City has been proactive in addressing the deficiencies identified by LDH, despite the significant nature of the required repairs. Immediately following the 2021 survey, City officials informed LDH that completing these repairs would extend beyond the initial 90-day timeframe due to the complexity and scope of the work required. Since then, City staff have maintained regular communication with LDH, providing quarterly updates on the progress of the necessary improvements.

Many of the required actions outlined in the Administrative Order are already underway as part of existing construction projects. The Water Tank Improvement Project, which includes repairs to all active elevated water towers, is currently in progress. Additionally, the procurement process for key infrastructure, such as an emergency generator for the booster pump station serving southeast Shreveport, has been awaiting final funding determinations. The plans and specifications for these critical projects have been developed in coordination with LDH and have received the necessary permits for construction.

One of the main challenges in executing these repairs is ensuring the continuous operation of the water system. Water storage tank improvements can only be performed during periods of lower demand, typically in the winter months. City staff have conducted operational testing to determine the impact of taking each tank offline, as these storage tanks are essential for maintaining water pressure and fire protection. Consequently, repairs must be carefully scheduled to minimize disruptions and ensure system reliability.

The City of Shreveport remains committed to improving its drinking water infrastructure. More than \$10 million has already been allocated to address the deficiencies identified in the 2021 Sanitary Survey. These efforts are in addition to the \$40 million in projects included in the 2024 General Obligation Bonds, further demonstrating the City's dedication to enhancing its water system.

These issues were identified by LDH in 2021 but do not pose imminent health concerns. The City responded to the original survey results with a schedule that dictated multiple years for responding to the deficiencies. Currently, these projects are all designed and, following a FEMA grant, also funded; however, construction to address these issues will also be multiyear efforts. Our LDH Water Grade has been affected every year due to the City being cited for the same deficiencies rather than acknowledging that the City has been addressing them. City officials will continue to work closely with LDH to complete these critical improvements in a timely and responsible manner.

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