



CITY OF SHREVEPORT  
MAYOR TOM ARCENEUX  
CHIEF WAYNE E. SMITH

**For Media Inquiries Only:**

Leigh Anne Evensky

**Communications Director**

Leigh.Evensky@ShreveportLa.gov

318-205-4993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2025

---

**FIRST MAJOR ACTION UNDER OPERATION ASK BLUE RESULTS IN FIVE ARRESTS AND MORE THAN FIFTY HOMES INSPECTED: MAYOR ARCENEUX AND POLICE CHIEF SMITH PRAISE COMMUNITY FOR ROLE IN EARLY SUCCESS**

This morning, just one week after the launch of Ordinance 18 of 2025 and Operation ASK BLUE (Addressing Squatters Knowledgeably – Bold Legal Unified Efforts), the Shreveport Police Department, in collaboration with several city agencies, carried out its first large-scale enforcement action targeting illegal squatting.

In the first phase of Operation ASK BLUE, approximately 40 officers, led by Assistant Chief Colette Kelly, took part in a concentrated effort in the Highland neighborhood. In the week since its launch, the city has received over one hundred communications from concerned residents reporting potential squatters throughout the community. As a direct result of those calls, more than 50 properties were investigated today by the Shreveport Police Department, with support from Property Standards, Animal Control, and other city partners. Animal Control officers also seized three stray aggressive dogs during the operation.

Five arrests were made during today's action, including:

- Three individuals arrested for squatting
- One individual arrested for Illegal Possession of a Stolen Firearm
- One individual taken into custody on outstanding warrants

Squatter-related crimes have been tied to a wide range of offenses, including burglary, trespassing, property damage, theft, drug activity, and even structure fires.

Shreveport Police Chief Wayne Smith, who was on site, praised the coordination and dedication of all involved:

“This is about restoring order, safety, and peace of mind to our neighborhoods. Squatting is not a victimless crime, and today’s action is just the beginning. We’re committed to continuing this momentum until the problem is under control.”

Mayor Tom Arceneaux echoed those sentiments:

“This is a clear example of what happens when a community and its police department work together to solve real problems,” said Mayor Tom Arceneaux. “Our residents spoke up, and our officers responded swiftly and strategically. This is exactly what we envisioned when we launched Operation ASK BLUE. Thank you to Chief Smith and Captain Kelly for your leadership. Thank you to the Shreveport City Council for passing Ordinance 18 of 2025, which made this possible. This is an excellent example of what we can achieve when we work together.”

In addition to enforcement efforts, officers used this opportunity to distribute information on available resources, including assistance for homelessness, food access, rental legal support, and mental health services.

Residents are urged to remain vigilant and report suspected squatter activity by calling the Community Oriented Policing Bureau at (318) 673-6950 or using Port City 311 online at <https://www.shreveportla.gov/2786/Report-A-Concern>, or by using the Port City 311 phone application.

Operation ASK BLUE will continue in the coming weeks as the City of Shreveport works to ensure safe and livable neighborhoods for all its residents.

###