



SHREVEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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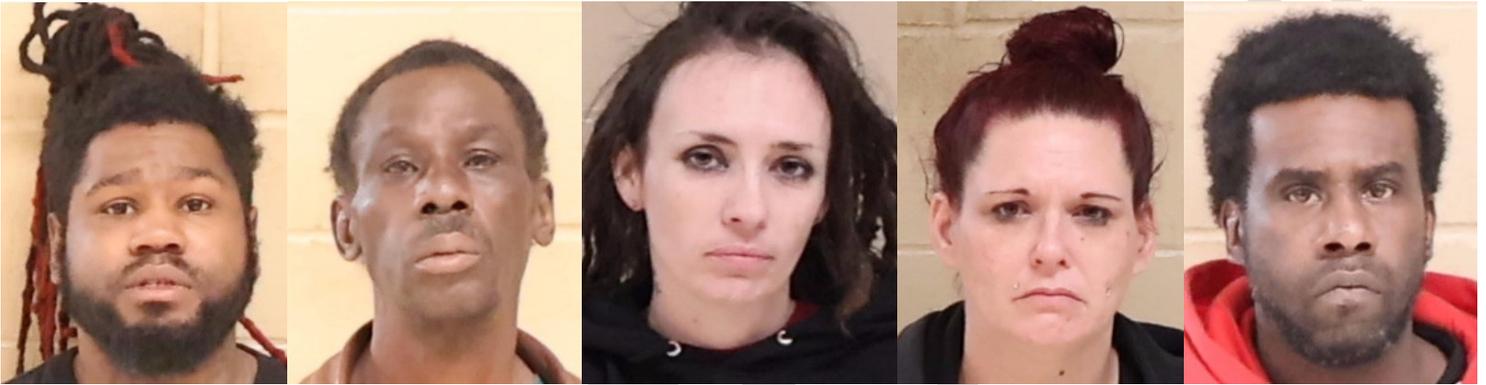
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPD Launches "Operation Ask Blue" to Crack Down on Squatting Related Crime



On April 10, 2025, the Shreveport Police Department, in collaboration with multiple city agencies, launched *Operation Ask Blue*, a citywide initiative focused on addressing squatting and squatter-related crimes. This coordinated effort follows the recent passage of a new ordinance spearheaded by Mayor Tom Arsenault and approved by the Shreveport City Council.

The operation began in the Highland neighborhood, where officers concentrated their efforts early Thursday morning. As a result, three individuals—Melvin Burks, Laken Dance, and Cheryl Bayles—were found in violation of the newly enacted ordinance and were subsequently arrested.

In addition to these arrests, officers encountered Charles Lewis, who was taken into custody after being found in possession of a stolen handgun. While inspecting approximately 40 abandoned residences, officers also located Jontravius Ealy, who was wanted on outstanding warrants and was arrested without incident.

Chief Wayne Smith commended the hard work and diligence of the officers involved in the operation, stating,

“This initiative is a testament to what we can achieve when we work together for the safety of our neighborhoods. I want to thank our officers for their tireless efforts and extend my gratitude to our city officials for providing us with the tools and legislation needed to make Shreveport safer.”

The Shreveport Police Department remains committed to protecting our community and ensuring neighborhoods are free from criminal activity and unsafe living conditions.