

Office of The Mayor
Shreveport, Louisiana

TOM ARCENEUX
MAYOR



505 TRAVIS STREET, SUITE 200
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71101
(318) 673-5050

October 9, 2025

Honorable Members of the Shreveport City Council

Re: Proposed 2% Surcharge on Water Bills for Demolition

Dear City Council Members:

After receiving input from citizens and you, I have decided to withdraw the two percent water surcharge proposal. I have asked the Chief Administrative prepare the budget ordinances without the surcharge and without the intended uses of the funds that the surcharge was projected to generate. We welcome your input as to an alternative revenue source to fund the large property demolitions.

We will continue to aggressively pursue litigation against slumlords and absentee property owners with dilapidated properties and properties that threaten the health and welfare of our community. We will also continue to look for ways to finance the demolition of the large properties without endangering the financial stability of the city or the marketability or insurability of the city's general obligation bonds.

I have asked Property Standards, the City Attorney, and Community Development to identify any and all grants available to aid with the demolition of unsafe and unkept structures. In addition, we will continue our discussions with the Louisiana Army National Guard about the possibility of using National Guard personnel and equipment to demolish large structures, in the event that the Governor sends LANG personnel to Shreveport.

We, as a community, will ultimately have to address blight creep and the demolition of large properties. Initiatives like Block-by-Block will help to lift all neighborhoods. We look forward to future discussions about ways to better fund our demolition efforts across Shreveport because blight impacts us all.

Very truly yours,

Tom Arceneaux
MAYOR

cc: Mr. Tom Dark
Mr. Marcus Edwards
Ms. Tari Bradford
Ms. LaTonya Bogan