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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shreveport City Council Statement on Recent Mardi Gras Parade Incidents

Shreveport, LA — The Shreveport City Council is addressing two separate incidents that occurred during the Krewe of Centaur Mardi Gras parade and is emphasizing the importance of public safety, accountability, and respect during community celebrations.

One incident, captured on video and widely circulated on social media, involved a confrontation among parade attendees in the presence of families and children. In a separate and unrelated incident, a parade participant was injured after being struck by a parade float tow vehicle. Both matters are currently under investigation by the Shreveport Police Department.

The Council expressed concern for those impacted, stating, “The Shreveport City Council extends its heartfelt thoughts and prayers to the individual injured during the Krewe of Centaur parade and wishes them a full and speedy recovery. We are grateful for the quick response of first responders and medical personnel, and we stand with the individual and their family during this time.”

Council Chairwoman Tabatha H. Taylor addressed the confrontation, stating, “I extend my apologies and heartfelt prayers to the family affected. The events on Saturday were deeply troubling and violated their safety. I am grateful for our community’s outcry, which sent a clear message that such actions will not be tolerated. Our children, elderly, and disabled are integral to this city, and their rights must always be protected. We keep this family in our prayers and hope for swift justice.”

Vice Chairwoman Ursula Bowman added, “I am deeply disturbed by the racist behavior captured on video. This does not reflect who we are as a community, and it will not be tolerated. Mardi Gras is meant to bring us together, not tear us apart. I support accountability to ensure this conduct is addressed and prevented.”

Councilman Gary Brooks emphasized expectations for conduct, stating, “Our community deserves celebrations that are safe and respectful. Confrontations at public gatherings place unnecessary strain on public safety resources and detract from events meant to bring people together.”

Councilman Jim Taliaferro addressed the broader impact on the community, stating, “When incidents of this nature occur in highly visible public settings, they affect more than those directly involved. They shape how our city is viewed and perceived and compromises on an overall pleasant experience. This and any other behavior like this are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.”

Councilman Grayson Boucher spoke to accountability, saying, “Events of this scale require personal responsibility from everyone involved. Confrontations at public gatherings cannot be normalized, and we will continue reviewing safety measures to reduce the likelihood of incidents like this.”

Councilman Alan Jackson, Jr. added, “No one has the right to intimidate, disrupt, or endanger others at a community celebration. This type of behavior will not be tolerated, and we stand firmly behind efforts to maintain order and protect families.”

Councilman James Green underscored shared responsibility, stating, “Public celebrations only work when mutual respect is upheld. This behavior disrupts not only the event, but the sense of safety our residents expect and deserve. I pray for a change of heart of the individuals who do not respect everyone.”

The Council concluded with a unified call for civility and cooperation, stating, “We must take these incidents seriously and work collectively, city leaders, law enforcement, organizers, and residents, to ensure Mardi Gras celebrations reflect respect, safety, and community pride.” The Shreveport City Council urges anyone with information related to these incidents to cooperate with investigators and reiterates its appreciation for the Shreveport Police Department, emergency responders, and medical personnel for their professionalism and swift action.

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