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## PRESS RELEASE

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# City mourns the death of its first black police officer

William Hines, Shreveport's first black police officer, died today.

Hines joined the police force in 1954, walking his beat for many of the years when parts of the city were still segregated and he wasn't allowed to have a patrol car. He served on the force for 21 years before he won a class action lawsuit against the department to force it to promote more black officers and allow them to work in more areas of the department.

Hines retired from the department in 1975 and entered the ministry in 1978.

"Bill Hines was a true trailblazer not only for the police department but for our entire city," Mayor Cedric Glover said. "The courage it took for him to maintain his professionalism and stay focused on doing the job that he was called to do during a time when racism was overt and obvious is something that very few of us can actually imagine, let alone relate to. So, the debt of gratitude we owe him for the sacrifices he made is one that can never be fully repaid."

Funeral services for Hines are pending.

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