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## PRESS RELEASE

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July 18, 2014

# Fire Marshal asked to improve landfill operator's fire mitigation plan

The ongoing fires at a north Shreveport landfill has Mayor Cedric Glover asking Louisiana State Fire Marshal H. ``Butch'' Browning to review the latest fire mitigation plan being offered by Harrelson Materials Management, Inc.

In a letter emailed today to Chief Browning, Mayor Glover details concerns he has about the ongoing operations and sporadic fires at the landfill, which has spewed smoke and flames for years from its Russell Road location. Efforts by the city to close the landfill have produced positive results, but the facility continues to operate in a limited capacity.

Shreveport firefighters were dispatched to the site as recently as Thursday morning after receiving calls from residents in the Martin Luther King Jr. neighborhood complaining about the smoke.

``This is not the time to relax and hope this will all go away now that the owner of this landfill has promised not to seek to renew one of his permits and residents have been told that the facility will close in October," Glover said. ``A promise of not renewing one permit, while there still are others that can be shifted, expanded or transferred is why I'm insisting on the cessation of the receipt of all types of waste materials."

In addition to his letter to Browning, Mayor Glover also is asking his staff to research and verify what other permits Harrelson Materials Management have in place for this site, including authorization to receive agricultural and septic waste.

``It's not about what I want or what someone else wants, it's about the health and safety of human beings who I represent and what they want," said Councilwoman Rose Wilson-McCulloch, whose district includes the landfill. ``But again, I want to stress that this isn't just a Cooper Road problem but a city of Shreveport problem that we need to solve."

McCulloch is united in a vocal campaign with MLK neighborhood leaders, who have lobbied state officials for several years to permanently close the landfill. These advocates have not been deterred by the bureaucratic roadblocks they've faced and even managed to fend off Harrelson's effort several years ago to expand the landfill into a full-fledged municipal waste operation.

CITY OF SHREVEPORT



CEDRIC B. GLOVER  
MAYOR

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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``I applaud Councilwoman McCulloch for not being bamboozled by promises and insisting rather on verifiable proof that this landfill is closing," Mayor Glover said.

Mayor Glover said the immediate goal is to force Harrelson to stop receiving all types of waste material so that the focus can then shift to the environmental and health concerns being raised by the citizens.

-SHREVEPORT-

[www.shreveportla.gov](http://www.shreveportla.gov)

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July 18, 2014

Via Electronic Mail Delivery Only to [butch@la.gov](mailto:butch@la.gov)  
Original Retained By Sender

Chief H. "Butch" Browning, EFO, CFO  
Louisiana State Fire Marshal  
Office of the State Fire Marshal  
8181 Independence Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Re: Harrelson Materials Management, Inc. July 1, 2014 Proposed  
Revised Alternative Subsurface Fire Mitigation Plan and  
July 11, 2014 Addendum to Revised Alternative Subsurface  
Fire Mitigation Plan  
Type III Construction & Demolition Debris/Woodwaste Landfill  
1101 Russell Road, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana  
LDEQ Agency Interest No: 28118

Dear Chief Browning:

Allow me to express my appreciation to you for your assistance and your efforts to extinguish the fires at this location. Your involvement has generated a new level of attention to and discussion of this matter which I believe will ultimately yield beneficial results for the residents of the Martin Luther King area and the City of Shreveport as a whole. I also wish to thank you for forwarding copies of both the July 1, 2014 Revised Alternative Subsurface Fire Mitigation Plan as well as the July 11, 2014 Addendum to the Revised Alternative Subsurface Fire Mitigation Plan to Shreveport Fire Department Chief Scott Wolverton for review. While we were initially encouraged that the Plans had been submitted, upon further review, both Plans appear deficient in several key respects which we highlight below. It is not our intention to attempt to dictate the content of any Plan that may ultimately be approved by LDEQ. In this regard, we agree with statements made by Thomas Powers of PPM Consultants in the July 1 Plan that the SFD plan "lacks sufficient methodology for fighting a deep-seated subsurface fire." SFD is not nor have they ever presented themselves as experts in the area of fighting a deep-seated subsurface fire. There are, however, experts in this area that Harrelson should be required to engage to develop and implement an effective fire mitigation plan. Our desire, at a minimum, is that any Plan that is adopted reflect best practices of the industry; requires the operator to have a clearly identified and readily available source of equipment and experienced personnel to accomplish all aspects of the six-component plan outlined in the July 1 Revised Alternative Plan; requires the operator to demonstrate that they have the financial capacity to undertake and accomplish all components of the plan outlined in the July 1 Revised Alternative Plan and/or the July 11 Addendum; requires 24/7 Health Safety and Fire Watch (HSFW) personnel on specified shifts, as well as other concerns and considerations mentioned below.

Of foremost concern is that the Plan requires the operator to completely cease all operations and the receipt of materials for all operations (whether for the rock crusher, the wood waste operations or the C & D landfill). Our concerns are further detailed below.

Harrelson's consultant, PPM, does not appear to have the level of experience and expertise needed to deal with landfill fires. PPM is an environmental consulting and engineering firm, and we believe there are other experts in the highly specialized field of combating/preventing landfill fires more properly qualified to prepare a plan of this nature and to oversee its implementation.

We also note that the proposed plan contemplates the continued receipt of construction and demolition debris waste during the fire mitigation process. This will increase the likelihood of fires during the process and also would obviously tend to delay, detract from and/or otherwise adversely impact the actual fire mitigation work. Accordingly, we believe that disposal of any waste at the site during the fire mitigation process should be prohibited and seen as counterproductive.

Similarly, we are concerned about other ongoing operations at the site, namely rock crushing and wood chipping. The wood chipping is apparently operated under a permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture granting "permission to dispose of agricultural waste". As long as these operations continue, the potential exists for incoming loads to be diverted to disposal areas within the landfill, exacerbating the fire problem. Furthermore, it is our understanding that rock crushing operations require a permit from the DEQ (LAC 33:III.317), and that no such permit has been issued for this site.

The following are more specific concerns about the proposed plan as worded:

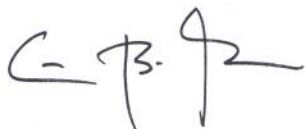
- Harrelson Materials Management lacks the resources needed to extinguish the fire including the following, but not limited to:
  - Proper Heavy Equipment
  - Trained personnel in fighting subsurface fires
  - Adequate water supply and hose needed at the site
  - Wetting agent or foam as recommended by the USFA (*Landfill Fires: Their Magnitude, Characteristics, and Mitigation*, May 2002)
  - Other extinguishing techniques identified by professional industry such as inert gas injection of nitrogen or carbon dioxide and water/foam injection (Source: *Understanding Landfill Fires*- [www.waste-management-world.com](http://www.waste-management-world.com))
  - Air monitoring
  - Infrared camera or temperature sensor
- There needs to be continuous oversight from DEQ and City Representative to ensure that the appropriate and adopted mitigation plan is being followed and supporting documentation is being completed.
- Fire extinguishment operations should be provided by a licensed, professional, third-party organization that specializes in extinguishing subterranean landfill fires.
- We agree that a Health and Safety/Fire Watch from a third party should be provided during all extinguishment operations in accordance with Draft Addendum dated July 11, 2014.

We have other environmental concerns with the proposed plan. For one thing, it appears from aerial photos that portions of the proposed temporary waste management areas may have standing water and may even be in ponds. We do not believe that waste should be stored in areas where water quality could be impacted. Although the plan mentions construction of a berm, it is not clear from the wording of the plan that sufficient steps will be taken to completely isolate waste storage areas from areas that retain water.

To the extent that a plan involving increased water application at the site is eventually approved, we request that the plan require the use of on-site water from the storm-water detention pond to the greatest extent possible in lieu of other sources, thereby decreasing the potential for offsite runoff. We also request that the plan require notice to be provided to the Amiss Water Purification Plant operator in advance whenever a release from the detention pond into the receiving ditch may occur.

Thank you for your consideration of these critical issues I've outlined in this letter and please let me know whether my staff can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,



Cedric B. Glover  
M A Y O R

Cc: Governor Bobby Jindal  
Ms. Cheryl Nolan, LaDEQ  
Mike Strain, Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry  
North Louisiana State Delegation  
Shreveport City Council  
Lyndon B. Johnson, Caddo Parish Commissioner  
Dale Sibley, CAO