



CEDRIC B. GLOVER
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PRESS RELEASE

October 17, 2014

Mayor Glover asks Governor to help residents sickened by landfill

Mayor Cedric Glover has written a letter to Gov. Bobby Jindal, seeking financial assistance for residents who say they're suffering with various health issues related to emissions from the Harrelson landfill.

The letter comes just days after the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality finally ordered the landfill to close after years and years of operating violations, citations and frequent fires both above and below the surface. Shreveport residents, especially those in the nearby Martin Luther King Neighborhood, have long complained about the ill effects from the smoke and fumes.

At a meeting this month, volunteers with the MLK Neighborhood Association videotaped the oral histories of those residents who believe they are experiencing health complications related to the Harrelson operation. Presently, that number stands at approximately 30 residents.

Gov. Jindal plans to request an appropriation for clean-up and remediation of the site located on Russell Road. This action is necessary because the owner, Michael Harrelson, failed to adhere to, and LDEQ failed to enforce, the requirement to maintain sufficient financial assurance to cover the costs for clean-up and remediation.

Mayor Glover also is requesting an immediate appropriation of funds to pay for testing, monitoring and evaluation of the site as well as the surrounding area to determine whether operations at the facility have caused or contributed to any other adverse environmental conditions.

"Use of public dollars for persons adversely affected by the operations at the Harrelson site as well as to address environmental conditions caused by this operation is even more appropriate than use of public funds for the benefit of the person(s) responsible for the condition of these citizens and the adverse impact on the environment," Mayor Glover wrote in his letter to Gov. Jindal.

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October 17, 2014

Via Electronic Mail Delivery

Honorable Bobby Jindal
Governor, State of Louisiana
P. O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9004

RE: Harrelson Materials Management Landfill
1101 Russell Road
Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana
LDEQ Permit No: P-0392-M2
Solid Waste ID No: D-017-2688
LDEQ Agency Interest No: 28118

Dear Governor Jindal:

As of this date, more than two dozen residents living near the Harrelson landfill have indicated health problems they believe to be directly related to their living in close proximity to the decade-long smoldering facility. A review of its history quickly reveals that the facility has enjoyed years of absent, lax or callously inefficient enforcement of regulations by the Department of Environmental Quality while the operator, Michael Harrelson has reaped untold profits from the landfill operations.

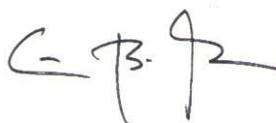
As the result of these inactions and inefficiencies, residents of the Martin Luther King community, the City of Shreveport, as well as all tax-paying citizens of this state will now bear the financial burden of cleaning up the site. This coupled with the fact that these residents will have to bear the continued expense of their medical tests and treatments represent a case of gross negligence. The inequity of this should be readily apparent to you as well as to all other persons observing this situation.

It is my understanding that you intend to request an appropriation for clean-up and remediation of the site. This action is necessary due to the operator' failure to maintain and DEQ's failure to enforce regulations requiring sufficient financial assurance to cover the costs for clean-up and remediation as conditions at this facility now require.



In order to provide redress to the citizens who have been identified thus far as having health issues connected to the site as well as to those persons yet to be identified I am asking that you also seek an immediate appropriation of funds sufficient to pay for independent medical testing and evaluation of all of the identified residents as well as other persons yet to be identified. The appropriation should also include sufficient funds to provide testing, monitoring and evaluation of the site as well as the surrounding area to determine whether operations at the facility have caused, created or contributed to any other adverse environmental conditions. Use of public dollars for persons adversely affected by the operations at the Harrelson site as well as to address environmental conditions caused by this operation is even more appropriate than use of public funds for the benefit of the person(s) responsible for the condition of these citizens and the adverse impact on the environment.

Sincerely,



Cedric B. Glover
MAYOR

cc: Senator Gregory Tarver
Senator Barrow Peacock
Senator Sherri Smith Buffington
Representative Patrick C. Williams
Representative Roy A. Burrell
Representative Barbara Norton
Representative Alan Seabaugh
Representative Thomas G. Carmody, Jr.
Representative Richard T. Burford
Shreveport City Councilman Rose W. McCulloch
Shreveport City Councilman Jeff Everson
Shreveport City Councilman Oliver Jenkins
Shreveport City Councilman Michael Corbin
Shreveport City Councilman Ron Webb
Shreveport City Councilman Joe Shyne
Shreveport City Councilman Sam Jenkins
Caddo Parish Commissioner Lyndon B. Johnson
Dale Sibley, CAO