

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF
THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 18th DAY OF APRIL, 2024

The Caddo Parish Commission met in a Special Session, on the above date, at 11:00 a.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, 505 Travis Street, Shreveport, with Mr. Young, presiding, and the following members in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (10). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Kracman (2).

The invocation was given by Mr. Cothran, and Mr. Thomas led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There being no Agenda Additions, so the Commission moved onto Citizens Comments.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jon Glover came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good Morning, Commissioners. Piggybacking on what I stood before you all on Monday and began to share with you all my intent and purpose for coming before you all where there is legislation that I don't fully understand and often times, don't appreciate. There are three such pieces of legislation still on this agenda that I still maintain fervently that should not be adopted though they are there to be adopted. One is Resolution 15 of 2024, and though there has been some amending to the language of that legislation, I still don't understand why it is that the Parish has to step in and take care of the situation that's happening here with the City. Number two piece of legislation that I had spoken was—excuse me, Resolution 26 of 2024. Now, I did hear and sat through the conversation, that the author of this legislation shared with all of us. This legislation does not mirror that conversation, so because that conversation and the language in your legislation does not mirror each other, then that legislation, in my mind, should not be adopted. Legislation 5.13—the one that talked about the Shreveport Youth Council—the one that Councilman Jackson has brought before the City Council that is said in legislation to have been adopted by the city. It has not. It was postponed at their last meeting. So, it would be it would be just not of any consequence for you all to adopt what you believe has been adopted by the city, because what that legislation is saying is that we want the youth—that means those children that are under the age of 18—we want to bring them into a setting whereby they will address specifics of that legislation. Reading that legislation, if you all have are prepared to look at it, has nothing to do with the business of the Parish. It doesn't have anything to do with the business of the City either. Now. No, never. Not saying we should not listen to the young folk, but the business of the Parish is not where that needs to be done. Thank you for your time.

Conya Michelle came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

I own a business right on the other side of Byrd from Kings Highway. I'm here to just voice my support for the proposal to work with Vision Zero. Um, I have a business right on the border of Highland and South Highland. Um, I've taken it upon myself to just ask customers. Did you walk here? Um, we're right by an ice cream shop. Um, people like to walk to the ice cream shop. It's a good neighborhood vibe. Um, a lot of people don't walk. Most people actually don't. They say it's because of not having safe streets. Uh, I did also talk to a customer today. She won't even let her daughter or her daughter actually doesn't want to drive down Kings Highway. It's a kind of unsafe street in their mind. Uh, a lot of walkers—a lot of customers won't cross from Highland into South Highland via Kings Highway. Um. Yeah, that's all I wanted to say, really. I'm in support of it. I'd like to see a lot more people walking, feeling safer in their streets. Thank you.

Madison Poche came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good morning everyone. I'm also here to speak in favor of the Vision Zero proposal to reduce traffic fatalities and increase mobility and health for our neighbors. We actually have a pretty broad coalition of neighborhood organizations, local businesses, Centenary College, um, that are working together to figure out how to make our neighborhood stronger. And one thing that keeps coming up is the safety of streets and walkability. Um, and I think that comes because for a long time, we've been building our cities and our parish in a way that prioritizes cars over people. But a lot of research is now showing that a lot of traffic accidents are actually fairly preventable in design, and that our kind of car centric building, um, often is making us less healthy and less wealthy. Um, and then I think beyond, uh, kind of the personal cost of getting into an accident and then the taxpayer cost of emergency responses and long term health care. Um, I just want to make sure we're thinking, like, spaces that are designed for, uh, pedestrian safety also have huge economic benefits. So one measure of this is called walk scores. So that measures how walkable it is from your home to an amenity, like a grocery store or a restaurant or a school. Um, so I found an economist. Joe Cortright had studied tens of thousands of real estate transactions in 15 cities, and he found that houses with an above average walk score commanded up to 34,000 more than similar homes and less walkable neighborhoods. Um, I just think that rings really true. Uh, for me, I live three blocks away from Kings Highway, which has two of the most dangerous intersections in Caddo Parish, and it is scary just to cross. We have Centenary students that jog across that street to get to class; coffee shops that can't stay open even with a full student body that would love to go; very athletic students that are scared to walk

three blocks down to the grocery store. Um, and so I think that walkability is just one of these things that, um, it makes a place cool, um, and safe, but it also has a really big economic impact. I think we've seen that in the, um, East Bank District in Bossier--how slowing down some traffic and doing some public investment has really created dramatic impact on that area. And, you know, that's a really big scale example, but I think there's also a lot of smaller interventions that we can do to kind of catch up with some of the modern times and design and economic development planning. And I think Vision Zero is a really great step in that direction. So, thank you.

Chris Lyon came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Uh, thank you for allowing me to speak last minute. Um, I also am rising to speak in support of the resolution regarding Vision Zero. I hope that you all had a chance to look a little bit into it, because it's not just something that we can do here in the community, but it's something that is a part of a state initiative. The State has taken an interest in this. And so we would be joining not only the rest of our state in this effort, but also a global movement to focus on pedestrian fatalities and injuries. And as we sort of look to the redevelopment of the community, um, as a whole, as we look to rebuild our economy and make our neighborhoods more safe. Vision Zero is an incredibly important part of that effort. And so while it is a small step, while it is a I won't say token, but it is an incremental step toward, uh, creating a space that is you know, free of pedestrian and bicyclist injury and death. It is one that is so important because it speaks to who we are and it speaks to our priorities. And so I hope that all of you not only will vote in support of this resolution today, but will also continue to look into Vision Zero and how it can be implemented throughout the Parish.

COMMUNIQUE & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mrs. Erica Bryant stated that 17-year olds will no longer be housed at the Juvenile Detention Center, effective April 19, 2024.
- Mr. Patrick Wesley provided a packet of summer programs that the Caddo Parish Parks & Recreations Department will be hosting this summer.

NEW BUSINESS

At this time, the Clerk of the Commission read aloud the following ordinances for introduction:

- *Ordinance No. 6403 of 2024, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, relative to the creation of a new use to allow storage facility structures in residential districts, as well as, identifying how certain nonconforming lots can exist without the need for a variance, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6417 of 2024, an ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, by amending the zoning of property located east side of David Raines Road of Audrey Lane, approximately 530' north of 7th Street, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, from R-A, Rural Agricultural Zoning District to R-1-7, Single Family Residential Zoning District, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6425 of 2024, An ordinance to amend Volume II of the Code of Ordinances of the Parish of Caddo, as amended, the Caddo Parish Unified Development Code, relative to short-term rentals, with all their provisions included herein, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6427 of 2024, an ordinance to close and abandon a portion of Quail Lane and to release the utility servitudes in Tract 1 of the Grawood Estates, Unit No. 4 Subdivision, located in Section 23, Township 16 North, Range 15 West, in the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Ordinance No. 6428 of 2024, an ordinance declaring the intent of the Parish under LA.R.S. 47:2236 to acquire full ownership interest in four parcels of property identified by Caddo Parish Tax Assessor's Geographic Numbers 171306-073-0098-00, 171306-090-0018-00, 171423-024-0039-00, and 181426-058-0007-00 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

After the recitation of the ordinances for introduction, the Commission then moved onto the next New Business items.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *that Resolution No. 15 of*

2024, be amended to read the following: a resolution recognizing the detriment of gun violence in Caddo Parish, requesting parish stakeholders to gather and promulgate a plan to combat gun violence within Caddo Parish, and declaring a gun violence crisis within Caddo Parish, and otherwise providing with respect thereto be adopted.

Mr. Cothran asked for clarity on the proposed amendment. The Clerk of the Commission explained that it removes calling it a public health emergency and making the resolution more local by calling it a gun violence crisis in Caddo Parish.

Mr. Atkins appreciates the amendment that Mrs. Gage-Watts brought forward but said that “it is bad marketing”. He said that the key people that need to know are aware of the situation that is going on.

Mrs. Blake agreed with Mr. Atkins with regards to Mrs. Gage-Watts’ proposed amendment. She also mentioned that gun violence is down. She believes that this is a slippery slope and also said that the Commission cannot legislate morality. Mrs. Blake said that domestic violence cases have risen drastically. She would like this to be vetted further in committee.

Mr. G. Young agreed with Mr. Atkins and Mrs. Blake with regards to this matter. He does not feel that this is good marketing or advertising, but will be voting for Mrs. Gage-Watts’ motion due to her passion for this matter.

Mr. Jones does not see gun violence trending down in Shreveport. He does not see anything wrong with the Commission body seeking solutions. He would like to see a real effort and plan on how to combat this violence. Something has to change, he said.

Mr. Cothran would like to see a plan of action going forward. He reminded the Commissioners that everyone in the State of Louisiana over the age of 18 years old, with the exception of felons, will be allowed to carry a gun without a permit.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that the Commission already legislates morality. She also said that the gun violence is happening so much that “we are becoming numb to it”. She feels that her proposed amendment is amenable and in a compromising manner. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that this resolution could open the doors for more resources. She asked for the support of the Commissioners.

Mr. J. Young said that this resolution is requesting all the stakeholders in the Parish to come together and formulate a plan to combat the gun violence. He said that this could be vetted further in Juvenile Justice and the Public Safety Committee.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts’ motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (7). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, and Lazarus (3). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Kracman (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 15 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE DETRIMENT OF GUN VIOLENCE IN CADDO PARISH, REQUESTING PARISH STAKEHOLDERS TO GATHER AND PROMULGATE A PLAN TO COMBAT GUN VIOLENCE WITHIN CADDO PARISH, AND RECOGNIZING THE GUN VIOLENCE CRISIS WITHIN CADDO PARISH, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, in 2023 in Caddo Parish, a total of 107 of 499 admissions to the Caddo Juvenile Detention Center were due to gun charges; and

WHEREAS, there have 25 admissions to the Caddo Juvenile Detention Center due to gun charges in 2024; and

WHEREAS, in cooperation with law enforcement, Caddo Juvenile Probation Officers have been responsible for the confiscation of 54 guns in 2023 and more than 20 guns in 2024; and

WHEREAS, overall, Juvenile Services is responsible for 28% of the guns retrieved or confiscated by the Violent Crimes Abatement Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has the second highest rate of gun deaths in the United Statesⁱ; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has the worst gun death rate for childrenⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana, more than 1 in 5 adults report having directly experienced gun violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that the Caddo Parish Commission hereby recognizes the detriment of gun violence in Caddo Parish and within Louisiana, and is requesting all Caddo Parish Stakeholders to come together and promulgate a plan to combat gun violence within the Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is effective immediately upon its passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution will be forwarded to all Caddo Parish stakeholders, including the Caddo Parish District Attorney, the Caddo Parish Sheriff, the police chiefs of all Caddo Parish municipalities, the Caddo Parish School Board, Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry and Louisiana DHH Secretary Dr. Ralph Abraham.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobe and adopt the following items:*

- *Resolution No. 20 of 2024, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to approve the assignment, bill of sale, and conveyance of State Agency Lease #22192 from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, to Exco Operating Company, LP, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 21 of 2024, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to consent to the annexation by the Town of Blanchard of a certain right-of-way within the Parish of Caddo, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 24 of 2024, a resolution requesting the Registrar of Voters and Caddo Parish Administrator to take all necessary action to add an early voting location at the Shreveport Office of Motor Vehicles, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 25 of 2024, a resolution waiving permit, inspection, and other related fees for the construction of Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Center, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 27 of 2024, a resolution of support for House Bill 869 and House Bill 883 regarding treatment of Sickle Cell Disease, and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 29 of 2024, a resolution opposing Louisiana HB 886 of the Regular Legislative Session and otherwise providing with respect thereto*
- *Special Resolution declaring National Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month*
- *Special Resolution for Winners of the Community Christian Service Award*
- *Special Resolution honoring Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson*
- *Special Resolution proclaiming Black Maternal Health Week*
- *Special Resolution of Recognition for Dr. Ken Ward*
- *Postpone presentation to Volunteers of American’s Lighthouse Students to May 9th*
- *Postpone Special Resolution of Appreciation for Estelle Brown to May 9th*
- *Action item extending the deadline for the Commission to consider Ordinance No. 6417 of 2024*
- *Action item extending the deadline for the Commission to consider Ordinance No. 6403 of 2024*
- *Regular Session Minutes from April 4, 2024*

- *Work Session Minutes from April 15, 2024*

At this time, Mr. Jones' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Kracman (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 20 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CADDO PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE THE ASSIGNMENT, BILL OF SALE AND CONVEYANCE OF STATE AGENCY LEASE #22192 FROM CYPRESS ENERGY PARTNERS, LLC, TO EXCO OPERATING COMPANY, LP, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo is the Lessor in that certain oil, gas and mineral lease from the Caddo Parish Commission to Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, in State Agency Lease #22192, dated January 10, 2024, and recorded at Registry #2958447 of the conveyance records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and that certain Affidavit of Correction and Acknowledgement dated March 4, 2024, and recorded at Registry #2960752; of the conveyance records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a written request from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC, seeking approval from the Caddo Parish Commission of an assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Lease #22192, from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC to Exco Operating Company, LP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Administrator is hereby authorized to approve the assignment, bill of sale and conveyance of State Agency Lease #22192 from Cypress Energy Partners, LLC to Exco Operating Company, LP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION NO. 21 OF 2024

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZED THE CADDO PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO CONSENT TO THE ANNEXATION BY THE TOWN OF BLANCHARD OF A CERTAIN RIGHT-OF-WAY WITHIN THE PARISH OF CADDO, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Town of Blanchard has received a request from Cable One to annex their property on Pine Hill Road, having a Caddo Parish Tax Assessor's Geographic Number of I 81406- 000-0276-00; and

WHEREAS, in order to annex this property, the Town of Blanchard will also need to annex a portion of the Pine Hill Road dedication. Specifically, they would like to annex 600 feet of the 115-foot +/- wide public dedication lying immediately east of Roy Road; and

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 33:180(C) requires the political subdivision that owns the road to consent to the annexation of a road to connect the subject property to the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a written request from the Town of Blanchard requesting the consent of the Parish of Caddo to the annexation of the adjoining portion of the Pine Hill Road dedication; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that the Caddo Parish Administrator or her designee be and it is hereby requested and authorized to execute the documents indicating the consent to the annexation of a portion of the dedication for Pine Hill Road from Roy Road east 600 feet, as shown on Exhibit A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items of applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION NO. 24 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

RESOLUTION REQUESTING REGISTRAR OF VOTERS AND CADDO PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTION TO ADD AN EARLY VOTING LOCATION AT THE SHREVEPORT OFFICE OF MOTOR VEHICLES, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission recognizes that early voting is an important part of elections; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Caddo Parish Commission to ensure that early voting is as safe and convenient as possible for citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission believes that adding an early voting location in addition to the Registrar of Voters' Office and Shreve Memorial Hamilton Library will increase convenience to the citizens, thus increasing voter participation; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport Office of Motor Vehicles, 6005 Financial Plaza, Shreveport, LA 71129, will provide convenient geographic access to diverse constituencies and has a growing population trend.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Caddo Parish Commission, in due, legal and regular session convened, hereby request the Registrar of Voters and Caddo Parish Administrator to take any and all necessary action to add an early voting location at the Shreveport Office of Motor Vehicles, 6005 Financial Plaza, Shreveport, LA 71129.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications and to this end the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION NO. 25 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION WAIVING PERMIT, INSPECTION, AND OTHER RELATED FEES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WALTER B JACOBS MEMORIAL NATURE CENTER, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Parish has undertaken to construct a new and expanded nature center at the Walter B Jacobs Memorial Nature Park;

WHEREAS, performing construction of facilities and building like the nature center require the issuance of permits and performing of inspections;

WHEREAS, the Parish has an established fee schedule for those permits and fees;

WHEREAS, the Parish has entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Shreveport to provide the permitting and inspection function on behalf of the Parish;

WHEREAS, those permits are issued and fees collected by the City of Shreveport under the Parish's authority to adopt and enforce building codes; under the Parish's delegation of authority; and

WHEREAS, the Parish desires to waive those fees for the construction of its own facility;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby waive any and all permit, inspection, and other related fees for the construction of the nature center at the Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parish hereby requests that the City of Shreveport take any necessary action to fulfill this waiver of building permit and inspection fees relating to the construction at the Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION NO. 27 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 869 AND HOUSE BILL 883 REGARDING TREATMENT OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, nationally and in Louisiana, SCD is being recognized as a health issue that is overdue for investment and policy action; and

WHEREAS, LDH is currently in the process of developing a Sickle Cell registry;

WHEREAS, persons with SCD are often seen in emergency rooms to manage their crises pains; and

WHEREAS, HB 883 would allow physicians to execute agreements to share SCD with associations as an extension of the state registry; and

WHEREAS, HB 869 would require emergency room physicians to obtain continuing education every three years to update their education in treating SCD.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby support the passage of HB 869 and 883.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is effective immediately upon its passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution will be forwarded to the Speaker of the Louisiana House, the President of the Louisiana Senate, the Caddo Parish legislative delegation and Governor Jeff Landry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION NO. 29 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING LOUISIANA HB 886 OF THE REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, currently, LA-R.S. 27:628 remits sports wagering funds to parishes without limitations on usage of the funds; and

WHEREAS, HB 886 proposes to place restrictions on the use of the funds by parishes with a population between 220,000 and 240,000; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish will be the only parish affected since as of the 2020 Census, it is the only parish with a population between 220,000 and 240,000; and

WHEREAS, the proposed restriction would permit Caddo Parish to ONLY spend the funds allocated by LA-R.S. 27:628 on "infrastructure within a census tract that has more than one hospital and has been recognized as a priority area for revitalization in a comprehensive master plan adopted by a municipal planning agency created by an Act of the legislature"; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport Metropolitan Planning Commission is the only municipal planning agency within Caddo Parish created by an Act of the Legislature; thus, funds remitted to the parish pursuant to LA-R.S. 27:628, could only be spent inside the City of Shreveport and not any other areas of Caddo Parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that the Caddo Parish Commission hereby opposes HB 886, and requests that it not be approved by the Louisiana Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is effective immediately upon its passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution will be forwarded to the Speaker of the Louisiana House, the President of the Louisiana Senate, the Caddo Parish legislative delegation and Governor Jeff Landry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

PROCLAMATION NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, sexual assault is a heinous crimes that affects individuals of all ages, genders, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one in five women and one in seventy-one men will be raped at some point in their lives, and the majority of sexual assaults are never reported to law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, April is recognized nationally as Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month, providing an opportunity to raise awareness about sexual violence, promote prevention efforts, and support survivors; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to recognize the impact of sexual violence on survivors, their families, and communities, and to work collaboratively to create a culture of consent, respect, and support; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish is committed to preventing sexual violence, supporting survivors, and holding perpetrators accountable for their actions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ROSELVED, that by the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal session, that it does hereby recognize and proclaim April 2024 as:

‘NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH’

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and encourages all residents to participate in educational events, engage in prevention efforts, and support survivors of sexual violence.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION WINNERS OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SERVICE AWARD

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION & WELCOME CURTIS “50 CENT” JACKSON

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission is pleased to acknowledge v1S1ts to this community by individuals who have achieved great distinction in their respective fields of endeavor, and particularly when their efforts have been focused on elevating the economic and cultural wellbeing of communities within Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, such an individual is Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, has chosen to expand his G-Unit Productions with a substantial investment in Caddo Parish where he will continue his legacy of successful entertainment and commercial endeavors that have included: a music career where he sold more than 30 million records, founded G-Unit Records and produced many successful artists, and his music was recognized by a Grammy, an Emmy Award, 13 Billboard Music Awards, 6 World Music Awards, 3 American Music Awards, and 4 BET Awards; a career in film and television where he has been an actor producer writer director and head of both Cheetah Vision and G-Unit Films and Television Inc. producing massively successful feature films and television series; and other wildly successful business and artistic ventures ranging from authoring nearly 20 books, designing clothing and event founding G-Unit Clothing company, beverage investments such as Sire Spirits and Formula 50Nitamin water, and more entrepreneurial endeavors; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the City of Shreveport, Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson will be undertaking a lease of the former Millennium Studios in Shreveport where he will draw from our region's cultural roots and history of successful support of film and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson's life has given him a unique ability to relate to our community in Caddo Parish where we have overcome adversity with tenacity, hard work and faith in the strength of our community and we look forward to mutual successes to come from working alongside one another; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in legal session convened that it does hereby welcome and recognize April 18, 2024 as:

‘CURTIS 50 CENT JACKSON DAY’

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and it entreats all citizens of the Parish to join in welcoming and honoring this man who has seen the potential of our regional and invested in it with plans to grow our cultural and economic power together.

**PROCLAMATION
BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK**

WHEREAS, maternal health is a matter of vital importance to the well-being of families in Caddo Parish; and

WHEREAS, Black Maternal Health Week is a national campaign founded and led by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, dedicated to raising awareness, inspiring activism, and strengthening policies to improve maternal health outcomes for Black women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Black women experience maternal mortality rates that are significantly higher than those of white women, facing disproportionate rates of pregnancy-related complications and death; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to address the systematic inequities and disparities that contribute to these alarming statistics and to ensure that all mothers, regardless of race or socioeconomic status, have access to quality healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish recognizes the importance of promoting maternal health equity and supporting initiatives that aim to improve the well-being of Black mothers and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Commission, meeting in legal session that it does hereby recognize and proclaim April 11-17, 2024 as:

‘BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK’

in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and encourages all residents to join in raising awareness, advocating for change, and supporting initiatives that promote the health and well-being of Black mothers and their babies.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
DR. KEN WARD**

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission acknowledges that the passage of time brings forth regrettable inevitabilities, among those being the necessity of saying goodbye to cherished friends who have chosen to advance their careers beyond the confines of our organization;

WHEREAS, Dr. Ken Ward, the beloved and respected Assistant Director of Public Works for Caddo Parish, has now made that choice, capping a period of public service to Caddo Parish that lasted over 17 years and began on January 16, 2007 when he began as a Project Manager and advanced all the way to Assistant Director with career highlights that included the Springridge Texas Stateline Bridge Replacement, the Northwest Louisiana Utility District and construction of the Parish of Caddo's Bike Paths among many others; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ward's impact extends beyond Caddo Parish as he has been an Adjunct Professor for Bossier Parish Community College, an OSP Engineer for AT&T, a Construction Manager for Network Building and Consulting; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ward's pursuit of excellence matches his love of learning and he has earned a Master of Science in Engineering from Louisiana Tech where he continued on to earn an Educational • Doctorate degree in Organizational Management, in addition to being a Certified Production Tech & Green Production by Manufacturing Skill Standards Council, a Certified Building Official by the ICC, Certified Flood Plain Manager by the Association of State Floodplain Managers and a Project Management Professional from the Project Management Institute; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ward is a family man whose dedication to his family has endeared him to almost as many as his impressive skills and singular sartorial style;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission, on this 18th day of April 2024, that the Caddo Parish Commission extends its deepest appreciation and gratitude to **Dr. Ken Ward** for his exemplary service, dedication, and leadership as the Assistant Director of Public Works for Caddo Parish and we commend him for his tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to the infrastructure and people of Caddo Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we recognize Dr. Ken Ward as a role model and mentor for others, whose passion, integrity, and commitment to continued learning have left an indelible impact on Caddo Parish and express our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Ward as he embarks on the next chapter of his career, and extend our best wishes for continued happiness, fulfillment, and success in all his future endeavors.

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 26 of 2024, a resolution of support for Vision Zero strategies intended to eliminate fatality and severe injury caused by the American Transportation System, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Thomas, Mr. Cothran, and Mr. Atkins will be supporting this resolution.

Mrs. Blake agreed and said that she travels all over. The places that she visits has pedestrian friendly spaces, and it is time to get Shreveport/Caddo on board with it.

Mr. Thomas added the East Bank District is a good example of a space that is vehicle and pedestrian friendly.

At this time, Mr. Thomas' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Kracman (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 26 OF 2024

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR VISION ZERO STRATEGIES
INTENDED TO ELIMINATE FATALITY AND SEVERE INJURY CAUSED
BY THE AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM., AND OTHERWISE
PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the zero deaths vision acknowledges that even one death on our transportation system is unacceptable and focuses on safe mobility for all road users. This idea was first adopted in Sweden in 1997 as "[Vision Zero](#)" and since then has spread around the world; and

WHEREAS, reaching zero deaths requires the implementation of a "Safe System" approach; and

WHEREAS, the six principles that form the basis of the Safe System approach are: deaths and serious injuries are unacceptable, humans make mistakes, humans are vulnerable, responsibility is shared, safety is proactive, and redundancy is crucial; and

WHEREAS, Committing to Vision Zero will take the following strategies:

- Building and sustaining leadership, collaboration, and accountability – especially among a diverse group of stakeholders to include transportation professionals, policymakers, public health officials, police, and community members;
- Collecting, analyzing, and using data to understand trends and potential disproportionate impacts of traffic deaths on certain populations;

- Prioritizing equity and community engagement;
- Managing speed to safe levels; and
- Setting a timeline to achieve zero traffic deaths and serious injuries, which brings urgency and accountability, and ensuring transparency on progress and challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission sees the benefit of Vision Zero to its citizens as well as to citizens throughout the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby strongly support the implementation of Vision Zero strategies to eliminate traffic accidents and fatalities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *that Resolution No. 28 of 2024, a resolution of support for the Youth Council established by the City of Shreveport, comprised of local high school students, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that this resolution is to encourage youth to be included in the democratic process, as well as providing feedback with permanent change to the Legislators on a grassroots basis.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know if the City of Shreveport has adopted a mirror resolution. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that it will go for final approval next week.

Mr. Jones said that this is an opportunity to get the youth engaged at an early age. He pointed out that these youth are the future voters of the community.

Mr. Atkins, Mr. Burrell, and Mrs. Blake are all in support of this resolution.

At this time, Mr. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Lazarus, Thomas, G. Young, and J. Young (10). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Epperson and Kracman (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

RESOLUTION NO. 28 OF 2024

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE YOUTH COUNCIL ESTABLISHED BY THE CITY OF SHREVEPORT, COMPRISED OF LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the young people in the Parish of Caddo want and deserve a voice in their communities, which in turn will identify positive solutions and build stronger communities; and

WHEREAS, a concerted effort is needed to encourage youth participation and involvement to help municipal leaders make better decisions and wiser public investments; and

WHEREAS, youth participation and involvement in local government promotes the full and healthy development of young people; and

WHEREAS, researchers have suggested young people who are involved in positive activities such as community service and participation in civic affairs are less likely to pursue risky behaviors.

WHEREAS, the City of Shreveport proposed Resolution 42 of 2004 establishing a Youth Council which invited most of the public and private high schools within Caddo Parish to participate; and

WHEREAS, the Parish Commission believes that the Youth Council is a great idea and that North Caddo High School should also be invited to participate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that the Caddo Parish Commission supports the City of Shreveport Resolution 42 of 2024 establishing a Youth Council and supports the inclusion of representatives from North Caddo High School on the council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the City of Shreveport.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or application, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

There being no more business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant to the Commission Clerk


John-Paul Young
President