



CITY OF SHREVEPORT  
MAYOR TOM ARCENEUX

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**Mayor Arceneaux's Statement on  
Unacceptable Conduct During Krewe of Centaur Mardi Gras Parade**

“Having spoken to law enforcement and those who were directly impacted, I would like to address an unacceptable incident that took place at the Krewe of Centaur Mardi Gras Parade this weekend.

The incident that occurred at the Centaur Mardi Gras parade this weekend was unacceptable. We are taught from childhood the most basic rule of living in community: treat your neighbor the way you want to be treated. That principle crosses faiths, cultures, and generations. It is foundational. What we saw this weekend, directly insulting and demeaning a senior citizen in front of her family, was a direct violation of that rule.

I have personally spoken with the great-grandmother who was targeted, and no one—especially a senior member of our community—should ever be made to feel unsafe, unwelcome, or disrespected in their own city. Let me be clear: targeting or disrespecting members of our community is especially shameful. Our seniors deserve dignity, safety, and respect—not cruelty, intimidation, or hatred. Anyone who believes otherwise does not represent Shreveport.

Mardi Gras takes place in many public spaces. No individual or group has the right to claim public spaces as their own or to decide who is welcome and who is not. Public celebrations belong to everyone, and they require a shared commitment to basic decency and mutual respect.

Shreveport is better than this. We expect better than this. And we will not stay silent when behavior like this attempts to define us. It does not.”

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