



September 12, 2023

Dear Mayor Arceneaux,

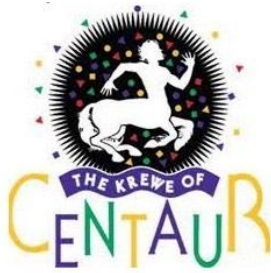
At our August 03, 2023, meeting with you concerning the Mardi Gras parades, we were very happy to hear you state at the beginning of the meeting that you had funding for the parades and it would not be a concern for this year. Over the last twenty years, this has been reported to our Krewes as being the primary need for concessions from our Krewes as to the starting time of the parades being moved earlier year after year.

In reviewing your proposed changes to your submitted contract, we found that the contract was actually in need of a complete review. We have attached copies of both Krewes revised contract proposal going forward over the next nine years. There were several aspects of your new proposals that are detrimental to the long term ability of the Krewes to continue to exist and those have been excluded from our contract proposals. We feel that our contract proposals are a win for both the City of Shreveport and the Krewes, along with the citizens and surrounding areas that call Shreveport their home for work and play. We look forward to continuing to work with the Shreveport Parade Task Force to make our parades as well organized and efficient as possible. For over thirty years, the Krewes have been organizing, staging, and funding the parades with the much appreciated assistance of SPAR, along with the police and emergency services of the city and parish. We look forward to continuing the relationship for at least another thirty years.

Since our August meeting with you, both Krewes have done some research on where, when, and how the Mardi Gras parades in the State of Louisiana take place. A list of forty four night parades, in fourteen different municipalities, has been included with this letter. This list has the date and day of the Krewe, along with the parade length, for the 2024 parade year to the best of our knowledge.

We had hoped to review your research that was stated to have been ongoing for the six months prior to our August meeting. However, the City Attorney office stated that they had no notes or reports in their records regarding the research. We began inquiring about the new City contract agreements with Shelly Ragle at SPAR when the annual Mardi Gras Post Parade meeting was held on March 13, 2023, at the Festival Plaza Depot. At that time, Shelly said nothing had been decided on when the talks would occur and would keep us informed about any meeting date for Centaur and Gemini Krewes. Both Krewes continued to inquire at least monthly with Shelly without any progress toward discussions until late July when the August 03, 2023, meeting was scheduled. We present this point as the Krewes would have been helpful from our thirty years of experience with any research that might have been done or needed. We are very willing to assist the City in research with the history of how and why Mardi Gras does what it does as it is our business. Many of the municipalities on the included list have RV passes

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and parking passes along the parade routes. These additional passes, with the funds from the Duck Pond Park lot reservations, should go along with helping fund some of the cost that the City covers on the two parades. Please keep us informed as to when the included contracts can be concluded and signed.

Respectfully,

Ricky Bridges
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Shreveport, LA 71133

Thomas C. Wyche
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Cc: Tom Dark, CAO, City of Shreveport
Cc: Shelly Ragle, SPAR, Director
Cc: Marcus Edwards, City Attorney, City of Shreveport
Cc: Wayne Smith, Chief, Shreveport Police Department

Delivered by hand and email.

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