

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION  
HELD ON THE 18th DAY OF JUNE, 2020

The Caddo Parish Commission met in legal and regular session, on the above date, at 3:30 p.m., via Zoom teleconference, with President Chavez, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). ABSENT: (0).

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

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mr. Charles Mary Rice emailed the following statement:

I think that Juneteenth is a necessary moment of observation because our government, and to a certain degree, our nation and our culture has not really acknowledged the trauma of 4 million enslaved people and their descendants. It hasn't acknowledge the impact this institution has had on this country and continues to have on this country. There hasn't been a national accounting, and I think the Juneteenth holiday is a reminder of America's oldest sin. And it will continue to be a reminder and a haunting until we do. This Resolution does not divide this community. It only exposes the unconscious bias that already exists among many in our community. As white Caddo residents, I urge Commissioners to pass this resolution. Charles & Mary Rice

The NAACP Shreveport emailed the following statement:

Black Americans have experienced oppression and suppression for more than 400 years. To this day, navigating life as a Black American in our city and country does not come with the same privileges experienced by others. Systemic racism creates barriers to safety, health and wealth. And everyday activities often result in racist interactions. Despite the many barriers placed in front of them, Black Americans have showed time and time again, their resiliency, strength, wisdom, and courage. We want to formally recognize the significance of June 19 and observe it as a day of both remembrance and action. We the Board Members and Officers of the Shreveport Chapter of the NAACP support legislation to recognize **Juneteenth as an official holiday**. We are committed to making sure this holiday is more than a gesture. It must symbolize our commitments to eliminating anti-Black racism within the Parish of Caddo workforce and community. "You are more powerful than you know and they fear the day you discover it."—Unknown

Orlando Jones emailed the following statement:

While Juneteenth has become the most prominent Emancipation Day holiday in the US, it commemorates a smaller moment that remains relatively obscure. It doesn't mark the signing of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation, which technically freed slaves in the rebelling Confederate States, nor does it commemorate the December 1865 ratification of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which enshrined the end of slavery into the Constitution. Instead, it marks the moment when emancipation finally reached those in the deepest parts of the former Confederacy. Although decades of trauma and hate followed, Juneteenth is a moment of reflection just as Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup> is for everyone else. The Commissioner is 100% correct to call out anyone being put up to question the relevancy of this effort. Juneteenth is a moment where we step back and try to understand the plight of black people who had the misfortune distinction of being slaves on American soil. No the election of President Obama did not erase 400 years of mistreatment as some suggest. It does not take away the relevance of any other Independence or holiday in other ways.

Nick Jordan emailed the following statement:

I would like to urge the Commission to make, if they have not already done so, a public statement or resolution in SUPPORT OF our local law enforcement. I have heard in recent weeks, from all over the nation, the villainizing and dehumanizing of law enforcement. There are millions of police-public encounters every year, the overwhelming majority are professional, safe, non-violent and positive. We cannot allow a very small percentage of the law enforcement population paint the picture of the entire force. Our police department and sheriff's office service in a very difficult capacity and they need to know, without a doubt, the parish leadership supports them in every possible way. Please make sure they do know, using your words and your actions.

Patricia Smith emailed the following statement:

Please explain to me why this commission wishes to help erase history. The removing of statues, changing names of streets, changing the names of buildings and bases. Are we to change the Name of Shreveport and Caddo Parish because the indigenous Caddo Indians were forced to sell the land in 1835 to keep their freedom? Were you aware that Shreveport contained a slave trade market (1836) and those slaves white, black, and indentured created the port area that created the booming industry that created Shreveport? Why are the white slaves and the indentured slaves forgotten when you wish to recognized slavery? No man woman or child should be bought and sold but no difference of color or race

they were all unfortunately not immune. My Irish ancestors were slaves so does that make me entitled.. No. My Indian ancestors walked the trail of tears. Does that make me entitled? No. My Scottish ancestors were persecuted and burnt out of their legally purchased homes yet should I feel entitled. No. If you start passing ordinances based on race, past historical grievances you are nothing better than the Nazi occupation. You are basically slapping Martin Luther King Jr and those that worked so hard for equality in the face. You are saying civil rights laws were a failure. You are saying those that died trying to help free slaves of all colors died in vain. Not one member of this commission was a slave nor knew anyone that was a slave; no member of this commission ever owned a slave nor knew anyone that owned a slave. What is the goal of this commission, to serve the community or to erase the history that built these communities? You as commissioners are a form of indentured servants. You freely gave up personal feelings for those of your constituents. What's next? Will you be promoting historical figures like William Ellison, Nicolas Augustin Metoyer of Louisiana, I could list 240 more but you get the point. If you take down history we need to remove all historical names, statues, and signs. This means all historical remembrances. White privilege is nothing more than a racist phrase used against people of light skin to justify violence and disdain. I have worked my entire life so if you know where to find it let me know. Think of this before you vote today. And to those who have been proudly sporting Black Lives Matter you may wish to remember All Lives Matter. All Lives are by the grace of God.

Joyce Rogers, Emma Merrells, Terrance Trammell, Theresa Myles, and C. Bradford submitted the following email:

This email is sent to you expressing my support of Resolution # 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, and 49 on your agenda. I respectfully ask for your favorable vote and support also.

Marvin T. Muhammad emailed the following statement:

I submit my comments in support of the various resolutions that Commissioners Jackson, Watts, Cawthorne, Burrell, Epperson, and Johnson have submitted for vote today. While I don't have enough time to speak on each one individually know that I stand and support each on their own merit. Moreover, it's time to put the Confederate Monument to rest. Let's remove this daily reminder of the most wicked atrocity known to man done over a period of time that America should always hang her head in shame. Move it out of the public square to one where it would be widely accepted. Furthermore, Juneteenth isn't just a day; Juneteenth is medicine to an injured and sick people who suffer from the plague of fratricide. The cure of which is overflowing pitcher of love poured into them continuously. Juneteenth official acknowledgement is one does of many we will need. Lastly, let's support the policy that says YES to police oversight. Thank you for this time and a listening ear. Marvin T. Muhammad.

Tom Yearby emailed the following statement:

I'd like to suggest Henry Flipper, West Point's first African American graduate or keeping it Louisiana, someone in General Bank's Corp of Africa that fought at the battle of Port Hudson. Anyways, good luck in your efforts and a good Juneteenth to you sir and thank you for your service to the country and Caddo Parish. Tom Yearby

Kenneth Brantley submitted the following statement:

Take those Confederate statues down. We must show our children that we are working on leaving them a better place than what was passed down to us. Put them in a museum if you want or just discard them. Just put them somewhere where whereby we don't have to be reminded of what they stand for and what people of their mind and power did to black and brown people.

Michael Williams called and gave the following statement:

Good evening commissioners. Hey, this is Michael Williams, 210 Carver Place Shreveport, La. To the chairman, other members on the commission, I was asked to call regarding the symbol that's been at the courthouse for many years. It's something that's long overdue with all the racial tension between the Democrats and Republicans, dividing our nation and our own public policy. But, uh, but I do believe it's ever been a time in history, where we can be one nation under God for liberty and justice for all by removing the symptoms - the symbolism of racism and hate. I don't have to reverse and rehash your past without scars about my ancestors, African-Americans who was fought during the civil war. But I think it's very important that we try to have nothing inequality for all citizens in our great county. And I think the symbol of the monument doesn't represent unity in America. The only way we can bridge the gap is by removing any type of threats and any type of tension move forward in a new America. Where you see people all over the world being inclusive, the global movement, to bring about racial tension in our country. You know, change has come. It's a point where we don't look at people's skin but it's about skin. Skin come in all flavors and colors. It's time for us to be one nation in God with liberty and justice for all. The only way we can come we have to create a new America with new policies and procedures,

Democrats and Republicans working together for what is good not what is wrong. Not what am I, black? What is right and wrong? Not skin. We need to do what is best. I pray today that you would stand with commissioners. We stand with Commissioner Lyndon Johnson and Epperson, and others who stood before the city's hall asking that we move the monument. I think we should move forward. We been through the judicial process. It came in our favor. There's no sense in rehearsal rehashing. You want to have that monument move in your backyard or put it in a park with a private park. But it don't belong in a public facility, where you're going to get equal decisions about your future. In the meantime, I pray you do what is right, not what is in your heart in terms of promoting evil, but only way we can change is only God can change our heart. And the moral conscience of our country, we're being tested in our next generation. So, I pray that you will move forward and move the monument. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Brasco called and gave the following statement:

I am full of agreement that the Confederate monument needs to come down please. Thank you, very much.

Craig Lee called and gave the following statement:

Good evening, I hope everybody is having a very good day. I just wanted to make sure that I made a very important statement regarding the removal of the Confederate statue. Nine years ago, I'm proud to say that I was a part of a multi-ethnic coalition of individuals in Shreveport that lobbied, and successfully lobbied, for the removal of the Confederate flag. So that was phase one of this journey and that was, again, nine years ago. I'm also honored to have been on an advocacy team a few years ago as we successfully lobbied the Caddo Parish Commission to sponsor legislation to remove the statue. We have dealt with a lot of complete lies that the Daughters of the Confederacy stated in terms of them owning the property and we found out of course all that not to be the case. So, I'm here to be very clear the Confederate monument must come down. And I'm here on the Daughters of Confederacy page, their actual website. And here's a statement that pretty much capsulizes where we're at with these individuals. And it says, "We are saddened that some people find anything connected with the Confederacy to be offensive. Our Confederate ancestors were and are Americans. We as an organization do not sit in judgement of them nor do we impose the standards of the 19<sup>th</sup> century on Americans of the 21<sup>st</sup> century." That entire statement is contradictory, because the first sentence is imposing standards from the 19<sup>th</sup> century on us. Because it says, "We are saddened that some people find anything connected with the Confederacy to be offensive." 'Anything' and that means slavery. And so, no organization, none, should have any focus of having a statue, monument, flag, or anything on public property in Caddo Parish or any other county or parish in the United States of America. And it is past time that the Caddo Parish Commission, along with our legal team, handle the business and shut this down once and for all. They can have their statue, their flags, and whatever other racist memorabilia that they consider to be prideful in their own museum, on their own property, or whatever. But, it will not be on public property. And with that I thank you guys for the opportunity. And I look forward to a successful court date in a few weeks where the district court rules in favor of getting this thing down once and for all. Thank you very much.

Kimberly Marshall called and gave the following statement:

I would like to voice my complaint about the statue located downtown in front of the courthouse. I think it should be removed and I think it should be removed as soon as possible. I do not like what it represents and it does not stand for me. My name is Kimberly Crockett Kimberly Marshall and I would like to have it taken down please. Do you all have any ideas of where we are at with this? Is there a problem? I thought it was already determined that this statue was going to come down. I see that it has not. In the midst of all the other things that are going on, I think that you all will do better before Shreveport gets all riled up. And I do not want to see that. So, where are we with that? Is anyone on the line or can anyone on the line answer that, give me an idea of what's going on? (The Deputy Commission Clerk advised Ms. Marshall that the Commissioners could not answer questions at time.) I would love to leave my contact information. The name is Kimberly Marshall and the telephone number is area code 318-xxx-xxxx

Jayne Tappe called and gave the following statement:

Hello Commissioners. I wanted to speak out against resolution 49. I want to just voice loudly my discontent with any Caddo Parish Commissioner that supports this resolution. You don't get to change history. You only get to resolve to change the future of how you and others do things. That is because of history. That is how we learn what to do and what not to do. That is how we learn. It's called history. And since everybody is so on board about how offended they are, let me just say this loudly and clearly, you offend me by even suggesting that we change the name of our military facilities and the Confederate symbols. Those are history. It's your job to be a part of a positive future. You can't change history by changing the names of statues and military bases. Just one example of just how this negativity is just backwards. I am in no way of saying I know all the facts or everything about Ms. Jemima. I don't. But one of the first Black ladies that was given recognition for all that she did, all that she accomplished, and all

that she was. And now folks want to take that away from her, because somebody today got their little feelings hurt. They want to right some kind of wrong for Ms. Jemima. They're not. So, now, she doesn't get the recognition and the praise and the honor to such a job well done. Because somebody got their feelings hurt. This is just one of many, many examples. So, Commissioners it's your job. You only change history, but listening to history, not erasing it, not trying to change the names that are already there. And lastly of course, as you can tell by the rest of this message, I do not agree with removing the Confederate statue. It is. History. Thank you Commissioners.

Pastor Mays called and gave the following statement:

First of all, I want to say thank you to all of the Commissioners that we stood in solidarity with on yesterday. As it relates to some of the policies that needs to be implemented in the City of Shreveport. First of all, I want to thank God and I want to thank you all for your service. We, here in Northwest Louisiana - Shreveport, are moving in the right direction. And when we got people calling in on today, let's you know that we are in solidarity with you, that there's time for a change within the City of Shreveport. And in order to move forward as a city, we must address the problems of systemic racism and white supremacy that exists. And the only way we can truly move forward is we've got to face that there is a problem and secondly address those problems from what y'all are doing. You had over 2000 people to march on the City of Shreveport. Our organization is the Congress for Systemic Justice there are other organizations that are working with use to move the city forward. We thank you guys for what you all did on yesterday. I was sort of disappointed because I was hoping that all the council members would be there so that you can show a form of strength and solidarity in moving this city forward. But I do want to say to you, those of that were there and those of you that want to see this city go forward, the citizens of this city want to say thank you. All over the country, people are rising up against that which is wrong that which is inhumane. And we want to say thank you all, you have our support. Yes, the monument must go. Yes, racism and white supremacy and the stigma that has been over this city for far too long, must go. You all are the first step in the right direction. I just personally want to say to you guys, thank you so much and may God get the glory and we thank you for your service.

Kenneth Brantley called and gave the following statement:

Yes, my name is Kenneth Brantley. I live in the Timberline subdivision. I wanted to call and expression my concern... First of all, I want to thank the Commissioners for the job that they do. I know it's a task, but I just wanted to let you know many of us in the city do appreciate your service. This is my first time calling in, but I do want to let you know that I am one that's voting that we remove the Confederate statues. I was listening in on a comment that was made from the call prior before me and one of the things she kept saying is people getting their feelings hurt. Well, there's more than just people's feelings hurt behind these Confederate positions. They want to suppress people, kill people, and demean people. That's what those statues represent to a lot of us. And, so, we want to ask you all to strongly consider - Let's, as the previous call priors to me, let's make a change. Let's start moving forward to heal the hurt form the past. I think this would be a great start in the minds of many. That it would show that whites are starting to see how much we're being hurt, not just from the past, but even currently. As we're seeing in the media and all across the world in the country. But that's just my comment. I just want to let y'all know that I am one that wanted to have those statues removed.

Sandra Carr called and gave the following statement:

Hello, I am calling to request that the Confederate statue be removed from the federal parish courthouse. It's time for this city to move, it's time for the country to move forward and in order for it to do so we need to remove all the reminders that or reflect slavery and oppression.

Mr. Johnson provided a point of clarification for the citizens. He said that the Commission voted to remove the Confederate Monument as well as put \$500,000 in the budget to move it, but they are waiting on the judges to get through with their rendering.

#### **VISITORS**

- Shreveport Police Chief Ben Raymond

Mr. Epperson thanked Chief Raymond for attending this meeting today. He commended Chief Raymond for never showing any partiality. Mr. Epperson wanted to make it clear that he does not disrespect the police nor the police department.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know if there was a police union or police association. Chief Raymond stated that there is a Shreveport Police Officers' Association with approximately 400 members. They also have a Police Union that is made up of approximately 100 members, which was recently created in the past six months. Mr. Epperson wanted to know if they had a contract where they negotiate wages, benefits, disciplinary process, etc. Chief Raymond stated that there is no basis in the City for there to be any contractual meetings between the City and the association or the union. He also explained that both

the union and the association are there to represent the officers in which they bring ideas to Administration, but do not have any bargaining power.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know if the association or union would represent on behalf of an officer if they were to have some type of disciplinary action against them. Chief Raymond pointed out that the association and union are comprised of employees from the Police Department, they are separate entities. He said that association does provide representation at both the criminal levels and administration levels. If you're a member of the association, they pay associate legal fees. He stated the union has something similar in place, but they decide based on the merits of the case if they will represent the member or not.

Answering another question from Mr. Epperson regarding the number of personnel currently employed with the Shreveport Police Department (SPD), Chief Raymond stated that they have 511 officers, 44 police communication officers, 33 jailers, and approximately 109 civilian employees. Mr. Epperson wanted to know if the department is adequately staffed. Chief Raymond said that they are not where they would like to be. He also explained that they have a sworn strength of 580, but have never reached 580. He also said that they are lower staffed right now, and they have been for quite some time. The biggest contributing factor being recruiting qualified applicants.

Chief Raymond further explained that their average attrition rate is three officers per month. They lose approximately 36 people per year on average for retirement, resignation, and terminations. He said that unless they hire at least 36 people per year, they will not break even.

Mr. Epperson wanted to know if the department is currently under any litigation relative to improprieties such as brutality, ethics violations, or anything of that nature. Chief Raymond said that they are currently dealing with a couple of pending civil suits, with a few dealing with use of force issues. He also mentioned that they there are always dealing with pending suits, but he is not intimately familiar with them.

Mr. Epperson mentioned that the Commission allocated some funding to provide SPD with vehicles. Dr. Wilson stated that was correct. Mr. Epperson wanted to reiterate that the Commission and SPD have a working relationship. He thanked Chief Raymond once again for his professionalism to collaboratively help resolve all of the issues.

Mr. Atkins also thanked Chief Raymond for all he does for this community and his exemplary service here during some difficult times.

Answering a question from Mr. Atkins regarding the demographics of the officers in the field, Chief Raymond stated that the Department is made up of approximately 48% African American, 47% White, and the other 5% is Hispanic, Native American, etc. He also said that there is about 70% males and 30% females. Chief Raymond also explained that they came under a consent decree thirty years ago, and Shreveport was the first municipality to come out from under that consent decree. He said that there is a fair representation of the community that they police. Mr. Atkins thanked the Chief once again for his service to this community.

Mr. Burrell echoed the same sentiments as the previous Commissioners in regards to Chief Raymond's exemplary job with the police department.

Answering a question from Mr. Burrell in regards to policy infractions and investigations, Chief Raymond explained that there are several different ways they take complaints, internal and external. He first talked about the external complaints and said that anybody can file a complaint against an employee of SPD. By law, they have 14 days to initiate an investigation. He also mentioned that Internal Affairs is located in a separate location from the police department to encourage people to come forward. Chief Raymond further explained that, internally, any police officer can have an additional investigation. Often times that is done from a supervisory level against a subordinate who they believe violated one of the department's policies and procedures. The Internal Affairs Bureau looks at each case from an administrative perspective only; they do not look at anything criminal. If there is indication that activity could be criminal, that case goes to the detectives who conduct a criminal investigation. After the criminal investigation is concluded, they then start an administrative investigation. Chief Raymond also said that officers have a number of rights based on the Louisiana Police Officer Bill of Rights. They have 60 days from the day they initiate the investigation to the day it has to be completed. He also said that there are several other formalities they have to abide by, for example, allowing the member to obtain an attorney, they have to record interviews, provide a notice of investigation that fully explains what the officer is being accused of, etc. Ultimately, that packet is given to the Chief with an opinion from the investigators based on the facts. He said that a sustained complaint means that the allegations did occur; a not sustained complaint means that there is not enough evidence to prove if the allegations occurred or not; and an exonerated complaint means that the officer did exactly what the person complained about, but it is not in violation of the department's policy. If there is a sustained complaint, they have to hold a disciplinary hearing in which the officer is allowed to come in and respond to the complaint. After that, they determine what the disciplinary action should be.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if any of the investigations were totally independent of SPD. Chief Raymond said that they are not totally independent, but they have recently come to an agreement with the Louisiana State Police (LSP) in regards to an officer involved shooting which results to death. The

LSP will come in and take those cases, if they have enough investigators at the time. They do this to provide a better level of transparency. Chief Raymond also pointed out that the majority of the criminal investigations' results are submitted to the District Attorney's office. To recap, Chief Raymond said that most of the investigations are done in house. If it is criminal, it is done by SPD's Detective Bureau; if it is administrative, it is done by the Internal Affairs Bureau. Mr. Burrell thanked the Chief for this information.

Mr. Cawthorne stated that young people are beginning to congregate in parking lots. He wanted to know the plan to ensure that violence does not break out during this type of gathering. Chief Raymond explained that there has been quite a bit of discussion regarding this. He explained that they have special operations for these cruising ops. They hire back several officers to prevent violent crime and alleviate the clogging up of intersections. He said that this creates problems for commuters trying to get through a light.

Chief Raymond also said that there was an attempt to encourage people to congregate in areas where they can hang out and play loud music, but unfortunately, it turned violent. He said that they have not found the answer yet, but they are working on gathering ideas and suggestions.

Mr. Hopkins talked about the resolution that is on today's agenda regarding chokeholds. He wanted to know if the Mayor and Chief Raymond have been in discussions regarding this type of training. Chief Raymond stated that they have already revised their policies and procedures to include some additional language with regards to chokeholds and strangleholds. These policies are now being implemented and taught at the academy.

Mr. Hopkins pointed out that most of the small municipality police forces train at the SPD Academy. Chief Raymond agreed and said that they will be taught with the same type of training and the new policies.

Mr. Young asked the following questions: How do you describe the term "custody"? And how would you describe the obligations that an officer has for a citizen who has been placed into custody? Chief Raymond responded with defining custody as an officer limiting your ability to leave. With regards to the officers' responsibilities, they are responsible for the person in custody's safety to the best of their ability, to provide medical treatment, etc.

Mr. Jackson thanked Chief Raymond "for having an open mind". Mr. Jackson said that he wanted to correct one thing that Chief Raymond stated in regards to people congregating. He said, "Violence didn't break out at those events; violence broke out by some knuckleheads after or across the street and down the street". He said that the news and media associates that violence with the events.

Mr. Jackson also asked about a Citizens Review Board. Chief Raymond stated that the intent of most Civil Service Boards in the State have five members; Shreveport is the only city with nine members. It is his understanding when Mayor Glover was in office, the number of board members was increased to provide more citizen oversight of the Police Department. The Board is made up of two police members, two fire members, and five civilians (two civilians are chosen by Southern, two civilians by LSUS, and one civilian is a direct appointment from the Mayor). He said that this entity is already in place that provides for Citizens Review Board. Outside of this, he is certainly open to conversations regarding a Citizens Review Board, but he feels that they would "hit a wall quickly" because they are not allowed based on state statute and civil service law.

He suggested that maybe citizens could come together and talk about an event that happened on a national level. For example, the situation in Atlanta, which he has no influence in nor most citizens in Shreveport does. He explained that they could go through a scenario of what if that happened here.

Chief Raymond cautioned that a Citizens Review Board could start "skewing lines" of what is legal and illegal because of federal statutes, state statutes, civil service law, civil services rules, general orders, etc. that come into effect when discussing something that has occurred locally. He further explained that if there's a pending criminal litigation or civil litigation, somebody's rights could be inadvertently violated. He also said that by law, a Citizens Review Board does not have the authority to implement change and would be limited to making suggestions. He believes the benefit would be to have the conversation.

Answering another question from Mr. Jackson regarding body cameras, Chief Raymond said that this has been an unfunded need in the budget. He said that they have reached out for grants where they are available as well as reaching out to companies and private organizations to get quotes. He feels comfortable to say that they will be getting body cameras in the near future.

Mr. Jackson thanked the Chief and expressed his appreciation for everyone who wears the badge.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if the Chief felt intimidated by the Commissioners' questions. Chief Raymond stated that he feels perfectly comfortable and not intimidated at all.

Mr. Atkins asked that Chief Raymond briefly describe the role of the Civil Service Board. Chief Raymond explained that the Civil Service Board is there to assist the appointing authority in how they run the organization. They also assist in personnel matters, disciplinary matters, etc.

Chief Raymond further explained that if a complaint is sustained against an officer, and they receive some sort of disciplinary action, that officer can file an appeal with the Civil Service Board. At this point, the Civil Service Board will complete an investigation to determine if the appropriate actions were taken. He also mentioned that the Board has the ability to overturn a decision.

Mr. Chavez talked about the resolution that is on the agenda today for consideration regarding chokeholds and restraints. He said that he researched the lateral vascular neck restraint or LVNR. He understands that this type of restraint, in the wrong hands, could be used for bad. Mr. Chavez wanted to know if there was a different technique that could be used "once the bullets are gone and the taser is out of batteries". Chief Raymond explained that he was taught the LVNR when he first came onto the department twenty years ago, and at that point, it was not considered a lethal force tactic. At some point over the last 10-15 years, it has been taught by the Academy that you do not utilize the LVNR, except in the instance in which you are in a lethal force situation. Chief Raymond also explained that there are other defensive tactics that can be used if an officer is being choked.

He read aloud his recommendation for the change in policy: all physical restraint maneuvers on the neck and head area and any other physical lack that restricts the flow of blood or oxygen to the brain are prohibited, except when lethal force is authorized, and the members acting in defense of his or her life or for that of another.

Mr. Chavez thanked Chief Raymond for this explanation. He also said that he would not, as a legislator, do something that would put an officer's life in danger.

Mr. Burrell wanted to know if there were different levels of restraint that a police officer is trained to go through before they use the chokehold. Chief Raymond stated that there is not. He also said that use of force has changed several times over the years. He explained that there used to be something called the "Use of Force Continuum", where an officer would start at the lower levels of force and encouraged to go through the different levels. It started with an officer in a uniform being on scene, then it moved into verbal commands, then pressure points, and ultimately to hard empty hand less lethal, etc. He continued and said that the only issue with this is that an officer cannot be expected to talk to a person who is shooting at them. So the Force Continuum was done away with, and the Force Wheel was implemented.

Chief Raymond explained that the Force Wheel was an officer in the middle who had several different options in regards to the situation. These included options such as officer presence, verbal commands, pressure points, etc.

Now, the police force uses a Use of Force Option Model. The standard is whatever technique the officer uses has to be objectively reasonable based on the facts and circumstances the officer has. The officer does not necessarily have to go into a particular order. Chief Raymond also said that the officers like to use the lowest force necessary to take a suspect into custody.

Answering a question from Mr. Johnson regarding when the policies were written, Chief Raymond stated that the policies are constantly amended. He also explained that the Use of Force Policy was amended on June 11, 2020 with the prior amendment being July 29, 2016.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if the policy remained the same after new technology, such as tasers, mace, etc., became available to police officers. Chief Raymond explained that there was not language specific to chokeholds until the amendment that was implemented on June 11, 2020. He also said that they've taught for over a decade not to use any lateral vascular chokehold or anything that would restrict airflow on a suspect unless there was lethal force, but it was specified in policy until recently.

Mr. Johnson also wanted to know if there would be a need for lethal force with regards to a person who is already handcuffed. Chief Raymond said that there most likely would not be a need, but there are some situations in which a suspect who was handcuffed was able to retrieve a gun and kill an officer. He said that there should be a less amount of force when dealing with a person who is handcuffed versus a person who is not.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know if it would take multiple officers to restrain a person who is handcuffed. Chief Raymond explained that it probably would not take multiple officers, unless the person was a large person or they had a weapon. He said that it is difficult to write into policy every particular circumstance.

Mr. Johnson then talked about the use of body cams and dash cams. He understands that SPD does not have the manpower that the Chief would like it to be, along with the lack of body cams and dash cams. He believes that legislation would help SPD get to the level to better serve the citizens of Caddo Parish.

Mr. Chavez thanked Chief Raymond for attending the meeting today and answering all of the Commissioners' questions.

- Chancellor John Pierre of Southern University Law Center

Mr. Jackson introduced Chancellor Pierre to the Commission. He also said that this is “a relationship between Caddo Parish and Southern University” who have an end goal in mind, which is to have a law school in Caddo Parish.

Chancellor Pierre thanked the Commissioners and Administration on working with the Southern University System and the Southern University Law Center. Leaders in Caddo Parish has passed a resolution asking legislative leaders in northwest Louisiana for the Board of Regents to bring legal professional education to the region. He gave great commendations to the Commission for providing resources towards the legal education program. Their research in the northwest Louisiana region showed there are fewer legal professions per capita in the area, compared to the rest of the state, signifying there is room for improvement. The Board of Regents reviewed several options including establishing legal establishment opportunities.

Chancellor Pierre had proposed a pathway to legal education opportunities in northwest Louisiana to the Southern University System’s Board of Supervisors, the Board of Regents and the Caddo Parish Commission as well as other organizations that regulate legal professional education for discussion and review. The Board of Supervisors endorsed the pathway and held a meeting on how they would proceed with the proposal. The proposal is available to the public for review. Chancellor Pierre stated that they would have to take logical, measured steps designed for success if they are going to effectively create legal opportunities in the area. He introduced a semester in Shreveport idea proposing that in Spring 2022 - Spring 2023 allowing students in their last semester of law school to complete a curricula in Shreveport, Louisiana. There will be opportunities for externships where students can work in courts, corporate entities, law offices for first-hand experience in the area. In turn, the students will earn academic credit, BAR prep review classes and earn opportunities for permanent employment. Additionally, the region could move the barrier of people not wanting to move to Shreveport for their legal career.

Chancellor Pierre explained that the idea was based on a successful concept instituted in Idaho by a law school to create law career opportunities to take advantage of major employment market in a large city in the state. The idea is a pilot program to gage the demand and enthusiasm in the community. The general plan is upon success of the semester in Shreveport, they will increase the time to a year in Shreveport, which would require accreditation. Then, they could model a branch upon success of the year in Shreveport concept.

Chancellor Pierre stated that they must review facilities and technologies, which he shared the Shreve Memorial Library building is a great location for the concept. It is centrally located to the sights and experience of Shreveport.

Chancellor Pierre encouraged the Commission to push for something different. He continued that amid the Covid19 pandemic funding is shorter than normal, but the need for higher education continues to increase due to a competitive workforce across the nation. He encourages that local institutions could create new methods to finance and deliver higher education during these times. In closing of his presentation, Chancellor Pierre thanked the Commission for supporting the initiation of the pathway.

Mr. Jackson commented that he and Chancellor Pierre has put together an eager working group and requests to get the parts in place before 2022.

Mr. Cawthorne thanked the speaker and commended the idea and wanted to know whether there will be a full time or part time program.

Chancellor Pierre explained that they have not reached that point in their research, but confirmed that many students must work full time while attending law school. Since 2004, Southern University System has offered legal education opportunities part time successfully. At that time, Loyola University was the only law school students could attend. Then, there were law schools across Texas that opened up legal education options. He suggested that they evaluate thoroughly and anticipate future possibilities.

***ADOPT REGULAR SESSION MINUTES JUNE 4, 2020***

It was **moved by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mr. Middleton, to *adopt the Regular Session Minutes from June 4, 2020. Motion carried by acclamation.*

***ADOPT SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES JUNE 15, 2020***

It was **moved by Mr. Burrell**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins to *adopt the Special Session Minutes—Alcohol Hearing from June 15, 2020. Motion carried by acclamation.*

***CERTIFICATE FOR TELECONFERENCE***

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana has issued Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020, stating that, due to the current Public Health emergency declared in the Governor’s Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020, and citing the provisions of La. R.S. 29:721, et seq., granting him the authority to control the “ingress and egress to and from a disaster, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein; and,



WHEREAS, the Governor, in Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020, has limited all gatherings of 10 or more people, for public safety purposes; and,

WHEREAS, Governor has issued a general stay at home order “unless performing an essential activity,” 33 JBE 2020, Section 3; and,

WHEREAS, attendance at a Caddo Parish Commission Regular Session meeting is not stated in the list of essential activities, listed in 33 JBE 2020, Section 3; and,

WHEREAS, the usual conduct of the meeting would require travel and the presence of a number of persons in excess of ten (10); and,

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State, in Proclamation Number 30 JBE 2020, Section 4, issued on March 16, 2020, has invoked the aforementioned statutes authorizing him to allow attendance at essential governmental meetings via teleconference or video conference during the pendency of this emergency; and,

THEREFORE, the Caddo Parish Commission hereby certifies that it will not be able to obtain a quorum and convene a meeting in a public forum on June 18th, 2020 due to the Governor’s proclamations, and will be required to meet by video conference, and, if necessary teleconference, on that date as allowed by law and the Proclamations of the Governor listed above.

Date: June 16, 2020  
Mario Chavez  
Caddo Parish Commission President

#### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Dr. Wilson provided a copy of the May 2020 Financials to the Commissioners via email. The Clerk of the Commission noted that these financials were also attached to the agenda.

The President of the Commission asked that Attorney Frazier provide an update on the Confederate Monument. Attorney Frazier said that the Daughters of the Confederacy filed for a request for injunction in the State District Court. That matter is set to be heard on June 30, 2020. Dr. Wilson pointed out that this matter has already been voted on by the Commission, and there is up to \$500,000 in the budget with regards to the monument. He said that they are just waiting on the outcome of the court hearing.

Dr. Wilson also announced that Juvenile Justice Assistant Director Muriel Burns is retiring from the Caddo Parish Commission after 35 years of service.

Dr. Wilson requested that Attorney Frazier provide clarification with regards to Commissioners participating in Zoom meetings if a quorum is met. Attorney Frazier explained that under the Governor’s Order, a virtual meeting cannot be held unless a quorum cannot be met. She also said that a bill was signed into law stating that a virtual meeting or physical meeting in combination can count towards a quorum, but only under certain circumstances. She said that the new law states that when there is a pandemic or a gubernatorially declared state of emergency, the Commission can meet about: matters that are directly related to the public body’s response to the disaster or emergency and are critical to the health, safety, or welfare of the public; matters that if they are delayed will cause curtailment of vital public services or economic dislocation or hardship; or matters that are critical to the continuation of the business of the public body, and that are not able to be postponed to a meeting held in accordance with the other requirements of the chapter, which means the Commission cannot hold a physical meeting, due to a legal requirements or other deadline that cannot be postponed or delayed. Dr. Wilson requested that Attorney Frazier provide a copy of that to the Commissioners.

#### **COMMUNIQES/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Hopkins reminded the Commissioners that a committee was selected for the Charter Review, and there is a timetable in place per the Charter. He suggested the Committee starting meeting as soon as possible.

- Mr. Johnson asked for an update on Benteler Steele and Libbey Glass. Dr. Wilson stated that Libbey Glass filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy last week. He also explained that, according to the IDB, they were in arrears with respect to having maintained the number of jobs that the incentive was given. He said that there is a penalty that goes along with that. He also said that Attorney David Wolf is working with Libbey to obtain those funds.

Dr. Wilson also gave an update in regards to Benteler Steele. He said that there were two projects, one is to utilize Sales & Use taxes, and the other was to build a road from Hwy 1 into the plant. He said that the Sales & Use tax incentive is off the table because the time has passed for that. He said that NLEP and Attorney Frazier are reviewing a contract to see if there’s anything that needs to be assessed to with respect to building the road from Hwy 1 into the plant. He does not have all of the information regarding that yet, but will forward the information as it becomes available.

- Mr. Atkins congratulated Ms. Burns on her years of service to the Parish.
- Mr. Epperson commended Ms. Betty, who works on the 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, for all of her hard work with the Parish. He said that the way the Commission receives customers is very important.

He also pointed out that the meat packing plants were declared essential even though there were high rates of COVID-19 cases and deaths within the plants. He said that in the months of April to May, they sold 129,000 tons of pork to China, when “our shelves were bare as we went to the grocery stores”.

- Mr. Burrell thanked Chief Raymond once again for attending today’s meeting. He is looking forward to meeting with Sheriff Prator.

He also talked about the resolution in regards to Juneteenth. He wished everyone a Happy Juneteenth and encouraged everyone to buy fireworks in celebration of this holiday.

#### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Chavez reminded the Commissioners and the public that under Communiques/Committee Reports, Commissioners are not restricted or censored. He received several phones calls in regards to Monday’s meeting saying that someone should have stopped a Commissioner from talking. He reiterated that the Commissioners cannot stop another Commissioner from talking during Communiques. Mr. Chavez said that “being a leader and leading by being kind, I don’t think we can go wrong with that”.

He also talked about the protests that are happening in Shreveport and Caddo Parish. Mr. Chavez was proud that the protests have been peaceful, and Shreveport/Caddo Parish has set the tone for America and the rest of the Nation to show that “we can truly come together for one goal”.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES**

Mr. Chavez asked if there was anyone to speak in support of or in opposition of the following ordinance:

- *Ordinance No. 5959 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund for the year 2020 to provide an appropriation for the purchase of masks to combat COVID-19 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

There being no one to speak in favor of or in opposition to the ordinance, the President closed the public hearing.

#### **ORDINANCES (for final passage)**

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *that Ordinance No. 5959 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Oil & Gas Fund for the year 2020 to provide an appropriation for the purchase of masks to combat COVID-19 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mrs. Gage-Watts would like the Commissioners to support this ordinance today and help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. She said that this ordinance would help provide masks to the citizens of Caddo Parish. She believes that this along with social distancing, handwashing, and sanitizing are proven methods to keep the spread of COVID-19 down. She asked that the Commissioners support this ordinance.

Answering a question from Mr. Taliaferro regarding a plan in place for distributing the masks, Mrs. Gage-Watts suggested that each of the Commissioners allocate them within their own perspective districts. Mr. Taliaferro was curious to see if the masks were going to be delivered based on the areas that needed them the most. Mrs. Gage-Watts pointed out that no one is exempt from COVID-19, and there is no cure or vaccine. She encouraged all to wear masks while in public.

Mr. Burrell believes that this ordinance is timely. He said that there are several states that have increasing COVID-19 cases.

**Friendly amendment by Mr. Young to change the word “masks” to “masks/face shields”.**  
Mrs. Gage-Watts accepted this amendment.

Mr. Young read that face shields can be a way of protecting a person from the virus. He also said that it could be complimentary to wearing a face mask as well. He asked for this amendment, so that the Commission could have the option of getting face shields to compliment the masks.

Attorney Frazier wanted to know if the face shield could be used in lieu of a mask. Mrs. Gage-Watts stated that it could. She said that it would be sufficient because it could be used in the same way.

Answering a question from Mr. Jackson regarding if there will be a request for reimbursement from the CARES Act, Dr. Wilson stated that they will request a reimbursement. Mr. Chavez asked that the masks be procured from a local business.

Mr. Taliaferro stated that he is ok with the masks, but the face shields are more expensive. He said that they would also have to determine who would get a face shield and who would get a mask.

Mr. Jackson said that Mr. Taliaferro brings up a good point, but he believes that it would eventually break even and level out. He believes that it can be rationed out.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried as amended, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0). ABSENT: (0).

**ORDINANCE NO. 5959 OF 2020**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE OIL AND GAS FUND FOR THE YEAR 2020 TO PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF MASKS/FACE SHIELDS TO COMBAT COVID-19 AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo reported its first COVID-19 case on March 11, 2020;  
and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo currently has over 2,200 cases and 156 deaths due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of a cloth face covering to help slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission would like to provide masks/face shields for the public to help combat the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to amend the 2020 Budget to provide an appropriation of \$100,000 to purchase masks/face shields; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened, that Budget of Estimated Revenues and Expenditures for the Oil and Gas Fund for the year 2020 is hereby amended as follows:

	<u>Budget Increase (Decrease)</u>
<u>Oil and Gas Fund</u>	
COVID-19 Mask	\$100,000
Fund Balance	(\$100,000)

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any provision or item of this ordinance 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 ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

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

**ORDINANCES (introduction by title)**

- *Ordinance No. 5960 of 2020, an ordinance amending the Budget of Estimated Revenues & Expenditures for the Riverboat Fund to provide an appropriation for the Salvation Army's Boys & Girls Club for funds remaining at December 31, 2019 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Cawthorne, *that the Work Session Minutes from June 15, 2020 be approved. Motion carried.*

### **RESOLUTIONS**

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Epperson, *that Resolution No. 41 of 2020, a resolution amending and reenacting Resolution No. 34 of 2020 of the Caddo Parish Commission adding Legal Aid of North Louisiana to exceptions of the suspended 2020 NGO Program and to otherwise provide with respect thereto be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0). ABSENT: (0).*

### **RESOLUTION NO. 41 OF 2020**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION AMENDING AND REENACTING RESOLUTION 34 OF 2020 OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION ADDING LEGAL AID OF NORTH LOUISIANA TO EXCEPTIONS OF THE SUSPENDED 2020 NGO PROGRAM AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, COVID19 is a national pandemic in the United States; and

WHEREAS, many jobs have been permanently lost as a result of COVID19; and

WHEREAS, individuals will need to expunge their records as they seek new means of employment; and

WHEREAS, the Parish may be eligible for reimbursement of this cost from CARES ACT Funding allocation as it relates to workforce development/retention related to COVID19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that the Caddo Parish Commission amends and reenacts Resolution 34 of 2020 to read as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADMINISTRATION TO SUSPEND 2020 NGO PAYMENTS WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, COVID19 is a national pandemic in the United States; and

WHEREAS, national, state and local health emergencies have been declared due to the COVID 19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana citizens are contracting COVID19 in large numbers; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the pandemic, revenues used to fund the Parish's NGO program have declined; and

WHEREAS, this decline has caused a situation wherein the Parish does not have the revenue that was budgeted to fully fund the 2020 NGO program; and

WHEREAS, it is a violation of the State Budget Act for the Parish to pay expenditures when the revenue source does not have adequate funds to cover those expenditures; and

WHEREAS, there is enough revenue to pay a limited amount of the funds budgeted for the NGO program; and

WHEREAS organizations providing essential services should be paid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that the Caddo Parish Commission hereby authorizes Parish Administration to suspend NGO payments until a revenue analysis shows that the revenues in the requisite funds will cover the full amounts appropriated, with the following exceptions:

1. Caddo Council on Aging - \$75,000.00
2. Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana - \$90,000.00
3. Hope Connections - \$15,000.00
4. MLK CDC - \$10,000.00
5. Robinson's Rescue - \$25,000.00
6. Shreveport Green - \$7,500.00
7. St. Luke's Episcopal Mobile Medical - \$6,750.00
8. SuperMen for Christ - \$5,000.00
9. Legal Aid of Northwest Louisiana- \$20,000.00

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

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

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *that Resolution No. 42 of 2020, a resolution to authorize the Caddo Parish Administrator to request and authorize the Louisiana State Mineral & Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources to accept nominations and advertise oil, gas, and mineral leases, accept bids, and award and execute oil, gas, and mineral leases on certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0). ABSENT: (0).

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 42 OF 2020**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CADDO PARISH ADMINISTRATOR TO REQUEST AND AUTHORIZE THE LOUISIANA STATE MINERAL AND ENERGY BOARD AND THE OFFICE OF MINERAL RESOURCES TO ACCEPT NOMINATIONS AND ADVERTISE FOR OIL, GAS AND MINERAL LEASES, ACCEPT BIDS, AND AWARD AND EXECUTE OIL, GAS AND MINERAL LEASES ON CERTAIN MINERAL INTERESTS OWNED BY THE PARISH OF CADDO, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo may own certain mineral rights underlying the following described property, to-wit:

Those certain road dedications located in Section 3, Township 18 North, Range 15 West, known as Alexander Avenue, Avenue Kay, Birch Avenue, Boutte Circle, Cleveland Street, Daugherty Avenue, Front Street, Garfield Avenue, Huss's Court, Jo Lacey Drive, Jodie Street, Juliette Street, Katie Circle, Louise Lane, Lydia Avenue, Maple Avenue, Monument Lane, Morton Street, Attaway Street, Olney Street, Phelps Avenue, Pine Hill Road, Sand Valley Lane, Sandra Street, Main Street, Warriner Avenue, Williams Street, Wilson Street, Newburyport Street, Stockbridge Lane and Williamsburg Way, all located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana and containing 80.20 acres, more or less and those certain adjudicated properties described as Lot 14 & ½ Adj. Abdn. Alley, Blk. 2, Blanchard with a Geo. #181503-014-0014, containing .17 acres, and Lot 10 & W'ly ½ of Lot 11, Blk. 7, with a Geo. #181503-019-0010, containing .26 acres, and Lots 13, 14 & 15, Blk 32, Blanchard imps on Lot 14, with a Geo. #181503-044-0013, containing .24 acres, and Lot 10 & W'ly 25 Ft. of Lot 11, Blk. 28 & ½ abandoned Alley, Blanchard, with a Geo. #181503- 040-0015 containing .26 acres, and Lot 13 & ½ Adj. Abdn. Alleys, Blk. 2, Blanchard, with a Geo. #181503-014-0013 containing .17 acres, and Lots 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8, Blk. 38, Blanchard, Adj. ½ Abdn Alley, with a Geo. #181503-050-0023, containing .43 acres, and S'ly 10 Ft. of Lot 1, Lacey Gardens, Unit No. 10, with a Geo. #181503-064-0015, containing .02 acres, and Lot 15 & ½ Adj. Abdn. Alley, Blk. 2, Blanchard, with a Geo. #181503-014-0015, containing .17 acres, and that part of the NW/4 of SE/4 of Sec 3 (18-15) Lying Southwest of K.C.S. Ry, R/W with

a Geo. #181503- 000-0013, containing .05 acres, and Lot 18 and Adj. ½ of Abdn. Alley, Blk. 38 Blanchard, with a Geo. #181503-050-0018, containing .17 acre, said adjudicated property total acreage being 1.94 acres, more or less, within Section 3 Township 18 North, Range 15 West, containing a total of 82.14 acres, more or less, all in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

That certain road dedication located in Section 4, Township 18 North, Range 15 West, known as a portion of Blanchard Furrh Road, located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana and containing 4.716, more or less within Section 4, Township 18 North, Range 15 West, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Those certain road dedications located in Section 9, Township 18 North, Range 15 West, known as Bickham Road, a portion of Blanchard Furrh Road, Bois D'Arc Circle, Cravetta Street, Gorman Road, Noel Drive, North Noel Drive, South Noel Drive, all located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana and containing 24.63 acres, more or less and that certain adjudicated property described as Lot 34, Blanchard Estates Addition, Unit #2 Less R/W, with a Geo. #181509-003- 0034, containing .51 acres, within Section 9 Township 18 North, Range 15 West, containing a total of 25.14 acres, more or less, all in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Those certain road dedications located in Section 16, Township 18 North, Range 15 West, known as Deer Trail, South Noel Drive and Wentworth Circle, all located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana and containing 4.08 acres, more or less and those certain adjudicated properties described as 2.00 acres in NE/4 of Sec 16-18-15 with a Geo. #181516-000-0079, and 1.00 acre of land in NE/4 of land in NE/4 of Sec 16-18-15, with a Geo. #181516-000-0054, and 1.00 acre of land in NE/4 of land in NE/4 of Sec 16-18-15, with a Geo. #181516-000-0074, and 1.50 acres M/L – A tract in NE/4, Sec 16-18-15, with a Geo #181516-000-0104, and 1.00 acre in SE/4 of NE/4 of Sec 16-18-15, with a Geo. #181516-000-0043, and Lot 37, Duke Estates Unit No. 2, with a Geo. #181516-002-0037, containing 2.21 acres, more or less, and .19 acres, M/L – being the West 247.5 of East 1597.2 ft of North 33 ft of South 591 ft of N/E of Sec 16-18-15, with a Geo. #181516-000-0141, and 1.00 acre – South 195 ft of East 213 ft of SW/4 of NW/4 of Sec 16-18-15, with a Geo. #181516-000-0096, said adjudicated property total acreage being 9.90 acres, more or less, within Section 16, Township 18 North, Range 15 West, containing a total of 13.98 acres, more or less, all in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Those certain road dedications located in Section 21, Township 18 North, Range 15 West, known as Pine Island, Pine Island Unnamed Road A and Pine Island Unnamed Road B, all located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana and containing 7.45, more or less and that certain adjudicated property described as Lot 2, Less a Triangular Tract of Land, Hunter's Forest, with a Geo. #181521-013-0012, containing 1.26 acres, more or less, within Section 21, Township 18 North, Range 15 West, containing a total of 8.71 acres, more or less all in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo has received a written request from USG Properties Haynesville, LLC, that the Parish seek public bids for an oil, gas and mineral lease covering said property; and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Caddo does not have the knowledge or resources available to determine if it owns the mineral rights and the Parish of Caddo will rely on the expertise and experience of the lessee in determining ownership; and

WHEREAS, it is expressly agreed that any lease granted by the Parish of Caddo and accepted by lessee is without any warranty of title and without any recourse against the Parish of Caddo whatsoever, either express or implied, and it is expressly agreed that the Parish of Caddo shall not be required to return any payments received or be otherwise responsible to lessee therefore; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources, is available upon the request of Caddo Parish to lease the aforesaid property for oil, gas and other minerals if requested to do so by Caddo Parish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board and the Office of Mineral Resources, be and it is hereby requested and authorized to accept nominations and advertise for oil, gas and mineral leases, accept bids and award and execute oil, gas and mineral leases on the aforesaid properties of certain mineral interests owned by the Parish of Caddo.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a no surface operations provision as follows: Lessee, its successors or assigns, may produce oil, gas and other minerals from the

leased premises by drilling from a surface location on other lands, but notwithstanding any other provision of this lease, Lessee, its successors or assigns, shall not use the surface of the Lessor's property for drilling or any other operations without prior written permission of Lessor, which permission may be withheld at Lessor's discretion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a horizontal pugh provision as follows: Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein contained, at the end of the primary term or any extension thereof by operations, if the Commission of Conservation of the State of Louisiana establishes a drilling unit which includes a part of the land herein leased, the production of oil, gas and other minerals from such unit shall maintain this lease in full force and effect only as to such portions of the leased land embraced in said pooled unit; and this lease shall expire as to that part of the land herein leased not included in such unit; and lessee, its successors and assigns agrees to relinquish by formal instrument any portion of the leased land not included in a unit created by the Commission of Conservation while this lease is in effect

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a vertical pugh provision as follows: Upon the expiration of the primary term hereof or any extension thereof by operations, this lease shall automatically terminate and be of no further force or effect except as to all that part of the leased premises then included within the geographical boundaries of a producing unit duly established by governmental agency or authority having jurisdiction, from the surface of the earth to a depth of 100 feet below the deepest depth from which any well commenced during the primary term hereof on the leased premises or on lands pooled therewith is completed and from which there is production in paying quantities, such depth determination to be made on a unit by unit basis. In the absence of units so established, this lease shall terminate except as to 40 acres around each producing oil well and 160 acres around each producing or shut-in gas well located on the leased premises, in as near the form of a square as is practicable, from the surface of the earth down to a depth of 100 feet below the deepest depth from which said well or wells are completed and from which there is production in paying quantities, such depth determination to be made on a well by well basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a minimum royalty provision as follows: Royalty of not less than 1/5 th or 20%.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a minimum bonus provision as follows: Bonus of not less than \$1,500.00 per acre.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a hard or solid mineral exclusion provision as follows: This lease shall exclude free sulphur, potash, lignite, salt and any other hard or solid mineral. Lessee shall not have any rights to explore, drill for, mine, produce or take any action whatsoever in regard to any such hard or solid mineral deposits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such lease contain a maximum term provision as follows: Primary term of lease shall not exceed three (3) years.

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 Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 43 of 2020, a resolution of support for the Federal Justice in Policing Act of 2020 and to otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

**Friendly amendment by Mr. Young** to add the phrase "a bipartisan" before the word "federal" in title and to add "a meaningful bipartisan reform bill" in the text of the Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved. Mr. Epperson accepted.

Mr. Cawthorne wanted to know what a "meaningful bipartisan" looks like. Mr. Young said that something that is meaningful would answer the demands of the people who are calling for racial justice, and something that is bipartisan would have input from both parties.

Mr. Chavez said that the President passed an Executive Order this past week that reads: law enforcement officers provide the essential protection that all Americans required to raise their families and lead productive lives. The relationship between our fellow citizens and law enforcement officers is an important element in their ability to provide that protection. By working directly with their communities law enforcement officers can help foster a safe environment where we all can prosper. Unfortunately, there have been instances in which some officers have misused their authority, challenging the trust of the American people with tragic consequences for individual victims, their communities and our nation. All

Americans are entitled to live with the confidence that the law enforcement officers and agencies in their communities will live up to our nation's founding ideals and will protect the rights of all persons, particularly, in effect, African American communities. We must redouble our efforts as a nation to swiftly address instances of misconduct.

Mr. Taliaferro said that there are some provisions in this bill that he agrees with, but there are many more that he does not agree with. He will not support this bill in its current form without bipartisan discussion and reform. He would like to see this resolution's changes in writing prior to voting on it.

Mr. Atkins stated that he shares some of the views of Mr. Taliaferro. He also applauded Mr. Young for including "a meaningful bipartisan" language added to the resolution.

Mr. Jackson clarified that Mr. Young's amendment is pushing for a more bipartisan effort. Mr. Young agreed. He also said that it seems that the amendment gives the opportunity to emphasize the bipartisan fashion. Mr. Jackson also added the executive orders do not have effects of law and can expire.

Mr. Epperson agreed with Mr. Jackson and pointed out that there is a Democratic controlled House with a Republican controlled Senate. He commended Mr. Young for his amendment in regards to this resolution.

Mr. Hopkins said that there are some things in the Federal Justice & Policing Act that he agrees with, but there are several items that he is concerned with. He suggested that the Commissioners wait until the bill has been vetted through both places and conference committed. He does not believe that this a good bill. Mr. Hopkins said that he is not prepared to vote in favor of this resolution today.

Mr. Burrell stated that he has been following this bill through the legislature for quite some time. He also commended Mr. Young for his friendly amendment. He also said that anything with such controversy as this has to have some compromise and bipartisan support. Mr. Burrell feels that the bipartisan support language should be placed in this resolution and sends a bipartisan message from the Commission.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (11). NAYS: Commissioner Atkins (1). ABSTAIN: None (0). ABSENT: (0).

At this time, Mr. Epperson's motion carried as amended, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (9). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, and Taliaferro (3). ABSTAIN: None (0). ABSENT: None (0).

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 43 OF 2020**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR A BIPARTISAN FEDERAL JUSTICE IN POLICING ACT OF 2020 AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, police brutality against African-Americans is again at the forefront of issues facing the African-American community with the death of George Floyd; and

WHEREAS, as demonstrated by the protests surrounding the death of George Floyd, the African-American community has long-felt unprotected and unheard by our lawmakers; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives has promulgated the Justice in Policing Act of 2020 to address the law enforcement concerns that have led to police brutality in the African-American community to ensure that policing rises to standards that ensure justice and fairness to ALL Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that the Caddo Parish Commission hereby supports the Justice in Policing Act of 2020 and urges and requests the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate to pass a meaningful bipartisan reform bill with all due haste.

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 House and the President of the Senate.

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



hereby repealed.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 44 of 2020, a resolution designating June 19<sup>th</sup> of each year as “Juneteenth Independence Day” in Caddo Parish, in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date that has become widely associated with the emancipation of slavery in the United States and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0). ABSENT: (0).

#### RESOLUTION NO. 44 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING JUNE 19TH OF EACH YEAR AS “JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY” IN CADDO PARISH, IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE THAT HAS BECOME WIDELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE EMANCIPATION OF SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery in the Confederacy effective January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, the news that slavery had officially ended and that the slaves were free throughout the land now known as the United States was neither announced nor enforced in the western former Confederate states such as Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas in particular, until two and a half years after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation due to a low presence of the Union Army in those areas; and

WHEREAS, when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to establish the Union Army’s command over Texas, he announced to the people of Texas on June 19, 1865, the end of slavery and the freedom of the slaves; and

WHEREAS, the formerly enslaved people in Texas celebrated their freedom on June 19, 1865, and such celebrations gradually evolved into the official commemorative holiday which has become known as “Juneteenth”, which continues to be celebrated throughout the United States today through festivities, ceremonies, food, and other cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth serves as an extremely significant day of remembrance and acknowledgment of the history, freedom, culture, strength, perseverance, and achievement of the past, present, and future generations of the African American community; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth holds an important place not only in African American history, but in United States history for all Americans to reflect on, learn about, and appreciate the struggles, triumphs, and continued growth of our nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, local communities throughout the United States, such as Caddo Parish, support the significance of Juneteenth and all that it symbolizes in the history and culture of African American people during the annual Let the Good Time Roll Festival sponsored by the Rho Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that June 19th of each year is hereby established throughout Caddo Parish, as a day of commemoration which shall be known as “Juneteenth Independence Day.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parish Administrator is strongly urged to consider recognizing this holiday consistent with other annual official Parish Holidays

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 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 Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Resolution No. 45 of 2020, a resolution urging and requesting law enforcement agencies and heads of governing bodies with*

*Caddo Parish to retrain officers regarding chokeholds and restraints and to otherwise provide with respect thereto* be adopted.

Mr. Hopkins does not feel that this resolution is needed anymore due to the changes and amendments the Chief previously explained. He also explained that these policy changes will filter into the academy, which several municipalities in the Parish utilize for training. He appreciates Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Gage-Watts for bringing forth this resolution, but does not feel that it is needed any longer.

Mr. Chavez said that the City of Shreveport implemented some policy changes. He asked that the Clerk forward it to the Commissioners. Mr. Chavez read aloud the policy change: the purpose of the General Order is to establish guidelines for the appropriate use of force by member. It shall be the policy of the Shreveport Policed Department that members use only force that is objectively reasonable to effectively bring an incident under control while protecting the lives of the officers and others. Officers use only level of force with a reasonable prudent officer would use under the same worst similar circumstances. Mr. Chavez agreed with Mr. Hopkins and believes steps have already been made.

Mr. Taliaferro is concerned with any verbiage limiting the use of this technique should the officer's life be in danger. He said that the President's Executive Order addresses this concern to his satisfaction. Mr. Taliaferro would like to include the verbiage of the President's Executive Order calling for nationwide police reform, specifically banning the use of chokeholds and vascular neck restraints, with the exception where the officer's life or the lives of others were in danger.

Mr. Burrell explained that this resolution reinforces his position on training and upgrading law enforcement. He pointed out that a resolution is not forcing anyone to do anything, but only recommending this reform.

Mr. Johnson said that the resolution was written for officers to be retrained and review the policies. He pointed out that the Parish has constables, deputy constables, etc. that should have this same type of review and reform. He asked that the Commissioners support this resolution.

Mr. Young stated that he will vote in favor of this resolution because of the word "retrain". He also said that all organizations can benefit for improvement, and that comes from practice and training.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that the biggest room there is, is the room for improvement. She also pointed out that each year, the Commissioners have to take an ethics course. She said that this resolution would be a suggestion to the police officers as to why the chokehold is no longer acceptable. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that it is the responsibility of the Commissioners as legislators to pass this information on.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, and Young (9). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, and Taliaferro (3). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, and Young (8). NAYS: Commissioners Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (4). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 45 OF 2020**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION URGING AND REQUESTING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND HEADS OF GOVERNING BODIES WITHIN CADDO PARISH TO RETRAIN OFFICERS REGARDING CHOKEHOLDS AND RESTRAINTS AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, police brutality against African-Americans is again at the forefront of issues facing the African-American community with the death of George Floyd; and

WHEREAS, as demonstrated by the protests surrounding the death of George Floyd, the African-American community has long-felt unprotected and unheard by our lawmakers; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives has promulgated the Justice in Policing Act of 2020 to address the law enforcement concerns that have led to police brutality in the AfricanAmerican community to ensure that policing rises to standards that ensure justice and fairness to ALL Americans. WHEREAS, one of the items addressed within the Justice in Policing Act is the ban of chokeholds and carotid holds at the federal level; and

WHEREAS, banning these techniques and focusing on less dangerous apprehension techniques is necessary on state and local levels is necessary because the majority of arrests in the United States are made at these levels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that the Caddo Parish Commission hereby urges and requests the following heads of government and law enforcement agencies to review policing policies as they relate to choke holds and personal restraint, remove any techniques that will cause strangulation around the neck area, and retrain existing officers of different , less dangerous techniques to apprehend:

1. Mayor of Shreveport
2. Mayor of Greenwood
3. Blanchard Police Chief
4. Oil City Mayor
5. Vivian Police Chief
6. Caddo Parish Sheriff
7. Shreveport City Marshal
8. All Caddo Parish Constables

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 aforementioned heads of government and law enforcement.

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. Cawthorne, *that Resolution No. 46 of 2020, a resolution urging and requesting the Louisiana Legislature to review Louisiana Law regarding sexual conduct between law enforcement officers and detainees, and otherwise providing with respect thereto* be adopted.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobo and adopt the following resolutions:*

- *Resolution No. 46 of 2020, a resolution urging and requesting the Louisiana Legislature to review Louisiana Law regarding sexual conduct between law enforcement officers and detainees, and otherwise providing with respect*
- *Resolution No. 47 of 2020, a resolution urging and requesting the State Legislature and local Caddo Parish governments to pass legislation addressing law enforcement officers' wearing and use of body cameras and use of dashboard cameras, to ask all law enforcement agencies within Caddo Parish to administratively implement the requirements of said legislation, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Burrell wanted to know why this has not already been done.

Mr. Taliaferro stated that he is in support of Resolution No. 47 requiring all law enforcement officers to use body cams and dash cams. He said that this is to protect the citizens and the officers. He would like the resolution to read that this pertains to any law enforcement organization regardless of size and include any sworn official performing any law in any law enforcement capacity, such as City Marshal's Office, State Police, Parish Constables, etc.

Mr. Johnson explained that the resolution states exactly this in the text. He further explained that this would be forwarded to all 64 parishes of Louisiana to ensure that this reaches all law enforcement agencies.

Mrs. Gage-Watts stated that Resolution No. 46 is to encourage legislators to change its current policy to prevent any man or woman from possibly experiencing this unethical behavior.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez,

Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0). ABSENT: (0).

At this time, Mr. Jackson's substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0). ABSENT: (0).

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 46 OF 2020**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION URGING AND REQUESTING THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE TO REVIEW LOUISIANA LAW REGARDING SEXUAL CONDUCT BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND DETAINEES, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, current Louisiana law, LSA-R.S. 14:134.1, prohibits sexual conduct between law enforcement officers and inmates or persons supervised by the division of probation and parole; and

WHEREAS, nationally there are recent reports of persons being detained for investigation being forced into sexual conduct with law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, in order to prevent such incidents within Louisiana, the current law should be extended to cover all persons in custody of law enforcement officers, including detainees, not just inmates and persons supervised by the division of probation and parole; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Legislature to review the LSA-R.S. 14:134.1 and extend its protections to all persons within the custody of law enforcement officers, including detainees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Louisiana Speaker of the House and President of the Senate.

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 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. 47 OF 2020**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION URGING AND REQUESTING THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND LOCAL CADDO PARISH GOVERNMENTS TO PASS LEGISLATION ADDRESSING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' WEARING AND USE OF BODY CAMERAS AND USE OF DASHBOARD CAMERAS, TO ASK ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WITHIN CADDO PARISH TO ADMINISTRATIVELY IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF SAID LEGISLATION, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, police brutality against African-Americans is again at the forefront of issues facing the African-American community with the death of George Floyd; and WHEREAS, as demonstrated by the protests surrounding the death of George Floyd, the African-American community has long-felt unprotected and unheard by our lawmakers; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives has promulgated the Justice in Policing Act of 2020 to address the law enforcement concerns that have led to police brutality in the African American community to ensure that policing rises to standards that ensure justice and fairness to ALL Americans.

WHEREAS, one of the items addressed within the Justice in Policing Act is the mandate federal law enforcement officers to use body and dashboard cameras and the requirement for state and

local governments to use federal funds to purchase and use body and dashboard cameras; and WHEREAS, the use of body and dashboard cameras will help ensure accountability in policing and reduce the use of excessive force by police officers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that the Caddo Parish Commission hereby urges and requests the State of Louisiana, the governing bodies of Shreveport, Greenwood, Blanchard, Oil City, and Vivian to pass the following legislation:

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**REQUIREMENTS FOR LOUISIANA (CITY, PARISH, AND STATE) UNIFORMED OFFICERS  
REGARDING THE USE OF BODY CAMERAS**

- (a) Uniformed officers with the authority to conduct searches and make arrests shall wear a body camera. Such body cameras shall—
  - (1) have a field of view at least as broad as the officer's vision; and
  - (2) be worn in a manner that maximizes the camera's ability to capture v video footage of the officer's activities.
- (b) Both the video and audio recording functions of the body camera shall be activated whenever a uniformed officer is responding to a call for service or at the initiation of any other law enforcement or investigative encounter between a uniformed officer and a member of the public. The body camera shall not be deactivated until the encounter has fully concluded and the uniformed officer leaves the scene.
- (c) A uniformed officer who is wearing a body camera shall notify any subject of the recording that he or she is being recorded by a body camera as close to the inception of the encounter as is reasonably possible.
- (d) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (b), the following shall apply to the use of a body camera:
  - (1) When interacting with a person seeking to anonymously report a crime or assist in an ongoing law enforcement investigation, a uniformed officer shall, as soon as practicable, ask the person seeking to remain anonymous, if the person seeking to remain anonymous wants the officer to discontinue use of the officer's body camera. If the person seeking to remain anonymous responds affirmatively, the uniformed officer shall immediately discontinue use of the body camera.
- (e) Body cameras shall not be used to gather intelligence information based on First Amendment protected speech, associations, or religion, or to record activity that is unrelated to a response to a call for service or a law enforcement or investigative encounter between a law enforcement officer and a member of the public, and shall not be equipped with or subjected to any real time facial recognition technologies.
- (f) Officers shall not be required to use body cameras during investigative or enforcement encounters with the public in the case that recording would risk the safety of a confidential informant, citizen informant, or undercover officer.
- (g) Uniformed officers shall not activate a body camera while on the grounds of any public, private or parochial elementary or secondary school, except when responding to an imminent threat to life or health.
- (h) Body camera video footage shall be retained by the law enforcement agency that employs the officer whose camera captured the footage, or an authorized agent thereof, for 12 months after the date it was recorded, after which time such footage shall be permanently deleted unless the case is pending and will be saved until the case is closed
- (i) During the 6-month retention period, the following persons shall have the right to inspect the body camera footage:
  - (A) Any person who is a subject of body camera video footage, and their designated legal counsel.

- (B) A parent of a minor subject of body camera video footage, and their designated legal counsel.
- (C) The spouse, next of kin, or legally authorized designee of a deceased subject of body camera video footage, and their designated legal counsel.
- (D) A uniformed officer whose body camera recorded the video footage, and their designated legal counsel, subject to the limitations and restrictions.
- (E) The superior officer of a uniformed officer whose body camera recorded the video footage, subject to the limitations and restrictions in this Act.
- (F) Any defense counsel who claims, pursuant to a written affidavit, to have a reasonable basis for believing a video may contain evidence that exculpates a client.
  - (1) When a body camera fails to capture some or all of the audio or video of an incident due to malfunction, displacement of camera, or any other cause, any audio or video footage that is captured shall be treated the same as any other body camera audio or video footage under the law.
- (j) Notwithstanding the retention and deletion requirements in subsection (i):
  - (1) Video footage shall be automatically retained for no less than 3 years if the video footage captures an interaction or event involving—
    - (A) any use of force; or
    - (B) an encounter about which a complaint has been registered by a subject of the video footage.
    - (C) the uniformed officer whose body camera recorded the video footage, if that officer reasonably asserts the video footage has evidentiary or exculpatory value in an ongoing investigation;
    - (D) any uniformed officer who is a subject of the video footage, if that officer reasonably asserts the video footage has evidentiary or exculpatory value;
    - (E) any superior officer of a uniformed officer whose body camera recorded the video footage or who is a subject of the video footage, if that superior officer reasonably asserts the video footage has evidentiary or exculpatory value;
    - (F) any uniformed officer, if the video footage is being retained solely and exclusively for police training purposes;
    - (G) any member of the public who is a subject of the video footage;
    - (H) any parent or legal guardian of a minor who is a subject of the video footage; or
    - (I) a deceased subject's spouse, next of kin, or legally authorized designee.
- (k) All video footage of an interaction or event captured by a body camera, if that interaction or event is identified with reasonable specificity and requested by a member of the public, shall be provided to the person or entity making the request in accordance with the Louisiana Public Record Request Laws. Where a subject of the video footage is recorded being killed, shot by a firearm, or grievously injured, shall be prioritized and the requested video footage shall be provided as expeditiously as possible, but in no circumstances later than 5 days following receipt of the request
- (l) Whenever doing so is necessary to protect personal privacy, the right to a fair trial, the identity of a confidential source or crime victim, or the life or physical safety of any person appearing in video footage, redaction technology may be used to obscure the face and other personally identifying characteristics of that person, including the tone of the person's voice, provided the redaction does not interfere with a viewer's ability to fully, completely, and accurately comprehend the events captured on the video footage. The following apply to such redactions:

- (A) If redaction is performed on video footage, an unedited, original version of the video footage shall be retained.
- (B) Except pursuant to the rules for the redaction of video footage set forth in this subsection, no other editing or alteration of video footage, including a reduction of the video footage's resolution, shall be permitted.
- (m) Body camera video footage may not be withheld from the public on the basis that it is an investigatory record or was compiled for law enforcement purposes where any person under investigation or whose conduct is under review is a police officer or other law enforcement employee and the video footage relates to that person's on-the-job conduct.
- (n) No uniformed officer shall review or receive an accounting of any body camera video footage prior to completing any required initial reports, statements, and interviews regarding the recorded event, unless doing so is necessary, while in the field, to address an immediate threat to life or safety.
- (o) Video footage shall not be divulged or used by any law enforcement agency for any commercial or other non-law enforcement purpose.
- (p) Where a law enforcement agency authorizes a third party to act as its agent in maintaining body camera footage, the agent shall not be permitted to independently access, view, or alter any video footage, except to delete videos as required by law or agency retention policies.
- (q) If any uniformed officer, employee, or agent fails to adhere to the recording or retention requirements contained in this document, intentionally interfere with a body camera's ability to accurately capture video footage, or otherwise manipulate the video footage captured by a body camera during or after its operation—
  - (1) appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken against the individual officer, employee, or agent;
  - (2) a rebuttable evidentiary presumption shall be adopted in favor of criminal defendants who reasonably assert that exculpatory evidence was destroyed or not captured; and
  - (3) a rebuttable evidentiary presumption shall be adopted on behalf of civil plaintiffs suing the government, a law enforcement agency and/or uniformed officers for damages based on police misconduct who reasonably assert that evidence supporting their claim was destroyed or not captured.
- (r) In the case that a law enforcement officer equipped with a body camera is involved in, a witness to, or within viewable sight range of either the use of force by another law enforcement officer that results in a death, the use of force by another law enforcement officer, during which the discharge of a firearm results in an injury, or the conduct of another law enforcement officer that becomes the subject of a criminal investigation—
  - (1) the law enforcement agency that employs the law enforcement officer, or the agency or department conducting the related criminal investigation, as appropriate, shall promptly take possession of the body camera, and shall maintain such camera, and any data on such camera, in accordance with the applicable rules governing the preservation of evidence;
  - (2) a copy of the data on such body camera shall be made in accordance with prevailing forensic standards for data collection and reproduction; and
  - (3) such copied data shall be made available to the public.
- (s) Any body camera video footage recorded in contravention of this document or any other applicable law may not be offered as evidence by any government entity, agency, department, prosecutorial office, or any other subdivision thereof in any criminal or civil action or proceeding against any member of the public.

- (t) Any law enforcement policy or other guidance regarding body cameras, their use, or the video footage therefrom that is adopted by a Federal agency or department, shall be made publicly available on that agency's website.
- (u) Nothing in this Act shall be read to contravene any laws governing the maintenance, production, and destruction of evidence in criminal investigations and prosecutions.
- (v) Definitions:
  - (1) The term "uniformed officer" means any person authorized by law to conduct searches and effectuate arrests, either with or without a warrant, and who is employed by the City, Parish or State Police Department.
  - (2) The term "subject of the video footage" means any identifiable uniformed officer or any identifiable suspect, victim, detainee, conversant, injured party, or other similarly situated person who appears on the body camera recording, and shall not include people who only incidentally appear on the recording.
  - (3) The term "use of force" means any action by a uniformed officer that—
    - (A) results in death, injury, complaint of injury, or complaint of pain that persists beyond the use of a physical control hold;
    - (B) involves the use of a weapon, including a personal body weapon, chemical agent, impact weapon, extended range impact weapon, sonic weapon, sensory weapon, conducted energy device, or firearm, against a member of the public; or
    - (C) involves any intentional pointing of a firearm at a member of the public.
  - (4) The term "video footage" means any images or audio recorded by a body camera.

### **SEC. 3. PATROL VEHICLES WITH IN-CAR VIDEO RECORDING CAMERAS**

- (a) Each law enforcement agency shall install in-car video camera recording equipment in all patrol vehicles with a recording medium capable of recording for a period of at least 10 hours or more and capable of making audio recordings with the assistance of a wireless microphone.
  - (1) In-car video camera recording equipment with a recording medium capable of recording for a period of 10 hours or more shall record activities outside a patrol vehicle whenever
    - (A) Recording for an enforcement stop shall begin when an enforcement starts and shall continue until the enforcement action has been completed (the subject of the enforcement stop or the officer has left the scene);
    - (B) Recording shall begin when patrol vehicle emergency lights are activated or when they would otherwise be activated if not for the need to conceal the presence of law enforcement, and shall continue until the reason for the activation ceases to exist, regardless of whether the emergency lights are no longer activated; or
    - (C) An officer may begin recording if the officer reasonably believes recording may assist with prosecution, enhance safety, or for any other lawful purpose; and shall continue until the reason for recording ceases to exist.
  - (2) In-car video camera recording equipment shall record activities inside the vehicle when transporting an arrestee or when an officer reasonably believes recording may assist with prosecution, enhance safety, or for any other lawful purpose.
    - (b) Recordings made on in-car video camera recording medium shall be retained for a storage period of at least 180 days. Under no circumstances shall any recording made on in-car video camera recording medium be altered or erased prior to the expiration of the designated storage period. Upon completion of the storage period, the recording medium may be erased and reissued for operational use unless otherwise ordered or if designated for evidentiary or training purposes.
    - (c) The agency shall ensure proper care and maintenance of in-car video camera recording equipment and recording medium. An officer operating a patrol vehicle must immediately document and notify the appropriate person of any technical



difficulties, failures, or problems with the in-car video camera recording equipment or recording medium. Upon receiving notice, every reasonable effort shall be made to correct and repair any of the in-car video camera recording equipment or recording medium and determine if it is in the public interest to permit the use of the patrol vehicle.

(b) Definitions:

- (1) The term "audio recording" means the recorded conversation between an officer and a second party.
- (2) The term "emergency lights" means oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights on patrol vehicles.
- (3) The term "in-car video camera" means a video camera located in a patrol vehicle.
- (4) The term "in-car video camera recording equipment" means a video camera recording system located in a patrol vehicle consisting of a camera assembly, recording mechanism, and an in-car video recording medium.
- (5) The term "enforcement stop" means an action by an officer in relation to enforcement and investigation duties, including traffic stops, pedestrian stops, abandoned vehicle contacts, motorist assists, commercial motor vehicle stops, roadside safety checks, requests for identification, or responses to requests for emergency assistance.
- (6) The term "recording" means the process of capturing data or information stored on a recording medium as required under this section.
- (7) The term "recording medium" means any recording medium for the retention and playback of recorded audio and video including VHS, DVD, hard drive, solid state, digital, or flash memory technology.
- (8) The term "wireless microphone" means a device worn by the officer or any other equipment used to record conversations between the officer and a second party and transmitted to the recording equipment.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Caddo Parish Sheriff, Shreveport City Marshal and all Caddo Parish Constables are asked to administratively implement the legislation herein contained.

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 Louisiana Governor, the President of the Louisiana Senate, the Speaker of the Louisiana House, members of the Caddo Parish state legislative delegation, the governing bodies of Shreveport, Blanchard, Oil City, Greenwood and Vivian and their mayors, the Caddo Parish Sheriff, Shreveport City Marshal and all Caddo Parish Constables.

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

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to englobo and adopt the following resolutions:*

- *Resolution No. 48 of 2020, a resolution supporting the federal government's efforts to rename military facilities named after Confederate soldiers and remove Confederate symbols from the Capitol through the National Defense Authorization Act and other means, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*
- *Resolution No. 49 of 2020, a resolution supporting the renaming of Fort Polk and to otherwise provide with respect thereto*

Mr. Epperson said that these resolutions are a fitting tribute on behalf of unifying our Nation.

Mr. Atkins stated that he will not be in support of these resolutions. He said that he will leave this one up to the Secretary of Defense.

Mr. Taliaferro gave the following statement:

The case for keeping the monuments as well as military installations has everything to do with preserving history in a way that museums never could. Our monuments serve to be a daily reminder of who we are as participants in our history, a part of our landscape. Their physical presence testifies to our challenges as a Nation, our mistakes and our triumphs. Our history at times has been horrific and embarrassing. So we stand in line with other countries who share the same or more horrific experiences on their own soil. History will attest that the beliefs, actions, and ideology of the Confederacy were on the wrong side of history. I have to remind myself that the soldiers of the North and South, my ancestors as well black and white, fought for no other reason but because their homes were being attacked. I'm concerned that if implemented that this could set the dangerous precedent for removal of any other symbols of our history based on unflattering participation in history. I would hate to believe that the memorial dedicated to men and women of questionable character could be removed as part of the moral police. Instead, maybe the monument representing our enemies or our past failures, maybe these monuments representing triumph of good over evil—maybe justice, redemption, and forgiveness.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Chavez**, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, *to vote on each resolution separately.*

Mr. Young gave the following statement:

I just wanted to read some of my opinion into the record so that people would understand why I'm voting where I am on this issue. I've studied history for many years. As a graduate student, particularly ancient history. And, and a lot of monuments histories are always partial, they're always based on partial facts because we're human. They're also always interpretations of partial facts. Everyone alive today has the power to make history too. Sometimes we make history by changing symbols of public honor. Sometimes we realize that honor conferred in the past, isn't honor truly deserved—changes we make to demonstrate but what we honor now is different from what some of our ancestors honored in the past are beneficial. History can't be changed, but it can be reinterpreted, and we can make it by changing and improving ourselves. If our monuments glorify wrongs without teaching that they were wrong, in terms of our values today, then they aren't really educational or beneficial. The best way to reassess what we value, and honor it properly, is to practice love for our neighbors, by putting ourselves in their shoes. When a neighbor tells us that they're injured by something to put ourselves in their shoes and try to feel the injury ourselves. This is the teaching that I was raised with in the church, and it's the guidance that I feel when I pray about this topic, and I want you all to understand that, as I vote. Thank you.

Mr. Burrell said that he originally had mixed feelings. Some of his ancestors were Confederate soldiers, and some fought against the Confederacy. He also said that if you do not understand and appreciate history, it will definitely be repeated. Mr. Burrell said that this part of history is not something to continue to glorify. He also said that there are “so many who use it more for oppression than they do to glorify”. He believes that this monument should be placed in a museum, not in front of a building of justice or a park that is shared by all people.

Mr. Epperson emphasized that both Resolution No. 48 and Resolution No. 49 came out of a bipartisan committee in the Senate.

**Call for the Question by Mr. Cawthorne**, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Cawthorne, Chavez, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jackson, Johnson, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (12). NAYS: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0). ABSENT: (0).

At this time, Mr. Chavez's substitute motion failed, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, Taliaferro, and Young (6). NAYS: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Johnson (6). ABSTAIN: None (0). ABSENT: None (0).

At this time, Mr. Epperson's original motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, Johnson, and Young (7). NAYS: Commissioners Atkins, Chavez, Hopkins, Lazarus, and Taliaferro (5). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

#### RESOLUTION NO. 48 OF 2020

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO RENAME MILIARY FACILITIES NAMED AFTER CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS AND REMOVE CONFEDERATE SYMBOLS FROM THE CAPITOL THROUGH THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT AND OTHER MEANS, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO

WHEREAS, as many as ten military bases and other Defense Department property are named for Confederate military personnel; and

WHEREAS, as many as eleven statutes of Confederate personnel remain in the Capitol Complex; and

WHEREAS, recent, legislative efforts have been proposed to rename the military bases and Department of Defense property and to remove the Confederate statutes from the Capitol Complex; and

WHEREAS, this legislation has been proposed because it is seen as an obstacle to diversity and inclusion in the military and as painful reminders of a war that tore the United States apart.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that the Caddo Parish Commission hereby supports the federal government's efforts to rename military facilities named after Confederate personnel and remove Confederate symbols from the Capitol through the National Defense Authorization Act and other means.

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 House and the President of the Senate.

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

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 49 OF 2020**

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RENAMING OF FORT POLK AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, as many as ten military bases and other Defense Department property are named for Confederate military personnel; and

WHEREAS, as many as eleven statutes of Confederate personnel remain in the Capitol Complex; and

WHEREAS, recent, legislative efforts have been proposed to rename the military bases and Department of Defense property and to remove the Confederate statutes from the Capitol Complex; and

WHEREAS, this legislation has been proposed because it is seen as an obstacle to diversity and inclusion in the military and as painful reminders of a war that tore the United States apart.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, legal and regular session convened that if Fort Polk in Louisiana is renamed, the Caddo Parish Commission hereby urges and requests the federal government to rename the facility after a Vietnam War era Louisiana Medal of Honor Recipient.

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 House and the President of the Senate.

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

At this time, the Commission moved onto confirming appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Commission is to select one from the following candidates: Alan Berry, Huey Horn, and James Carstensen. The term will expire April 30, 2025.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to reappoint Mr. Alan Berry to the Zoning Board of Appeals.*

Mr. Atkins stated that he appreciates Mr. Berry's service, but he has been on the board for twelve years. He feels that there are others who are capable of serving and feels that are currently sufficient skills on the board to allow the board to move forward in a positive way.

**Substitute motion by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Young, *to reappoint Mr. Alan Berry and appoint Mr. Huey Horn for the unexpired term left by Mr. Robert Baucum on the Zoning Board of Appeals.*

**Point of Clarification by Mr. Johnson.** Mr. Johnson stated that the second vacancy was not advertised. Attorney Frazier agreed with Mr. Johnson's point of clarification that sufficient notice was not given for the second vacancy.

**Point of Information by Mr. Hopkins.** Mr. Hopkins stated that at the last meeting, a resignation letter was submitted and noticed. Mr. Johnson explained that this agenda is only for one vacancy, not two. Attorney Frazier said that this agenda only advertised for one vacancy. Mr. Hopkins explained that it has been the tradition of the Commission to vote on all candidates, not make a motion for one. Mr. Jackson pointed out that the body normally votes to set the rules, but there is no standard. At this time, Mr. Jackson withdrew his motion.

Mr. Chavez said that there are three names, and each Commissioner receives one vote. They will start with Alan Berry and continue down the list, and the plurality will be appointed to the board.

Mr. Alan Berry received six (6) AYE votes: Commissioners Burrell, Cawthorne, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Jackson, and Johnson.

Mr. Huey Horn received three (3) AYE votes: Commissioners Atkins, Hopkins, and Lazarus.

Mr. James Carstensen received three (3) AYE votes: Commissioners Chavez, Taliaferro, and Young.

At this time, Mr. Alan Berry was reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

It was **moved by Mr. Lazarus**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that Mr. Miles Turner, Mr. Jackie Tipton, Mr. Charles R. Merriman, Mr. Howard Clayton, and Mrs. Alma Petteway be reappointed to the Caddo Parish Sewerage District No. 8 Board; term to expire June 19, 2024. Motion carried by acclamation.*

#### **COMMUNIQES AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Mr. Jackson wished all of the fathers a Happy Father's Day. He also thanked the Air National Guard for their support during the COVID-19 testing. He also thanked Chancellor Pierre for coming to the meeting today and providing and update on the law school.

He also emphasized that "civility is always better than to humiliate somebody". He also encouraged everyone to continue to wear masks and keep social distancing to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus. He also wished everyone a Happy Juneteenth.

- Mr. Cawthorne also wished everyone a Happy Juneteenth weekend. He also said that President Trump will be speaking in Tulsa, OK this weekend. He said that it is also the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tulsa Riots. He explained that this occurred on Memorial Day weekend, May 31, 1921. The two main characters in this whole drama is a shoeshine guy by the name of Dick Rowland, and a white 17 year old elevator operator by the name of Sarah Page. Mr. Rowland is an African-American man who was accused of assaulting Ms. Page and taken into custody. Rumors began to circulate throughout the city, and both white and black mobs began forming outside of the courthouse. A shot is fired and the white mob start rampaging through the black neighborhoods burning down homes. This neighborhood is a 40 block neighborhood, so it left thousands of people homeless. There were also about 191 businesses in the neighborhood that were destroyed. Because of the denim of racism. It has taken 100 years for that city to recover from the result of losing all of those businesses.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts wished all of the fathers a Happy Father's Day. She also wished everyone a Happy Juneteenth. She also encouraged all to wear masks and practice social distancing. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that this pandemic is not over.

She also would like to comment on something that was said earlier as elected officials. She said that sometimes, citizens speak to the Commissioners as if they should not be treated as citizens first. She said that they deserve respect and should not be spoken to in a way of offense. She agreed with Mr. Jackson and asked that everyone treat everyone with civility.

- Mr. Atkins wanted to point out that he would have been supportive of Resolution No. 43 if the bipartisan language was added to the title. He said that he could have gotten behind it if the resolution had a little more work.

- Mr. Epperson thanked Mr. Alan Clark for all of his hard work on situation on Alma Street. He also reminded everyone that June 25<sup>th</sup> was the beginning of the Korean War. He expressed appreciation for all those who served during the Korean War.

He also mentioned that COVID-19 is real. His mother contracted the virus, but was cleared this weekend. He encouraged all to mask up and stay safe.

- Mrs. Gage-Watts also announced that June 19<sup>th</sup> is Sickle Cell Awareness Day.
- Mr. Taliaferro gave the following statement:

My fellow commissioners and citizens of Caddo first and foremost I want to know that I love my country I think it's the greatest on Earth, and I believe we are God's chosen nation to do His will and work wherever necessary. I love the people of Caddo. I'm proud of my profession in law enforcement and proud of my military service and offer no apologies for that steadfast love and pride in both professions. And those of you that know me know that I would protect and treat you and your family as my own. Not many would say that in this day and time, but you see, that's who we are as first responders: we're running towards danger, not away and protecting, not hurting. The violence I've witnessed around our great country hurts and disappoints—and yes at some level it angers me. The violence perpetuated by a small cowardly finite group of extremists and anarchists, at the very least in my opinion, hijacked much of the passion, the soul, the peaceful intent of well-meaning protesters' voices of all races that marched against systemic racism. This caused us to focus more on the melee than the message in my service as a law enforcement officer I have mourned along the innocent victims' families who suffered an untimely loss of a loved one at the hands of their attacker. And I tell you today that I also mourn for those families who suffered similar untimely tragedies and loss of a loved one at the hands of members of our law enforcement community who exercise not only poor judgment, but a willful disregard towards the welfare and the treatment of their fellow human beings, a child of God. The actions of a few—those anarchists embedded among our peaceful protesters and those undesirables within the Brotherhood of law enforcement have cast more than just the dark shadow. But contempt and hate for both groups, you know under our rights as a free people I applaud support and defend the rights of our citizens to peacefully protest any injustice which affects their quality of life and prevents their pursuit of happiness, but I condemn and would seek prosecution to the fullest extent of the law of those who, through their own selfish hate believe that burning another citizen's business, stealing or damaging another person's property, harming or killing the innocent, brings resolution and understanding to any cause, especially in justice because of one's color. In closing, my fellow Commissioners and Caddo residents, we are in a wilderness that just as a blind man depends on his service dog to guide him around the obstacles in his path, we need God to do the same for us. James McManus of Word of God ministries made this point on a Sunday Service. It says when a man hates another man; takes arms against another man or his family, that man doesn't have a problem with the other man, he has a problem with God. For if that man loved God, there would be no hate or malice against his fellow man. God wants us to kneel before him and ask that we are allowing him to lead us out of the wilderness. I love you all, make it a great night.

There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

  
Michelle Nations  
Deputy Commission Clerk

  
Mario Chavez  
President