



# CITY OF KENNER

## PRESS RELEASE

**MICHAEL S. YENNI**  
MAYOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 15, 2015**

### KENNER'S BATTLE AGAINST BLIGHT CONTINUES: FORMER VETERANS BOULEVARD HOTEL DEMOLISHED

**Kenner, LA.** – Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni on Wednesday announced the demolition of the Airport Inn and Suites, 1300 Veterans Blvd., the vacant former hotel on Veterans Boulevard that had triggered a number of complaints from neighbors.

The demolition was completed on Tuesday, about two months after Trauth's restaurant, 3700 Williams Blvd., was torn down. The demolitions of both commercial properties were privately arranged by the property owners, said Code Enforcement Director Aimee Vallot.

"Commercial blight is just as great a concern as residential blight," Yenni said. "I am pleased the owners of the properties in both of these cases were responsible landowners, and I am particularly excited about the development of at least two new hotels on the Airport Inn property."

The owner of the Airport Inn property has said he intends to construct a new, multi-building hotel complex on the site, which is extremely close to the new North Terminal of the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. Construction on the \$650 million North Terminal project is expected to begin this summer and be completed by 2018.

Once city officials confirmed the private demolition of the Airport Inn and the date was scheduled, the Kenner Police Department scheduled a SWAT exercise the day before the hotel was torn down.

"It was a good opportunity for some SWAT training of forced entry, among other things," Kenner Police Department spokesman Lt. Brian McGregor said. "With the property being vacant, there was no concern about repairing any damage from the exercise."

Two officers assisted before the demolition, going through all of the rooms of the hotel to make sure no squatters were present, McGregor and Vallot said.

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