



**E. "BEN" ZAHN III**  
MAYOR

# CITY OF KENNER

## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Sept. 16, 2020**

### KENNER TO HOLD IN-PERSON CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AT PONTCHARTRAIN CENTER BEGINNING ON OCT. 1

**Kenner, LA.** – Kenner Mayor Ben Zahn announced today that in-person City Council meetings will take place at the Pontchartrain Center beginning on Thursday, Oct. 1, assuming no increase in the current COVID-19 infection rates in the city.

Throughout the pandemic, Mayor Zahn has been investigating ways to provide greater public access to City Council meetings while providing the highest level of safety precautions. "While our ultimate goal is to return to the City Council Chambers with full public access, it is important to work with guidelines from both the Governor and the State Fire Marshal's office," Zahn said. "Those guidelines are in place to protect us all."

The decision was made to move to online meetings beginning on April 17 and 10 Zoom meetings have been held since the pandemic started.

The Louisiana Department of Health regularly puts out census-level COVID-19 infection data that Kenner has been closely monitoring since April. The latest data will be released at noon on Sept. 30, and Zahn said city officials will review whether there has been an increase in the COVID-19 counts in the city.

Zahn said he has relied on the science and facts shared by leading state and federal organizations. "Ensuring that COVID-19 cases are not increasing at rates above the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the White House Coronavirus Task Force helps us to reduce the opportunity for the spread of this lethal disease."

Zahn noted that the plan to move to the Pontchartrain Center has been vetted over the last several months, and City Council members have been largely supportive throughout the entire process. "Like me, the Council recognizes that Zoom meetings have brought unprecedented participation from the public," Zahn

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said. "We will strive to maintain a high level of public participation as we transition back to in-person council meetings."

Unless the data indicates an increase in COVID-19, making in-person council meetings an unnecessary risk to public health, the Oct. 1 council meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Pontchartrain Center, 4545 Williams Blvd. Masks will be required and social distancing will be maintained throughout the meeting.

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