



CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

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Mayor

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Express Motor Vehicle Office Opens in Rivertown on Monday

Kenner, LA – The state Office of Motor Vehicles will open an express motor vehicle office in Kenner’s Rivertown on Monday morning, the only location for services such as driver’s license renewals on the east bank of the Mississippi River from St. John Parish to New Orleans.

“This is a huge win-win for the citizens of Kenner,” said Mayor Michael Yenni. “Having a motor vehicle office in the city is a tremendous convenience for our residents, but this office can also have an enormous impact on Rivertown by generating a steady flow of pedestrian traffic.”

Currently, the closest motor vehicle office to Kenner is either the location at 100 Veterans Boulevard in New Orleans or the office in Reserve. The new Kenner location is at 421 Williams Blvd., the site of the former Mardi Gras Museum.

The Rivertown office will handle most routine transactions, including renewing Class E and D driver’s licenses, issuing identification cards and handicap hang tags and plates and providing duplicates of registration certificates and titles.

Driver’s tests are not part of the services offered at express locations, state officials said.

Yenni said he pursued the idea of a Kenner office after learning the motor vehicle office on Airline Drive in Metairie would be closing. There was some concern about paying for the renovations and future maintenance and upkeep of the building, but that was solved with a \$3 fee that will be added on to every transaction at the Kenner location. The fee will be put into escrow and can only be used to pay for improvements, operating costs and maintenance to the building. Because anyone in New Orleans can use the Kenner office – it will be the closest location for many in Metairie and some living in parts of St. Charles Parish - the operation costs will spread equally among residents from throughout the metropolitan area.

Finding a way to turn the popular but underutilized Rivertown area into a more thriving cultural and historic district has been the mission of city officials since the 1970s. Yenni said a recent study concluded Rivertown is a potential jewel that can attract residents and business to locate in the city. The issue is getting more people to see what Rivertown has to offer.

Up to 1,500 people used the Airline Drive office daily before it closed and officials estimate Kenner can expect about one-third of that traffic each day to the Rivertown office.

“That’s putting 500 pedestrians each day into Rivertown – many who probably have never been there before,” Yenni said. “This could be a huge economic boost for Rivertown and the city.”

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