



E. "BEN" ZAHN III
MAYOR

CITY OF KENNER

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 20, 2018

DISCUSSIONS ONGOING REGARDING FUTURE OF KENNER HIGH SCHOOL

Kenner, LA. – Mayor Ben Zahn held a meeting today regarding the emergency stabilization of the Kenner High School after the devastating fire that occurred in the early hours of Monday morning. City representatives from the Administration, Planning, Public Works, Community Development, Emergency Management, Legal and Public Information met with structural engineers as well as historic restoration experts that were originally involved in discussions about the rehabilitation of the building.

The federal grants originally intended to stabilize the roof are being reviewed to determine if they can be repurposed. "It is good for our city that we have this opportunity to continue the development of this property," said Mayor Zahn.

"By the quick action of our Kenner Fire Department with the assistance of the Third District Volunteer Fire Department to extinguish the blaze quickly, while still keeping a portion of the school structure intact, we hope to continue rebuilding and putting this beautiful and significant building back into service of the public. While the investigation continues as to the cause of the fire, the momentum we had for putting this property back into public use is continuing."

There has been increased commercial interest in the city's building and planning for this site. "Though unfortunate in the way the opportunity was realized by people outside of Kenner, it still shows that we are moving forward for the City," Mayor Zahn said.

The city is looking to do some mortar and additional brick testing to determine if the brick and mortar were compromised by the heat.

Mayor Zahn continues to seek partners that want to focus on the historic spirit of the building. Emergency stabilization is the primary step at this point while engineers continue the evaluation of the structure's viability.

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