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MAYOR

## **CITY OF KENNER**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 2, 2015**

## **PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE 'BARBIE PINK CARPET GALA' SET FOR JUNE 9TH**

**Kenner, LA.** – If Barbie could, she would work to help youth and non-profit organizations in our area.

On June 9, best-selling author and success coach Havilah Malone will hold a press conference to announce a very special "Everybody Loves Barbie Pink Carpet Gala & Weekend of Giving," taking place in Kenner from June 26 to 28.

The press conference, set for 11 a.m. in the Press Room of Kenner Building D, 1610 Rev. Richard Wilson Drive, is scheduled to include local personality Jeff Crouere, her co-host for the weekend.

The first Barbie doll was displayed at the American Toy Fair in New York City in 1959, and kids have been fascinated and entranced ever since. Every 3 seconds, a Barbie is sold somewhere in the world.

For a young Havilah Malone, collecting Barbie dolls proved to be self-empowering. It took her away from a difficult world, and she hopes to do the same for girls facing lives of molestation and abuse.

"The launch of this movement is a dream come true," said Malone. "For nearly 20 years I suffered in silence from my experience of being molested as a child. I had very low self-worth. I started collecting Barbie's because they gave me a glimpse into a world I wanted, one full of confidence and possibility. Through my personal journey of development I have been able to break out of my box of silence and now help others do the same. It's about taking our power back and living life on our terms."

The Barbie Pink Carpet Gala is packed with events to raise money for worthwhile causes.

**June 26** – Pink Carpet Gala from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza New Orleans Airport Hotel, 2829 Williams Blvd., Kenner. Malone's collection of 300 Barbies will be auctioned throughout the night, along with raffles and other special items, including acting lessons from Denzel Washington. Malone and Crouere will honor Sally-Ann Roberts, Peggy Scott Laborde, Reverend Patricia Watson and Debbie Dillehay for their work inspiring young women and others in our community.

**June 27** – Community Service Project at Kenner's Veterans Park, 1801 Williams Blvd. The cleanup features Mrs. Louisiana, a DJ and drinks and snacks.

**June 28** – Invitation-only private Tea Meet and Greet from 12 to 3 p.m., featuring etiquette coach Mary-Ann Francois.

All proceeds from this “Weekend of Giving” will benefit the North Rampart community Center, Ms. Hillary’s Kids, Back 2 Basics Sports Foundation and the Napoleon Hill Foundation.

Tickets and sponsorships are still available. For additional information, go to [www.everybodylovesbarbie.com](http://www.everybodylovesbarbie.com) or call (504) 782-5633.