



CITY OF KENNER

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

EDMOND J. "ED" MUNIZ
MAYOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MUNIZ SUSPENDS CITY INSURANCE CONTRACT WITH THT **City to Conduct Probe & Await Result of Feds Probe**

Kenner Mayor Ed Muniz said Monday he has suspended the city's agreement with insurance broker THT Group pending the outcome of a city investigation and possible results of a federal probe looking at the relationship between the firm's owners and public agencies in Jefferson Parish.

Muniz said he was unaware of any connection between THT Group and Lagniappe Industries, both owned by Jefferson Parish Administrative Assistant Tim Whitmer and his wife Dawn Whitmer and West Jefferson Medical Center, which is owned by the parish. His main contact at the time THT was hired by Kenner was former Parish President Tim Coulon who is an insurance broker in the private sector.

Muniz said he was not aware of those alliances when Kenner's health insurance business was placed with THT, adding that the city got a better health plan with Blue Cross; that it was a two-level plan; and that it was cheaper than the previous one for city employees.

"We are currently in a slow time of our fiscal year regarding city workers' health insurance and can handle in-house whatever needs that require dealing directly with Blue Cross," he said. Kenner's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

Muniz said because of the speculation swirling around THT and Lagniappe and the federal investigation in Jefferson Parish, it makes sense to "step back and take a deeper look at what THT and Lagniappe are doing for Kenner. "If it turns out that a change needs to be made, we will make it," he said.

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