



PRESS RELEASE

City of Kenner

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Kenner Mayor Mike Glaser Looks Back on First Year And Making Headway On Campaign Promise To Reform City Government

Kenner, LA. – (July 10, 2023) July 1st marked one year since Mayor Mike Glaser took office, and the administration is pleased to share some notable accomplishments made within the past year.

The results of the March 2022 election were clear as 75% of voters voiced the need for significant change in Kenner. Upon taking office, Mayor Glaser realigned executive leadership to follow the city's charter and tasked his staff to conduct a thorough reviews of the city's contracts as part of his campaign pledge to "get back to basics," revitalize the city of Kenner, and regain public trust in local government.

Within two weeks of taking office, the Glaser administration began the process of streamlining city operations. This mission started by identifying city owned locations that were conducive to easy public access as well as department operations. The first major move included identifying a convenient space where all necessary public meetings could be held. Heritage Hall became the new home for Council meetings and other public meetings, with the infrastructure in place to stream Council meetings in real time as well as drive traffic towards Kenner's historic business district. Renovations continued to move eight departments as well as the Council Clerk's office to more secure and properly equipped workspaces by the end of November 2022.

The relocation of city operations from the former Macy's building to these city-owned locations have not only been a significant step forward in exhibiting moral stewardship of city funds by saving thousands of dollars each month in operational costs, but supported the initiative to improve government efficiency, streamline communication and implement new protocols that better serve the public.

Opening and improving communication channels also lead the priority list. The city's website had been untouched for over 10 years. A complete overhaul provided an improved level of convenience when Kenner launched its revamped site in April offering easier accessibility to city-wide events and government documents such as council agendas, bids and contracts. In addition, the new website's enhanced security features and the ability to view the website in 32 different languages helps to ensure that conducting business and connecting with the city is safe, convenient and user friendly.

Ensuring the current salaries and benefits for city employees are appropriately funded has also been a priority. Of particular focus this year, the Glaser administration addressed and corrected the Kenner Fire Department's promotional pay and settled a long-standing lawsuit with the Firefighters Retirement System of Louisiana. They continue to acknowledge funding shortfalls that need to be addressed in order to retain the quality of fire service that Kenner residents have become accustomed to. A millage increase for dedicated fire department funding will be presented for public vote in November.



The relaunch and completion of capital projects was also a top priority. To name a few, the administration is proud to say that the West Esplanade Ave. and Duncan Canal improvements are officially complete after months of delays, as well as phase 1 of the Lincoln Manor drainage improvements, and the restriping of major thoroughfares such as Joe Yenni Blvd. and Loyola Dr. Traffic flow improvements have also been completed along Williams Blvd between I-10 and Vintage Dr. In addition, the complete renovation of 7 of the 9 railroads crossings in South Kenner also took place this year, with compete rebuilds of the Williams Blvd. and Hanson crossings to occur over the months to come.

The city's gyms, parks and recreation facilities are essential to our community, and foster positive relations that help prepare our youth to become productive members of our society. When Mayor Glaser took office in July of 2022, he made reopening the city's recreation facilities a priority for his administration. Most recreation facilities were shuttered during the COVID-19 pandemic, and a number of Kenner's gyms and fields remained closed due to damage from Hurricane Ida. During his inaugural year, 7 of the city's 9 gyms have been repaired with operations resuming, and ball fields have been refurbished allowing the return of outdoor activities to all parks and playgrounds.

In addition to expanding recreation programs and free play offerings, a significant amount of progress has been made across the city of Kenner's parks and recreation facilities. Among the improvements are visual and maintenance renovations at various facilities such as field and press box rehabilitation, lighting repairs, major mechanical repairs, as well as the installation of irrigation lines, outdoor fencing, backstop netting and flooring. In addition, with the help of funds provided from Jefferson Parish allocated by District 4 Councilman Impastato, the Kenner boat launch is finally receiving long overdue repairs and should open at the end of this summer.

Celebrating culture and community has also been significant during this past year. The city hosted inaugural events such as The Hispanic Heritage Festival in October and Food Truck Fest in November. The Glaser administration also brought back the Italian Heritage Festival in April and the Rivertown Farmer's Market in May, favorable community events for residents and visitors alike.

Attracting new businesses and ensuring Kenner is a business -friendly climate has been a top priority to keep Kenner's economy healthy. The city has partnered with JEDCO to help with business retention and expansion, and has been pleased to welcome back Kenner business staples such as Sylvester's and The Ground Pat'i. Kenner's business climate also remains strong and desirable, as 141 new businesses opened this year.

The administration has also recognized the importance of expediting and supporting the Treasure Chest expansion. Treasure Chest revenues contribute to significant funding for Kenner's budget; moreover, this growth provides the opportunity to expand Laketown as an entertainment destination and provide a significant, positive economic impact for the city.

"These accomplishments have been possible due to relationships with city council members, representatives at both the state and federal level, and most importantly the hard work of our dedicated employees. Lastly, maintaining an open dialogue with our constituency, our Kenner residents and business owners, has been key to making these significant strides," said Mayor Mike Glaser. "While we recognize that there is still much work to do, I'm proud of the notable progress made and look forward to making more impactful changes to advance the city of Kenner overall."

To stay connected, and follow the progress, be sure to follow the city of Kenner on social media, view the city's public access channel, or visit our website at Kenner.La.Us

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