

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Contact:****Katharyn DeVille****Visit Shreveport-Bossier****Vice President of Marketing & Communications****kdeville@visitshrevestportbossier.org****Office: 318-222-9391 ext. 116****Mobile: 214-986-4155****October 24, 2023****Shreveport-Bossier Mardi Gras Parades to Roll in 2024 with Enhanced Security Measures**

SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY, LA -- Shreveport-Bossier is gearing up for Mardi Gras 2024, with both the Krewe of Centaur and the Krewe of Gemini parades confirmed to roll along their full routes from downtown Shreveport to East Kings Highway Park. Mayor Arceneaux and the City of Shreveport, in collaboration with the Krewes, Visit Shreveport-Bossier and Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser, have worked diligently to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all attendees.

Both the Krewe of Centaur Parade and the African American History Parade are set for the same day, February 3, 2024. This presented a challenge to the City of Shreveport to provide enough law enforcement resources. Because Mardi Gras events pour millions into the economy and bring hundreds of thousands of visitors to the area, Visit Shreveport-Bossier officials asked area leaders to come together to forge a solution and find additional law enforcement personnel for the parades. Several auxiliary members of law enforcement will be called to duty throughout Mardi Gras. This dedicated group includes police officers, sheriff's deputies, parole officers, and private security officers.

Mayor Tom Arceneaux expressed confidence in the safety measures being put into place and emphasized the city's dedication to a successful Mardi Gras. "We are committed to ensuring the safety of our residents and visitors during this Mardi Gras season," said Arceneaux.

Mardi Gras delivers a massive boost to the Shreveport-Bossier economy, each year. In 2023, the direct impact of five area parades was estimated to be more than \$10 million, and indirect spending and media value raised the total economic impact to more than \$19 million.

Stacy Brown, president/CEO of Visit Shreveport-Bossier, highlighted the importance of collaborating to make these parades possible.

"Our Mardi Gras krewes are a gift to our area," said Brown. "Last year, nearly half of the Gemini parade goers were from out of town and more than 40 percent for Centaur. Our partnership

with local leaders underscores our commitment to fostering vibrant cultural experiences in Shreveport-Bossier."

The Krewes of Centaur and Gemini also shared enthusiasm and gratitude to all involved parties for their efforts in preserving the tradition.

"We are thrilled that the Krewe of Centaur will roll along its full route on its regular date," said Ricky Bridges, Krewe of Centaur captain. "We appreciate Mayor Arceneaux and Chief Smith for working with us and look forward to delivering an unforgettable Mardi Gras experience for everyone."

The Krewe of Gemini is also grateful to be able to parade along the full route. "Gemini always puts on a show, and it's so much fun for the crowds and the Krewe," said Patrick Gallagher, Krewe of Gemini Parade co-captain. "By working together in a timely manner, we are able to come to an agreeable conclusion which will provide a safe, enjoyable event for all."

On Sat., February 3, 2024, The African American History Parade will begin at 11:00 a.m. At 2:45 p.m., The Krewe of Centaur Parade will start rolling on the Clyde Fant Parkway. The following Sat., February 10, 2024, The Krewe of Gemini Parade will start at 2:45 p.m. Mardi Gras day is Tues., Feb. 13, 2024.

For information on more 2024 Shreveport-Bossier Mardi Gras parades, please visit ShreveportMardiGras.com.

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