TOWN OF WASHINGTON

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WASHINGTON, LOUISIANA

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James Olivier, Mayor

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Chief of Police
Annette Rosette
Town Clerk

December 6, 2019

There has been some publicity about the removal of the basketball hoops at the court at the Washington Recreational Center (Brickhouse) located at 705 S. Bridge St. Some of the information is inaccurate and misleading. The following information is provided to correct the record.

1. The basketball court is not a public park and is connected to a Town owned building that is leased by the Town to third parties. The court is part of the property that is leased.
2. The court has become a gathering place, used well into the night, disturbing neighbors, and in contravention of the curfew ordinances of the Town: **ORDINANCE NO. 2 OF 1993** and **ORDINANCE NO. 2 OF 2000** , excerpts noted here with full text available for viewing at the Town of Washington website:

ORDINANCE NO. 2 OF 1993

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1 OF 1983 ESTABLISHING A NOCTURNAL CURFEW FOR PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF SEVENTEEN (17) YEARS IN THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON WITH EXCEPTIONS THERETO AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

SECTION ONE: Amending and repealing Section B. of Ordinance 1 of 1983 in its entirety, so that Section B. of Ordinance 1 of 1983 shall read as follows:

B. Nocturnal Curfew for Minors:

Unless accompanied by his custodian, it shall be unlawful for any minor, whether on foot or in a vehicle, to wander without destination, or to travel, loiter, stroll, play, traverse, or remain in or upon any public street, road, highway, avenue, alley or other public place between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., beginning Sunday through Thursday nights and lasting into the next morning; and between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. on Friday nights, Saturday nights, or on nights of legal holidays, except as to New Year's Day this restriction commences at 1:00 a.m. until 5:00 a.m. This restriction shall not apply to any minor who is engaged in an emergency mission, nor shall it apply to any minor who needs to remain in public to perform a reasonable errand.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. To file a complaint of discrimination, Write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD)
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

ORDINANCE NO. 2 OF 2000

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, IMPOSING A DUSK TO DAWN CURFEW FOR ALL PERSONS UTILIZING ANY PROPERTY OWNED OR LEASED BY THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF.

SECTION ONE. The use of and/or entry upon any property owned or leased by the Town of Washington for recreational purposes between dusk and dawn shall be prohibited unless a Special Permit is approved by the Mayor and issued by the Clerk of the Town of Washington.

SECTION TWO: Any person who violates this Ordinance shall be charged with trespassing on recreational property owned or leased by the Town of Washington; and, on the first (1st) offense, shall be subject to a fine of not more than Three Hundred and No/100 ($300.00) Dollars, and/or imprisonment of not more than twenty (20) days, or both; and, on the second (2nd) offense, shall be subject to a fine of not more than Five Hundred and No/200 ($500.00) Dollars, and/or imprisonment of not more than thirty (30) days, or both.

3. The use of the property by citizens and visitors came to the attention of the Town Administration through complaints by neighbors.
4. Requests not to use the property as a public park and outside of curfew hours were ignored when conveyed by Town officials.

While the police had authority to arrest those participants under 18 years of age, the decision was made to remove the hoops until it was determined if the court was insured for its use as a public space and adequate Notices could be posted to remind citizens of the current ordinances and the need to be respectful of neighbors.

There is no intention to deprive any Washington citizens or visitors accompanied by Washington citizens to use the court. The goal of the removal was to allow the administration to ensure the Town was adequately insured for the current use and to establish a method of conveying current ordinances by Notice.

The ordinances were clearly passed by the Council to address this very issue. All citizens of the town should be allowed private enjoyment of their homes in the later evening hours.

My goal as Mayor is to open and maintain all facilities available, for all to enjoy, that the Town can afford, and to enforce the ordinances already on the Town books.

The suggestion the Town is attempting to limit services that can be supported by the Town is simply false.

James Oliver

James Oliver, Mayor Town of Washington