



CONTACT:
Jamie Angelle
337-291-8012

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PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Chief of Minority Affairs Carlos Harvin Works With Community to Find Solutions

Our hearts are heavy today as we mourn the passing of two giants of the Civil Rights Movement: Rev. C.T. Vivian and Congressman John Lewis. These men stood up to lead our nation at a time when America was struggling to grant the full rights of citizenship to African-American people.

John Lewis is remembered for almost losing his life at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. He was leading a march so that Black people could have the right to vote. He survived those times and went on to serve with distinction in the US House of Representatives, representing the State of Georgia. Congressman Lewis leaves us a legacy that we must never forget. His wisdom guides us in our day and in these times when we face many challenges as a nation, and even here in Lafayette.

Our Mayor-President, Josh Guillory, announced yesterday that due to ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent impact on sales tax revenue, all Departments within Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) were forced to make cuts. Unfortunately, four recreation centers within the Parks and Recreation Department will be closed. While these buildings will be closed until a solution to reopen them is found, the parks in which they are located are open.

Our Mayor-President has shared with me that he would like to see all four of these centers reopened. By using innovative and creative solutions, we can upgrade and transform the Domingue Center, Heymann Park, the J. Carlton James Center and the George Bowles Activity Center at Paul Davis Park.

We can improve the physical structures of these recreation centers and provide exciting new programs for our children, youth and families. These changes, however, will require us to take bold new steps to find new sources of funding so that these dreams can come true.

We will need to look at options like: naming rights for some of our centers; public-private partnerships, grant-funding, corporate and non-profit partnerships. LCG welcomes your ideas, your support and your partnership as we come together to re-create our Parks and Recreation

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