

2019

REPORT ON THE  
STATE OF  
THE CITY-PARISH  
ADDRESS



Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome

# Broome Administration’s Year Two Accomplishments

During her second year in office, Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome and her administration made momentous progress toward delivering an East Baton Rouge Parish that is a place of peace, prosperity and progress. With a focus on infrastructure, quality of life, health, and safety, Mayor-President Broome is implementing innovative, data-driven strategies and bold solutions to advancing our City-Parish.

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## **Infrastructure**

The effective collaboration at the local, state and federal levels has resulted in the following investments:

- \$912 million included in the MovEBR Infrastructure Enhancement and Traffic Mitigation Plan
- \$360 million for Interstate-10 widening
- \$343 million for the completion of the Comite River Diversion Canal
- \$255 million for enhancements to 5 major tributaries in the Amite River Basin
- \$63 million in continued sewer upgrades.

These projects total well over \$2 billion in infrastructure investments for our citizens.

## **MovEBR**

In December 2018, 61% of voters said YES to move East Baton Rouge forward.

Capacity improvements of our highways, improved corridors to help improve all modes of transportation and safety of the public. Community Enhancements such as sidewalks improvements, lighting for these improvements and beautification projects along these areas. Parish wide signalization to improve traffic movement and save time, money and improve safety.

Creation of 3,000 new jobs for greater opportunity and economic outlook.

Currently working on the RFQ for a program manager this month, and the hiring of a program manager will take place around the time the tax begins to be collected in April.

In 2019, Mayor Broome will work to prioritize the many projects on the list to get moving on projects that can get underway in the short-term.

One of the first improvements drivers that residents can look forward to is the upgrade and synchronization of traffic signals along major corridors in the parish.

## **Roadway Improvements**

Completed the replacement of 6 bridges, as well as plans for 3 bridges that will begin construction in 2019.

- East Garfield Street
- East chimes Street
- Taylor Street
- Silverleaf Avenue
- Flanacher Road
- Lemon Road

Directed and completed major repairs to 20 bridges within our Parish, and commenced design for 6 bridges to be replaced.

Completed construction of major Street projects

- Jones Creek Road (Tiger Bend –Coursey)
- Goodwood Boulevard Pavement Repair( Lobdell to Airline)
- North Acadian Drive Pavement Repair (Government Street-Mohican Street)

Completed and commenced construction of major pedestrian improvements

- City Hall Plaza Renovations
- Mississippi Levee Multi-Use Path (Phase III)

Began work on the EBR Parish Master Drainage Plan. Currently working on providing projects to reduce flood risk and damages to infrastructure to secure federal dollars for improvements to address those problems. Have been approved for over \$100 million in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds.

Commenced work on the Self-assessment of ADA accessibility to public right of ways. Funding has been included in the Move EBR Program to address this critical area.

Currently working with the Corp of Engineers to complete the survey, soil borings and modeling of Bayou Fountain, Wards Creek, Jones Creek, Beaver Bayou and Blackwater Bayou. Approved for \$255 million federal funds to make drainage improvements to these channels. Clearing and snagging work and widening will be parts of the program.

Currently working with the Corp of Engineers, Amite River Basin Commission, and LA DOTD to move forward with the next phase of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project. This channel is approximately 12 miles long and will provide flood protection for areas of the parish that drain into Amite River Basin.

## **Updated Facilities**

Completed installation of a stand-by generator system for the Public Safety Complex using grant funding.

Completed renovation of the City Hall Plaza area, winning numerous awards in 2018.

Renovation of the lighting, landscape and fountain area of the Riverfront Plaza Area.

Provided a future new location to expand services for the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge.

Provide a sole use future facility for the fire museum for Baton Rouge Fire Department.

Completed the design for the complete renovation of the Rasing Canes River Center Theater.

Repurposed a blighted facility into a functioning EMS Station #12, which was dedicated to honor Councilmember Buddy Amoroso.

Renovations performed at the Greenwell Springs and Jones Creek Road branched libraries. Also upgraded the exterior lighting to more efficient fixtures at the Baker, Scotlandville, Delmont Grades, Zachary and Eden Park library branches.

Began upgrading lighting in facilities to LED lighting to reduce utility cost and also reduce maintenance cost. Savings of 25% and 35% are anticipated in utility savings as well as increases lighting for safety concerns. Plan to expand to our Community Centers, Police Stations, EMS Stations and other facilities.

New facilities being constructed and renovated will be required to strive towards LEED Certification. Began analyzing all Cooperate Endeavor Agreements to assure the City's best interest is being carried out. Updating the CEAs as required.

Relocating agencies in facilities in preparation of selling or renting the vacant space

Implementing a "Last Out – Lights Out" campaign to encourage City-Parish agencies to turn their lights out when they leave each evening, lowering our energy consumption and maintenance costs.

## **Strengthening the Quality of Life**

### **Economic Development**

East Baton Rouge has seven major economic development wins in 2018 in a diverse set of industries, adding over 1,100 jobs to the local economy.

Last year Ready Shield Solution closed a property on Choctaw Drive, in NBR and is set to open a 300 job advanced manufacturing facility in the near future.

Exxon-Mobil received critical local approval for a potential half-billion expansion at its BRPO facility, and is poised to make an official announcement in 2019.

Baton Rouge became the first city in LA to be home to Top Golf, which brought \$17 million in investment and added 403 jobs.

Downtown continues to thrive with construction, including in 2019 the Historic Hotel Lincoln renovation into residential units on Eddie Robinson Ave. and on Florida Street, the Chase South Tower Residential renovation of the office tower into mixed use.

Thanks to collaboration with the North Baton Rouge Blue Ribbon Commission, Mayor Broome is pleased to announce Open Health Care Clinic will now expand its services to the former surgical center in Howell Place, reviving that building and economically infusing the area.

Capital Area Human Services will be transitioning from the Margaret Dumas facility to the former surgical center as well.

Additional work to prosper our community is taking place through our partnership with the EBR Parish Redevelopment Authority.

Under the leadership of Chris Tyson and the Board of Commissioners, the RDA is leading us towards a more equitable, resilient and vibrant Baton Rouge with projects such as the Government Street Depot, Ardendale and the soon to launch Plank Road Corridor Revitalization Project.

### **Blight**

Operation Fresh Start, which is a parish-wide litter abatement and beautification campaign, had many successful instalments this past year.

In 2018, City-Parish crews demolished 292 structures, an increase of 230% over 2017.

The Mayor-President is investing in resident capacity building in partnership with Mid City Redevelopment Alliance, our local chartered member of Neighbor Works.

The 2019 focus will be on providing intensive evidence-based training to develop more resident leaders that can power change in their own neighborhood.

On-going initiatives will continue to impact blight reduction and result in stronger neighborhood development.

## **Permit and Inspection**

In 2018, issued 842 commercial permits totaling \$512,456,182 in project valuation and collecting \$1,087,497 in permit fees.

Issued 3,207 residential permits totaling \$338,240,749.00 in project valuation and collecting \$1,103,031 in permit fees.

Issued over 18,000 occupancy and relocation permits for a collection of over \$1 million in permit fees.

Issued over 600 permits for pools, fences and signs totaling more than \$16 million in project valuation and over \$140,000 in permit fees.

Third Party Plan Review (TPPR) contract is in place and fully active.

Conducted 1,692 inspections for condemnations and demolished 292 condemned structures.

Conducted 4,951 blighted property inspections.

Cleaned up 39 blighted properties.

Processed 390 submittals for new subdivisions, Public Street, drainage and sewer improvements, pond/grading permits, minor subdivisions and exchanges of property.

Processed 1,474 Flood Zone Forms, 82 culvert permits, 147 Federal Flood Insurance Information letters, 12 Flood variance requests, 35 substantial damage letters to residents, 859 Right of Way permits, and 45 Sanitary Sewer connection permits.

## **Improving Public Health and Safety**

### **Public Safety**

In 2018, Baton Rouge ushered in a new era when Chief Murphy Paul was sworn in as Police Chief of our great city.

There was an improved relationship between the community and law enforcement, there was an 18% decrease in killings in the city and an increase in our homicide clearance rate last year.

Mayor Broome stands committed to making sure our police department is advancing 21st century policing practices.

Baton Rouge officers participated in more than 300 community events to engage the community in a positive way and build trust. They are working to better understand the community they serve.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

Mayor Broome's vision for recovery planning is to follow guidelines set forth by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF).

MOHSEP hosted the Recovery Plan Kick-Off Meeting in an effort to unite community leaders, stakeholders, and residents to unite as a "Whole Community," and document an organizational framework that established our local recovery plans.

In accordance with the NDRF, subcommittees were established among the different Recovery Support Functions (RSF):

- Community Planning and Capacity Building
- Economic
- Health and Social Services
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Natural and Cultural Resources

Local, State, and Federal community partners are represented on the 6 different RSF Subcommittees.

Partnered with Federal Emergency Management Agency's, Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Louisiana Office of Community Development, and the Center of Planning Excellence to coordinate planning efforts.

Coordinated a Future Resiliency Planning Video which was viewed by over 1,500 people on Red Stick Ready social media.



Held future resiliency planning public outreach meetings in the Parish to gauge public comment on topics of recovery and resiliency.

Continues to seek partnerships for incorporation into the Recovery Plan. The All-Hazards Recovery Plan is currently being drafted and anticipated to be adopted by the Metropolitan Council in early 2019.

In 2018, submitted 27 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program applications for projects to include but not limited to, drainage, acquisitions, elevations, retrofitting, and critical infrastructure.

Submitted an application for the Flood Mitigation Assistance grant for FY2018 to acquire 41 properties. Received application approval for the Flood Mitigation Assistance grant for FY2017 for 11 properties.

Held two Parish Emergency Management Advisory Committee (PEMAC) to coordinate determination for projects the State Homeland Security Grant Program. MOHSEP obtained approval to use funds to update and upgrade Emergency Operations Center (EOC) technology.

Launched a new, user-friendly Red Stick Ready website to replace the former site.

Successfully demonstrated excellence in the 2018 FEMA graded River Bend Nuclear Station Biennial Exercise in which East Baton Rouge Parish passed with no findings.

Along with 23 Local, State, and Federal agencies hosted Red Stick Ready Day at the Mall of Louisiana to promote individual, family, and community readiness. The event reached over 700 members of the community.

Participated in various other public outreach events to include but not limited to, the City-Parish Health Fair, National Night Out Against Crime, Senior Life Expo, and the Disaster Preparedness Resource Fair.

Continues to provide presentations for the community to increase preparedness. In 2018, MOHSEP reached 612 members of State and Local government agencies, private businesses, schools, and residents.

Continues to maintain the StormReady community award through the National Weather Service (NWS) and is currently working on reaccreditation for 2019.

## **Emergency Medical Services**

Call volume estimated in 2018 is 63,124 (173/day). 911 Call center estimated 311,832 calls answered.

Featured in a very popular national television show NightWatch on A&E network. EMA paramedics and EMTs were followed by camera crews as they provided medical care to the citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Integrated with LSU Family Medicine to provide physicians with the program. Also incorporated social worker in the program as well to work with the mental health population of EBR.

Reconstructed the scheduling of ambulances to provide improved coverage during the busiest hours.

Implementation of the new Clinical Guidelines, which are some of the most progressive in the nation helped to provide the best pre-hospital medical care for the citizens of EBR parish.

Implementation of the Pediatric Specific System to improve the delivery of medications to all pediatric patients that require advanced care. The system, called the Handtevy System is comprised of two parts.

Begun to fully utilize an online platform to deliver training to staff. This includes video presentations on certain topics.

Continued to develop a process for identifying ongoing deficiencies through our quality assurance/quality improvement program which results in topics for the training division to provide education specific to those deficiencies.

Worked with local hospitals to help improve overall system of heart attack care. Meaning, the care between first responders, EMS, and the hospitals.

Conducted a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) drill at EMS headquarters this past September. This training was conducted for the staff of EBR EMS and Acadian Ambulance.

The training division attended multiple conferences, webinars, live videos, etc. to demonstrate the use of Narcan being administered in the event of a narcotics overdose.

Began a project to put bleeding control kits in all of the classrooms in all of East Baton Rouge Parish schools, which will be implemented in 2019.

## **Environmental Services**

Met the Consent Decree 100% Construction Deadline of the \$1.6 billion SSO Program by December 31. All pump stations are functionally complete and operational. North Wastewater Master Plan projects are functionally complete and operational. All gravity line upgrades are functionally complete and operational.

Awarded over \$10 million in new sewer construction projects. Awarded over \$14 million in sewer maintenance and operation contracts.

Held two Household Hazardous Materials collection days – over 2,000 residents participated.

School outreach program developed and provided short classroom activities demonstrating different services that DES performs in lesson formats for students.

Works with schools to start, grow, and support classroom recycling programs by providing recycling education lessons, helping schools to locate resources, and collaborating with faculty to design a program that makes sense for each school's unique situation.

Held the annual recycling completion in the EBR Parish Schools.

Sponsored and participated in the 2018 Earth Day Celebration held at LSU.

Spearheaded the Wyland Foundation's Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation and Baton Rouge was awarded the "Most Waterwise City."

## **Effective and Efficient Government**

### **Wage Studies**

Baton Rouge officers are not being compensated in line with their peers in similar cities. This year, Mayor Broome is going to work with the Council, the Chief, and the community to make sure they do everything in their power to pay police officers what they deserve.

SSA conducted a similar study in 2015. The Study found the following areas in most need of adjustment:

- Maintenance Workers
- Skill Trades
- Head Start Teachers

The lowest wage in 2015 was \$7.25/hour, which was raised to \$9.30/hour.

The number of steps was increased from 12 to 19 allowing more employees to be eligible for an annual 3% merit increase.

### **Digital City**

The City-Parish launched its new website last year, replacing a 20 year old site.

Now, anyone interested in working for one of our departments can easily go to our website, learn more about the job, and apply online – all without having to leave home.

Businesses are able to enroll in our ‘vendor self-service’ portal, which streamlines and digitizes the processes used by vendors to register and do business with the City-Parish.

Last year also marked the first time in the history of our city-parish that our departments operated with a formal policy and clear mandate to ‘open’ their data to the public. Baton Rouge now ranks among the top five open data programs in the entire country, among the likes of San Francisco, LA, Las Vegas, and Cincinnati.

In December, Baton Rouge became the first municipality in Louisiana to release an open checkbook web platform.

### **Community Development**

In 2018, More than 30,000 low-mod individuals in the City-Parish received assistance through the CDBG, HOME, ESG and HOPWA funded programs.

CDBG and HOME funds were used to address housing and public service needs throughout the City-Parish. Through various departments and inter-agency partners, the City-Parish administered the demolition and

housing repair projects. Public service needs including education, healthcare and other social services were provided through subrecipient partnerships.

CDBG Public Service projects leveraged more than \$730,000 in funding from local nonprofits in the provision of programs that provide education, healthcare, basic needs and other social services.

The City-Parish dedicated \$459,176 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds to outreach efforts to locate, identify, and build relationships with sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families who do not access traditional services.

ESG service providers report, because of outreach efforts, over 2,900 individuals were engaged with access to basic needs, primary medical care, mental health, substance abuse, legal services, vocational services, homeless prevention and rapid re-housing services.

Beneficiary data reports show that a minimum of 432 people were assisted with HOPWA funds. Assistance provided to clients include permanent housing, short-term rental/housing, utility and mortgage assistance, tenant-based rental assistance and supportive services.

ESG funds were expended in a timely manner with only a minimal amount of funding to be rolled over to 2019.

OCD and RDA started the 2019 – 2023 HUD Consolidated Plan process. First stakeholder meeting was held in December with more to follow in early 2019. Con Plan due in August 2019.

CDBG rehabilitation programs are on track and application period will be reopened in early 2019.

## **Fleet Management**

On June 21, 2018, the Department of Fleet Management's metronet page became live. This allows end-users to access all needed forms to order, replace, transfer, and dispose units. Also, end-users can have access to Parts and Work Order request forms that can be downloaded and filled out without making a unnecessary visit to City Lot.

Successfully shipped 51 City-Parish and 62 Police units to the auction lot. (Total of 113)  
City Lot has available space to take on newly disposed units to be prepped for the auction lot. Currently, have approximately 50 unit ready for the next auction. This process has created more units to be removed from the end-user's EUCs.

There has been a major decrease in the time spent waiting on parts. Currently, 95% of parts orders placed are received the same day. Fleet's Parts room has utilized the ability to have vendors make "hotshot" runs to deliver parts throughout the day.

All Police Units that are brought in for a repair is seen within two days or less.

Wait time for oil changes has gone from one hour to under thirty minutes.

91% of all mechanics are achieving their performance measure goals for hours being billed.

Regarding the heavy duty equipment, a team of mechanics was formed to quickly address the preventative maintenance of all equipment located at the lots. This will help decrease the need of future repairs and catastrophic failures to occur.

## **Engaging Citizens**

### **Healthy BR**

Based on the results of the Community Health Needs Assessment, Mayor Broome will lead four task forces to address the top four priorities for our community for the next three years. These priorities include Healthy Living, Behavioral Health, HIV/STI, and Access to Care.

HealthyBR was awarded a \$1.7 million grant by the Humana Foundation and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana for the Geaux Get Healthy program.

Geaux Get Healthy will make fresh food available at an affordable price and provide educational programs to increase consumption of fresh food in EBR. The program has many facets, and has brought together over 25 organizations and businesses.

### **Move with Mayor Broome**

Move with Mayor Broome is an initiative that promotes a more active lifestyle through various community led events.

Last year, Mayor Broome joined existing running clubs, bike rides, walks and even Physical Education classes and exercised with over 200 residents in the last quarter of 2018.

This year, the Mayor-President plans to double the number of exercise groups, clubs, or just a group of friends who want to Move with the Mayor.

### **Summer Youth Employment**

Mayor Broome set the goal of employing 500 youth through her Mayor's Summer Youth Program.

The Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program will give youth ages 14-17 the opportunity to earn income while engaging in valuable educational and work experience.

This experience will give them an opportunity to not only engage in real-world work experiences, but also provide them with multiple educational and professional development opportunities that set the foundation for future employment and academic success.

Last year, the Mayor's Summer Youth Program received \$40,000 from one of our Business Roundtable members, AT&T, to help support youth interested in learning more about coding skills.