

Mayor
David Barrow



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Status of Central Police Department Review

June 13, 2019

I previously advised after reviewing the observations and suggestions regarding the Central Police Department that I determined it is in the best interest of the City and our citizens to engage an independent third party to assist with determining the validity of the observations and the appropriateness of the suggestions.

Efforts are continuing to engage an individual with appropriate experience and availability to perform this review in an expedited manner. I am hopeful that sometime next week I will be able to provide details of the review including a projected completion date.

I want to remind everyone that city officials are without legal authority to conduct an investigation of the Chief or the Department. In A.G. Opinion No. 14-0126 (attached), the Louisiana Attorney General advised:

The elected chief of police of a Lawrason Act municipality is the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality and has the inherent power and authority to supervise and control his office, equipment, and personnel. The governing authority cannot infringe upon the elected chief of police's inherent power and authority.

Additionally, the Attorney General stated:

... as an elected official, the chief of police is not subject to disciplinary actions of the mayor and/or board of aldermen. It is therefore the opinion of this office that the Board of Aldermen in a Lawrason Act municipality does not have the authority to initiate or conduct an investigation of the City's elected Chief of Police.

The independent third party will be requested to:

1. review each observation and suggestion;
2. review all relevant documents;
3. interview individuals with relevant information;
4. determine the validity of the observations;
5. determine the appropriateness of the suggestions; and
6. if appropriate, make recommendations to the Mayor's office, the Council and the Chief of Police to reduce Central's potential liability and to enhance the safety of its citizens.

This process is intended to educate our elected officials on their responsibilities, to improve the Police Department, to enhance the safety of the Central's police officers and its citizens, and to minimize any liabilities to Central. I firmly believe the process will be beneficial to educate our elected

officials on their responsibilities, improve the Police Department, enhance the safety of the Central's police officers and its citizens, and minimize any liabilities to Central.

As additional information becomes available regarding this matter, I will disseminate the information to the Council, the Police Department, and the public as appropriate. Again, I want to personally, thank all who have served and those who currently serve as Central Police Officers for their service to our community.

I appreciate your patience and cooperation with this process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David R. Barrow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

David R. Barrow, Mayor