



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

November 13, 2019

Shreveport City Council  
505 Travis Street  
Shreveport, LA 71101

City Councilmembers:

I am alarmed that certain members of the City Council are politicizing the City's support of the President's visit to Bossier City. Rather than making this a partisan issue, I implore these members to recognize our legal obligations, especially since the letter sent to me regarding this matter was penned by Councilman John Nickelson, an attorney.

Please understand that the President is not coming to Shreveport. His campaign is flying into Barksdale Airforce Base and the political rally will be held at the Centurylink Center in Bossier City. While the City of Shreveport is constrained by city ordinances that prohibit city property from being used for political purposes, the City is providing first responders and intends to follow all local, state, and federal laws as it relates to this matter.

I, of all people, respect the Office of the President and would be the first to provide additional security and other necessary resources if he were coming here in the capacity of President to discuss infrastructure, economic development opportunities, etc., rather than for campaigning. In fact, I invite him to do so.

Below are the laws regarding the use of public funds for political activity.

**La. Constitution Art. 11, § 4:** No public funds shall be used to urge any elector to vote for or against any candidate or proposition, or be appropriated to a candidate or political organization. This provision shall not prohibit the use of public funds for dissemination of factual information relative to a proposition appearing on an election ballot.

**La. R.S. 18:1465:** No public funds shall be used to urge any elector to vote for or against any candidate or proposition, or be appropriated to a candidate or political organization. This provision shall not prohibit the use of public funds for dissemination of factual information relative to a proposition appearing on an election ballot.

**City Code of Ordinances Sec. 26-53(b):** The public funds or property of the city shall not be donated, loaned or pledged to any person, except for public purposes.

If the Council would like to amend the city ordinance and lobby legislators to change state laws, I would be glad to comply. Finally, if the President's campaign is willing to expend the funds for additional support, the City stands ready to assist.

Sincerely,

Adrian D. Perkins,  
MAYOR