



CITY OF LAKE CHARLES

NICHOLAS E. HUNTER
MAYOR

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

January 11, 2024

Dear Business Owner:

Re: Lake Charles Mardi Gras Parades

This year a number of Mardi Gras parades are routed along Ryan Street on February 9, 11 and 13. These parades will affect traffic and hours of operation for businesses located along Ryan Street.

The City of Lake Charles would like to provide you with a list of parades affecting your business, as well as a listing of "Do's & Don'ts" for parade-goers in front of your business, some parade security tips and also a few litter pick-up tips to assist you – and us – in the clean-up process. By doing this, it is our hope that this year's Lake Charles Mardi Gras celebration is both the safest and most enjoyable yet!

The parades affecting Ryan Street businesses are as follows:

Friday, February 9, 2024

** Merchant's Parade 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Mardi Gras Madness 5K 11:45 a.m.
** Children's Parade 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

**** Second Line Stroll Walking Parade 1:00 p.m.
*** Jeeps on Parade 2:30 p.m.
*** Motor Gras Parade 3:00 p.m.
** Krewe of Krewes 5:00 p.m.

NOTE:

- ** From Pine at Lakeshore, east on Pine St., and south on Ryan St. to Sale Rd. Line-up at the Lake Charles Event Center.
- *** From Pine at Ryan, south on Ryan St. to Sale Rd. Line up on Pine Street.
- **** From Pine at Ryan, south on Ryan St. to Dr. Michael Debakey Drive. Line up on Pine Street.

~NEW for 2024~

Barricades will be placed on Ryan Street, from Pine Street to Gill Street, on the morning of Thursday, February 8, 2024. These barricades will remain in place through the conclusion of the Mardi Gras of Southwest Louisiana Krewe of Krewes Parade on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. Barricades will be placed on Ryan Street, from Clarence Street to Sale Road, on the morning of Friday, February 9, 2024, restricting traffic to one lane of traffic in each direction. These barricades will remain in place through the conclusion of the Mardi Gras of Southwest Louisiana Krewe of Krewes Parade on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. Law enforcement and City officials will work with businesses to maintain access to their properties at all non-parade times.

DOWNTOWN: Street parking will not be allowed on Ryan Street, between Pine and Kirby Streets, from 8 a.m. Thursday, February 8, through Tuesday, February 13, at the conclusion of the Mardi Gras of Southwest Louisiana Krewe of Krewes Parade. The on-street parking areas will be barricaded. Additionally, Ryan Street between

United for Progress and Prosperity

Kirby and Gill Streets will be reduced to one lane of traffic in each direction beginning at 8 a.m. Thursday, February 8, through Tuesday, February 13, at the conclusion of the Mardi Gras of Southwest Louisiana Krewe of Krewes Parade.

DOWNTOWN: Approximately one hour before the Second Line Stroll Walking Parade at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13, Ryan Street, between Pryce and Sallier Streets, will be closed and will remain closed to vehicular traffic until after the Mardi Gras of Southwest Louisiana Krewe of Krewes parade is concluded.

Additionally, Broad Street, between Ryan and Bilbo Streets will be closed to vehicular traffic beginning at approximately noon on Tuesday, February 13, and will remain closed until the end of the Mardi Gras of Southwest Louisiana Krewe of Krewes Parade.

In an effort to reduce the amount of waste on our city streets, the City of Lake Charles and Waste Management are providing cardboard trash boxes to property owners along the parade route.

A meeting to distribute these boxes – as well as to discuss issues for the parade – has been scheduled for **Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.** in **City Council Chambers**, located on the first floor of City Hall, 326 Pujoe Street. Please attend this meeting and pick up your box. *Boxes will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.* These boxes should be placed outside your business on the day of the parade. Employees of the City of Lake Charles Public Works Department will pick up the boxes and bagged trash on Wednesday, February 14 – the morning after the Mardi Gras of Southwest Louisiana Krewe of Krewes Parade – beginning at 7:00 a.m. For further information on the cardboard trash boxes, please contact the City of Lake Charles Public Works Department at (337) 491-1220.

Along with this letter, please accept a *Parade Do's & Don'ts* flyer for posting on your business window the day of the parade. This flyer posts rules and regulations for all parade-goers, and is intended to maximize safety and security along the parade route.

All sidewalks are public property and should be available for use by all parade-goers.

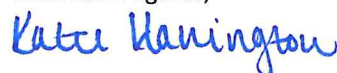
If you are unsure of the security or legality of a parade-goer's actions, please consult a Law Enforcement Officer working the parade route. **PLEASE DO NOT CONFRONT THE PARADE-GOER YOURSELF.**

Local law enforcement agencies have once again coordinated to create a traffic flow map to help parade-goers and business owners depart from the parade route in a more efficient manner. This plan and an associated map will be released at the Public Meeting.

The City of Lake Charles is committed to providing all of our residents, visitors and businesses with a safe and enjoyable Mardi Gras parade season. Please assist us in achieving this goal by observing all safety rules at the parades, and by attending the aforementioned parade meeting.

Thank you for your cooperation, and feel free to contact our office with any further questions at (337) 491-9176. If you would like to receive updates and reminders of upcoming meetings via email, submit your address to katie.harrington@cityoflc.us.

With best regards,



KATIE HARRINGTON
Public Information Officer
City of Lake Charles

Parade Do's and Don'ts

- 1. DO NOT LITTER.**
- 2. No glass containers of any kind.**
- 3. Leave pets at home.**
- 4. Leave all valuables at home.**
- 5. *NO open fires or BBQ pits* in or on vehicles or on the public right-of-way.**
- 6. *Do not* pour hot coals on the ground.**
- 7. Stay behind all police lines, barricades or curbs.**
- 8. *Do not* run up to or near the floats.**
- 9. *Do not* follow or chase floats.**
- 10. *Do not* throw anything at the floats or float riders.**
- 11. Please *watch your children*.**
- 12. Be kind and courteous to your neighbor.**
- 13. No bikes, skateboards, roller blades or hoverboards/Smart Balance Wheel along the parade route.**
- 14. *Do not* obscure sidewalks.**
- 15. Street vendors are not allowed to operate north of Clarence Street (Downtown or on Civic Center property). Street vendors north of 18th Street must be off the route at parade start time. Vendors south of 18th Street must be off the route 30 minutes after parade start time.**
- 16. Please bag litter and trash and place at curb after the parade. Bagged litter and trash will be picked up beginning at 7:00 a.m. Wednesday, following Mardi Gras Day.**