



Office of the Mayor-President

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MELVIN L. "KIP" HOLDEN
Mayor-President

January 14, 2016

Honorable Barack Obama
President, United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Let me first express my sincere appreciation for your visit to our City. This is an historical event that will not be soon forgotten.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide to you a short list of paramount issues and initiatives that we seek your assistance and consideration on.

- 1 I-10 as it crosses the Mississippi River merges into one lane, creating a tremendous backup of traffic for 8 to 10 miles on the west side of the bridge on a daily basis during the morning and evening rush hours. The situation has reached such a point that it creates a significant danger to the traveling public as well as continuous disruption of the flow of commerce through our area.
- 2 Hospitals in East Baton Rouge Parish have joined together for the first time in our history to form a hospital cluster to better serve the needs of all of our citizens. This is a significant departure from the past where each acted independently without direction. This collaboration is in need of funding to bring this Hospital District to realization including the development of a four year medical education program to expand our physician workforce and related research and health delivery systems.
- 3 We have made initial steps in the development of The Water Campus to be home to The Water Institute of the Gulf dedicated to drive innovation in coastal restoration and hurricane protection. This is the vehicle for a collaboration that will draw the best scientists and engineers in the world. We have broken ground on the initial phase but need assistance to spearhead the continued development of this proposed 30 acre campus.

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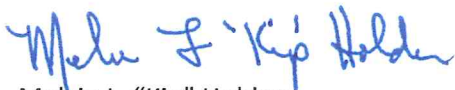
- 4 We are in the planning and design phase of a Tram System to connect Louisiana State University and our Downtown District to boost redevelopment along the Nicholson Drive corridor. This system is designed to connect and revitalize depressed neighborhoods along the route and link development along the route such as the Water Campus. Secretary Foxx is intimately familiar with this project and his staff has provided tremendous assistance in the development of the initial stages of this project. We are in need of funding to bring this project to completion and service.

- 5 Our Pennington Biomedical Research Center is performing cutting edge research in the development of treatment and ultimately cures for a number of diseases that attack citizens throughout the world. A great deal of its work is centered on major diseases that attack our minority population. There is a great need for funding to advance the critical work of this Center to further its efforts in raising the quality of life for our citizens particularly those most vulnerable.

We cannot adequately express what your visit means to the citizens of our City and State. Your involvement in the lives of our people both here in Louisiana and in the nation is sincerely appreciated. Your efforts to make the quality of life better for all of us are truly reflective of the goal of your administration.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do. May God bless you and your family for the changes you have made.

Most respectfully,



Melvin L. "Kip" Holden
Mayor-President