



MIKE CAZES, Sheriff

PARISH OF WEST BATON ROUGE

P.O. Box 129 • PORT ALLEN, LA 70767

COURTHOUSE (225) 343-9234 • FAX (225) 344-1004 • DETENTION CENTER (225) 346-6400 • WRC (225) 387-3272

November 17, 2022

Chris,

As you are well aware, there is currently an ongoing criminal investigation being conducted by the Louisiana State Police as well as an audit being conducted by the Legislative Auditors office.

Immediately after discovering a financial discrepancy within my office, I notified both the District Attorney's office and the Legislative Auditors office of our findings. After further internal review I placed one of my employees on forced accrued leave, which is a consistent practice among law enforcement agencies when a serious offense may have occurred.

Also, I welcome the independent external investigation by both state agencies, and I am confident that it is being conducted thoroughly and without bias. My office has and will continue to cooperate with both the Legislative Auditor's office and the Louisiana State Police.

Furthermore, I can assure the public that once the investigation has concluded, I will take the appropriate steps needed to ensure my office continues to operate effectively and efficiently.

Lastly, this is an ongoing criminal investigation and I believe it would be inappropriate for me to make any comments or participate in any interviews at this time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Cazes", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sheriff Mike Cazes

West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office