

LATOYA CANTRELL, MAYOR
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

August 25, 2021

RE: ENCOURAGE MARDI GRAS KREWE MEMBERS TO GET VACCINATED

Dear Members of the Mayor's Mardi Gras Advisory Council:

I am joining your Co-Chairs, Elroy James, and James Reiss, in asking every member of the Advisory Council to lean forward and encourage each of your organization's members to get vaccinated. As Arthur Hardy mentioned in his recent article on the subject, there are over 45,000 members of parading Krewes in the greater New Orleans area. This is indicative of the inclusive nature of New Orleans Carnival and the enthusiasm we all share for the Mardi Gras season. As leaders in the Mardi Gras community, you can take a vital step towards making Carnival 2022 a possibility by taking the lead and showing the world we are doing everything we can to keep our citizens and visitors safe by having 100% of our parading organizations fully vaccinated.

We all love Mardi Gras and recognize it as one of the cornerstone cultural events that define New Orleans and make it world renown as one of the greatest tourist destinations on the planet. We also know how vital Mardi Gras is to the economic health of our tourism and related industries and none of us want to see it canceled again. However, nothing is more important to me than the health and safety of our citizens and all the visitors whom we welcome each year with open arms. Showing our citizens that participating Krewe members are rolling up their sleeves and getting vaccinated can be a vital first step towards trying to make Mardi Gras 2022 a reality. Please reach out to your Krewe members and ask that they strongly consider getting vaccinations. I am happy to work with your Krewe in any way to help make vaccinations accessible and available. I am also willing to make available representatives from my departments of Homeland Security, Health and/or EMS to help answer any questions or provide education to your members on the safety and efficacy of available vaccines. I hope that at your next MMGAC meeting, you can report that all Krewes have thoroughly engaged their members to take the lead in this necessary step toward a successful 2022 Carnival season.

I appreciate your enthusiasm for and leadership in New Orleans Mardi Gras and thank you in advance for your help in focusing on the safety of your members, our citizens, and visitors alike.

Sincerely,



LaToya Cantrell
Mayor, City of New Orleans

cc: James Reiss
Elroy A James

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