

Hello Citizens of Avoyelles Parish,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Barry Wayne Lemoine Jr. and I'm very excited to be joining the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury as the newly created Litter Abatement Officer. I am a life-long resident of Avoyelles Parish. Before accepting this position, I was employed by the Louisiana National Guard serving in many different roles. I started my national guard service on 11 April 1997 in the Marksville Unit, "Bravo Company 769th Engineer Battalion". I served as the full time Administrative Non-commissioned officer on active duty for the Marksville National Guard unit for around 4 years before volunteering to deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom From 2009-2010. Upon return to the Marksville National Guard unit, I was transferred as the company Supply Non-commissioned officer. I held that position for around 9 years. I deployed for a second time in support of Operation Spartan Shield in October of 2018 as the Company Supply Non-Commissioned officer. Upon returning from that deployment, I assumed the role as the Operations Non-commissioned officer for the Marksville unit, which is the highest position at the company level. I spent 3 years as the Company Operations Non-Commissioned officer before being selected to transfer to the 225th Engineer Brigade assistant Operations Non-Commissioned officer position. This is where I served my last 3 years on active duty and retired on September 1st, 2024, with 27 and ½ total years of Military service. I recently began my new duties as the Litter Abatement Officer for the parish. I'm eager to contribute my experience and work ethics to the success of the newly created litter program in Avoyelles.

Avoyelles Parish is known as sportsman's paradise not only to our people but to visitors from all over the state. We have some of the best hunting and fishing in the state. We have so many beautiful waterways and forests where we can bring our kids out to enjoy nature, getting them off their phones and iPad, getting them involved in outdoor activities and educating them about the wilderness. But Avoyelles Parish has a serious litter problem negatively impacting our sportsman's paradise.

Throughout Louisiana, the annual cost associated with littering is estimated to be \$91.4 Million! In Avoyelles parish, littering, abandoned properties, and nuisance property standards are impacting our ability to continue to call Avoyelles a sportsman paradise, destroying our parish's natural beauty, polluting our waterways and land, harming our wildlife, discouraging economic development, and undermining civic pride. All of us must work together to make our parish beautiful again. Failure is not an option. We as Avoyelles Parish residents deserve a beautiful clean place to live and raise our families. You clean up your house when you have guests so let's work together and clean up our "HOUSE", our parish!

Below are some of the ways we can work together to accomplish our litter abatement goals:

- **Education:** Educate people about the importance of keeping their community clean and the impacts of littering. Educating school children about proper litter disposal as well as educating employers/employees about litter abatement.
- **Enforcement:** Enforce littering laws and regulations such as increasing fines or establishing a litter patrol program.
- **Make it easy to dispose of waste:** Provide convenient and accessible trash and recycling bins. You can also use receptacles with no flap or a push flap to prevent litter from blowing out.
Reduce single-use items: Reduce the number of single-use disposable items you provide to customers.
- **Community cleanups:** Organize community cleanups to change social norms around littering.
- **Reduce yard litter:** Keep your yard clean and free of things that can blow into the street.
- **Recycle:** Recycle paper, plastic, and other single-stream materials.
- **Compost:** Compost food waste.
- **Use lawn signs:** Use lawn signs near ash receptacles to help smokers make the right choice.

As your new Litter Abatement Officer, I ask for your support as we move forward with the challenges of littering in the parish. Together we can make a difference.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the letters 'BDD' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Barry Wayne Lemoine