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Charlotte A. Randolph, *Parish President*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 8:00 A.M.
Wednesday, June 08, 2011

Parish Council to Discuss Fireworks Ban on June 14

At their next meeting, the Lafourche Parish Council will discuss whether to institute a ban on the sale and use of fireworks in Lafourche Parish due to the current drought conditions. This comes after an executive order banning fireworks and issued by Parish President Charlotte Randolph over the weekend was found to have no force of law.

“Under state law, the Parish President is granted certain powers under a declared ‘state of emergency,’” explained President Randolph. “Those powers, however, only pertain to the declared emergency, and so the power to ban fireworks in this case rests solely with the governing authority – the Lafourche Parish Council.”

Lafourche Parish has been under a state of emergency since May 10th due to the flood threat caused by the opening of the Morganza Spillway. A state of emergency declaration lasts 30 days unless extended or ended early by the Parish President. Because the fireworks ban would not be germane to that emergency, Randolph explained, the Parish President would not have the authority to issue the ban. That authority, instead, lies with the Lafourche Parish Council who will entertain a discussion on the issue at the next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 14 at 5:00 P.M. at the Mathews Government Complex.

“We all understand that the fireworks business is seasonal, and we don’t want to take away from anyone’s livelihood,” said President Randolph. “But we have to think of the safety of all our citizens when making decisions like this. Sometimes the unpopular thing to do is the right thing to do, and that is something the Parish Council will have to consider next week.”

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