

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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April 30, 2020

The Honorable Terry Gardner
Mayor, City of Minden
P.O. Box 580
Minden, Louisiana 71058

Dear Mayor Gardner,

I received your letter regarding the resignation of Councilman Herbert Taylor, III, in which you requested the 20-day time deadline for the governing authority to fill the vacancy be waived and further requested that I appoint Larry Gipson as the interim council member for District A.

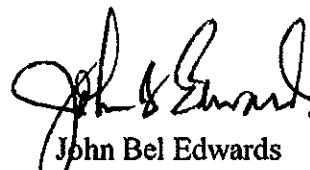
As you know, our state is facing an unprecedented pandemic and based on the rapid spread of COVID-19 in the state, I declared a public health emergency in Proclamation No. 25 JBE 2020 on March 11, 2020. This proclamation was supplemented by Proclamation No. 30 JBE 2020 on March 17, 2020, in which numerous legal deadlines were suspended. Included in the suspension are the legal deadlines contained in Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes. These deadlines remain suspended today.

My authority to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Taylor's resignation is not triggered until after the 20-day deadline for the governing authority has elapsed. According to his resignation letter, Mr. Taylor's resignation became effective on March 30, 2020. Had we not been in a public health emergency with suspended legal deadlines, you would have been correct in that the 20-day deadline triggering my authority would have run on April 19, 2020. However, because of the suspension, the 20-day deadline has not yet begun to run, and therefore I do not yet have the authority to fill the vacancy.

Please be assured that I do recognize the importance and necessity of the continuity of operation for the City of Minden. If necessary, I will exercise the authority to make the appointment once the deadline passes. Until then, however, the governing authority has the authority to fill the vacancy with a person who meets the qualifications of the office.

Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


John Bel Edwards
Governor