

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, problems gambling is a public health concern affecting millions of Americans of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds in all communities causing a significant societal and economic cost; and

WHEREAS, promoting awareness provides individuals in the problem gambling community an opportunity to educate the public and policymakers about the social and financial effectiveness of services available for problem gambling; and

WHEREAS, problem gambling is treatable and treatment is effective in minimizing the harm to both individuals and society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the state officers of myriad of services aimed at treating problem gambling, including: educational prevention programs, residential treatment, outpatient counseling and aftercare programs throughout the state, a toll-free Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline **1-877-770-STOP** that answers calls from people seeking help with gambling problems, and a website aimed at the prevention of problem gambling; www.helpforgambling.org; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana was one of the first states to have numerous state funded programs such as the residential treatment facility, Center or Recovery-CORE in Shreveport, for problem gamblers; and

WHEREAS, numerous organizations, such as the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling, the Louisiana Lottery, the Louisiana Casino Association, the Louisiana Gambling Industry, the Office of the Attorney General, the State Police Gaming Division, and the Gaming Control Board all work together with the Louisiana Department of Health and all statewide Districts to address problem gambling; and

WHEREAS, numerous individuals, professionals and organizations have dedicated their efforts to the education of the public about gambling, prevention about problem gambling along with the availability and effectiveness of treatment services; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Shelly Horton, Jr., Mayor of the Town of Benton, on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Benton, am pleased to hereby proclaim, March 2021, as;

“PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH”

The Town of Benton encourages all citizens to help spread the message that there is help for problem gamblers through treatment and to support those who are in treatment and recovery and their families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Benton to be affixed this 1st day of March 2021.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelly Horton Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

Shelly Horton Jr.
Mayor
Town of Benton
Bossier Parish, Louisiana