



## CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

STEVEN JACKSON  
COMMISSIONER-DISTRICT 3

505 TRAVIS STREET, SUITE 110  
SHREVEPORT, LA 71101

OFFICE: (318) 226-6596  
EMAIL - [sjackson@caddo.org](mailto:sjackson@caddo.org)

### *Commissioner Seeks to Link Aerospace Technology Program to Caddo's Re-entry & Juvenile Diversion Programs*

To address the employment and life challenges faced by many people involved with the criminal justice system, Caddo Commissioner Steven Jackson has introduced an amendment to his ordinance ([Ordinance 5618](#)) that awards up to \$300,000 to Southern University at Shreveport's (SUSLA) for Aerospace Technology Program. After having conversations with several stakeholders involved in this initiative, Commissioner Jackson's amendment seeks to create a pipeline for both the institution seeking program participants and individuals currently or formerly incarcerated seeking a second chance in the game of life. Currently funds provided by the Parish would pay for rent at Shreveport's Downtown Airport hangar.

"Our community is better when we field a full team, however far too many people who have been involved with the criminal justice system are being left on the sidelines," says Commissioner Jackson. "This program has the potential to be a real game changer in fulfilling our promise of second chances by moving beyond locking people up and instead working together to unlock their potential." The amendment proposed by Jackson seeks to reassign what funds have been used for in the past. "I cannot support providing \$300,000 in funding with nearly half (approx \$130,000) going to pay for rent at the City of Shreveport's Downtown Airport. My goal is to invest local taxpayer money in the people who need it most." If adopted, \$100,000 would be set aside to provide tuition scholarships and offset the cost of the high exam fees for participants in the program beginning Spring 2017. Funds may also be used to support individuals who meet other criteria that will be outlined in an executed cooperative endeavor agreement.

Ordinance 5618 will be introduced at The Caddo Parish Commission's Work Session scheduled for 3:30 pm on Tuesday September 6, 2016 at Government Plaza. Since 2012, the Caddo Parish Commission has provided funding to SUSLA to support Workforce Development and Adult Education Programs. The Aerospace Technology Program also has a strong partnership with Louisiana Economic Development and ExpressJet to provide employment to students who complete the program and pass the skills and knowledge exam. Additionally the City of Shreveport receives federal block grant dollars through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) that require them to support programs at SUSLA.

###