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Houma Fire Department First in Terrebonne Parish to Earn Class 1 PIAL Fire Protection Rating

HOUMA, La. – The Houma Fire Department is proud to announce that the City of Houma has earned a Property Insurance Association of Louisiana (PIAL) Class 1 PIAL Fire Protection Rating, the highest fire protection classification awarded in Louisiana.

This milestone makes Houma the first community in Terrebonne Parish and the surrounding area to achieve a Class 1 rating and places the city among only 20 Class 1 communities statewide.

A PIAL rating is not simply a measure of a fire department. It is an evaluation of an entire community's fire protection system, including emergency communications, firefighter training and staffing, fire prevention efforts, equipment and apparatus, and the reliability of the municipal water system.

For that reason, this achievement belongs to many individuals and organizations. It reflects the combined efforts of the Houma Fire Department, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, Consolidated Waterworks District No. 1, Terrebonne Parish E911 Communications District, elected leadership, and community partners who work together every day to protect our citizens.

The Houma Fire Department would also like to recognize former Fire Chief Corey Henry, whose leadership guided much of the evaluation period reviewed by PIAL. Many of the improvements and initiatives that contributed to this achievement were implemented during his tenure and helped establish the foundation for this accomplishment.

Special recognition is also due to the department's administrative staff. Preparing for a review of this magnitude requires years of documentation, records management, and data collection. Their dedication, organization, and professionalism were instrumental throughout the process.

Most importantly, this achievement reflects the hard work and commitment of the employees of the Houma Fire Department. Despite staffing challenges that continue to affect fire departments nationwide, our members have consistently risen to the occasion and remained focused on serving the community.

Maintaining a Class 1 rating will require continued effort and investment. The department must continue enhancing training programs, work with our partners to improve and maintain the municipal water system and address staffing challenges that exist within the organization.

The Houma Fire Department currently has 11 vacant positions, and recruitment and retention remain among our highest priorities. Like fire departments across Louisiana and the nation, attracting and retaining qualified personnel continues to be one of our greatest challenges.

This Class 1 designation is a tremendous accomplishment for our community, but it is also a reminder that excellence requires constant effort. We are proud of what has been achieved and committed to continuing the work necessary to maintain and improve the level of protection provided to the citizens of Houma.

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