

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 200

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the extraordinary efforts of the East Baton Parish Sheriff Sid Gautreaux and the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office (EBRSO) Narcotic Division for their exceptional investigative efforts as well as their aggressive arrests and prosecution of fentanyl dealers in the Greater Baton Rouge Metro Area.

WHEREAS, the chief law enforcement officer in the Parish of East Baton Rouge is Sheriff Sid J. Gautreaux III (Sheriff Gautreaux), who was elected in 2007; and

WHEREAS, immediately upon being elected to the Office of Sheriff of EBRSO, Sheriff Gautreaux began to prioritize the increase of the narcotics division's investigation of drug dealers who sell a wide variety of lethal drugs and substances (originally, primarily heroin, and now fentanyl and xylazine), which are often mixed with other varieties of "street drugs"; and

WHEREAS, shortly after his election, Sheriff Gautreaux noted the influx of heroin distributed and sold in Louisiana's cities, towns, and rural areas, sometimes to be used by intravenous injection, by snorting, or smoking, and frequently the drug users did not know they were consuming heroin, often resulting in a fatal overdose; and

WHEREAS, in approximately 2016, a new and extremely powerful drug named "fentanyl" and its analogues began to be detected in toxicology reports of drug overdose victims; and

WHEREAS, fentanyl is forty to one hundred times more powerful than morphine and fifty times more powerful than heroin, and fentanyl is used by drug dealers to "amp up" their drug products of all kinds, almost always without the knowledge of the drug buyer; and

WHEREAS, when fentanyl became available to drug dealers throughout the state of Louisiana, the number of poisonings and overdose deaths in the state from fentanyl began to increase exponentially and continues to increase exponentially; and

WHEREAS, in early 2021, Sheriff Gautreaux met with the commander of the EBRSO narcotics division, Captain Tanner Jenkins, to devise new and enhanced reactive practices, policies, and drug enforcement methods to supplement and enhance the EBRSO's and the narcotics division's existing proactive methods; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of Sheriff Gautreaux, Captain Tanner Jenkins, and the EBRSO narcotics division have resulted in numerous drug enforcement and weapons seizures, almost all of which occurred in East Baton Rouge Parish between January 2022 and May 2023, including 24 pounds, 8.6 ounces of fentanyl powder; 110,000 lethal doses of pressed fentanyl pills; 4.865 pounds of heroin; 5 pounds of cocaine; 2,318 oxycodone tablets; 522 Xanax tablets; 56.9 pounds of methamphetamine; 416 Adderall or amphetamine pills; 25 pill presses; 213 firearms, including machine guns and fully automatic pistols, many of which have been forensically linked to previous murders and shootings; and 201 felony arrests; and

WHEREAS, Captain Tanner Jenkins of EBRSO narcotics division testified during the 2023 Regular Session before the House of Representatives Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice and the Senate Committee on the Judiciary C that the EBRSO narcotics division does not investigate drug users and addicts, but focuses all of its efforts on dealers who sell fentanyl and other deadly drugs to other dealers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby commends and congratulates the outstanding drug enforcement efforts and operations of Sheriff Gautreaux, the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, and all of its employees, Captain Tanner Jenkins, commander of the EBRSO narcotics division, and all of its employees, agents, and unnamed personnel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to Sheriff Sid Gautreaux and Captain Tanner Jenkins.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE