

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY SENATOR HODGES

A RESOLUTION

To commend Sheriff Jason Ard and the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office for their exceptional efforts in combating illegal narcotics trafficking and protecting children through the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

WHEREAS, the protection of the residents of Louisiana, particularly children, from the dangers of illegal narcotics and exploitation, is one of the most solemn responsibilities of law enforcement and the state; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Sheriff Jason Ard, the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office has demonstrated unwavering commitment to public safety through aggressive enforcement, strategic partnerships, and proactive investigative efforts; and

WHEREAS, in February 2026, the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office Narcotics Division conducted a historic seizure of approximately three hundred sixty-one pounds of methamphetamine, valued at an estimated four million dollars, representing the largest drug seizure in the agency's history and one of the largest in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, this significant operation resulted in the confiscation of additional evidence including digital weighing scales, packaging materials, United States currency, and a vehicle, further disrupting a large-scale drug trafficking enterprise; and

WHEREAS, the success of this operation was made possible through collaboration with multiple law enforcement agencies, including Homeland Security Investigations, the Houston Police Department High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program, the Splendora Police Department in Texas, and the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, in December 2024, the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office achieved the largest fentanyl seizure in the parish's history, removing approximately one hundred thousand lethal doses of fentanyl from circulation and thereby preventing potentially catastrophic loss of life; and

WHEREAS, this extensive investigation, spanning over two years, resulted in

multiple arrests and the seizure of fentanyl, oxycodone, methamphetamine, and vehicles connected to narcotics distribution, reflecting the diligence and persistence of the narcotics division; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Ard has continued to strengthen the narcotics division by increasing personnel and resources, enhancing the agency's ability to identify, investigate, and apprehend individuals engaged in illegal drug activity; and

WHEREAS, in October 2023, under Sheriff Ard's leadership, the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office launched and expanded its Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in partnership with the Louisiana Attorney General's Office; and

WHEREAS, investigations conducted by the task force in 2024, extended into twenty-four states and five countries, highlighting the widespread and borderless nature of internet-facilitated crimes against children; and

WHEREAS, a three-day sting operation conducted by the task force in February 2025, resulted in the arrest of eleven individuals facing charges related to child exploitation; and

WHEREAS, the sting operation was conducted in collaboration with Chris Hansen, widely known for his work on *Dateline NBC* and the investigative segment *To Catch a Predator*, as well as his web series *Takedown with Chris Hansen* produced for the streaming service *TruBlu*; and

WHEREAS, during 2025, Sheriff Ard, the Livingston Parish Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and Chris Hansen collaborated multiple times to conduct sting operations, with the collaborations not only seeking to support law enforcement efforts, but to educate the public regarding tactics used by online predators and the evolving dangers children face in digital spaces; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Ard and his team have emphasized the importance of community education, interagency cooperation, and the use of advanced technology in addressing evolving threats to children and communities; and

WHEREAS, the combined efforts of narcotics enforcement and child protection initiatives have significantly enhanced the safety and well-being of the residents of Livingston Parish and the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Sheriff Jason Ard and the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office for their outstanding achievements in combating illegal drug trafficking and protecting children through the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Livingston Parish Sheriff Jason Ard.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE