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June 17, 2025
OPINION 25-0035

Chief Judge Sheva M. Sims
Shreveport City Court
1244 Texas Ave.
Shreveport, LA 71101

70-MOTOR VEHICLES – Control & Regulation

La. R.S. 47:532.1

The governing authority for the City of Shreveport may apply to serve as a public tag agent and operate the agency within the Shreveport City Court building, subject to the approval of the Office of Motor Vehicles and any agreements necessary to support the arrangement.

Dear Chief Judge Sims:

You have asked for an opinion concerning the creation of a Public License Tag Agency at the Shreveport City Court.

Question: May a Public License Tag Agency be located at the Shreveport City Court?

Conclusion: The governing authority for the City of Shreveport may apply to serve as a public tag agent and operate the agency within the Shreveport City Court building, subject to the approval of the Office of Motor Vehicles and any agreements necessary to support the arrangement.

The ability to create tag agencies is established by La. R.S. 47:532.1(A)(1), which states,

The commissioner may establish a system of public license tag agents to collect the registration license taxes authorized by this Chapter. **The system shall consist of municipal and parish governing authorities** or new motor vehicle dealers or their agents licensed pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 32:1254 and authorized auto title companies pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 32:735 et seq. No persons, natural or juridical, except public license tag agents, auto title companies, financial institutions, licensed new or used car dealers, recreational product dealers, digital transaction providers, state departments, offices, or entities and those included in the system established pursuant to this Section shall collect registration license taxes authorized by this Chapter.

(Emphasis added). This statute establishes that municipal and parish governing authorities are among the entities that may serve as public license tag agents. Louisiana Revised Statute 47:532.1(A)(2)(a) provides for the promulgation of rules and regulations regarding the "...implementation and governing of a system of public tag agencies." Those rules and regulations can be found at La. Admin Code tit. 55, § 1601 *et seq.* Louisiana Administrative Code title 55, §1603 also provides that a public tag agent may be a "municipal or parish governing authority," among other eligible entities. The term

“governing authority” in this context refers to a political subdivision’s executive or administrative body, such as a city or parish government, not its judicial branch.

Because it is a municipality, the City of Shreveport, acting through its governing authority, may apply to become a public tag agent and, if approved by the Office of Motor Vehicles, may operate as a public tag agent within the Shreveport City Court building. As you note in your opinion request, a public tag agency currently operates within the Baton Rouge City Court building, demonstrating that a courthouse may serve as an approved location for such services. A cooperative endeavor agreement between the City of Shreveport and the Office of Motor Vehicles may be appropriate depending on the structure of the arrangement. Such an agreement may be made pursuant to La. Const. art. VII, §14(C), which authorizes the state and its political subdivisions to engage in cooperative endeavors for a public purpose, including the shared use of public facilities to provide government services.

Considering the foregoing, it is the opinion of this office that the governing authority for the City of Shreveport may apply to serve as a public tag agent and operate the agency within the Shreveport City Court building, subject to Office of Motor Vehicles approval and any agreements necessary to support the arrangement.

We trust this adequately responds to your request. However, if our office can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best regards,

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BY: 

Tyler J. Savoy
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LM: TJS