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State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CRIMINAL DIVISION
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Declination of Charges in the Investigation of Jerry Rogers

January 8, 2020

After reviewing the investigation and arrest of Jerry Rogers for Criminal Defamation by the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office, the Louisiana Department of Justice Criminal Division has made the determination to not pursue formal charges in this matter. The Louisiana Supreme Court held Criminal Defamation is unconstitutional insofar as it applies to statements made in reference to public figures engaged in public affairs. Determining whether an individual is a public figure requires a case-by-case, fact specific analysis. In this case, the subject of the statement is considered a public figure, as the statements made by Jerry Rogers were aimed directly towards a public function of a member of state government. Because the alleged conduct under these specific facts involve statements aimed at a public official performing public duties, this office is precluded by law from moving forward with any criminal action.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Joseph LeBeau", written over a horizontal line.

M. Joseph LeBeau
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
LADOJ

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pat Magee", written over a horizontal line.

Pat Magee
Director
Criminal Division
LADOJ