

A Statement to the People of St. Tammany and Washington Parishes:

For the past 30 years I have been deeply privileged to serve the people of Washington and St. Tammany parishes as District Attorney. I have never taken your confidence in me lightly, and have always worked hard to earn and keep your trust. More than words can ever express, I am honored to have served as your chief criminal prosecutor.

During my five terms of office, I have worked closely with local, federal and state law enforcement officials to keep Northshore families safe. With outstanding support from my staff and our agency peers, I believe we have done just that, making this District one of the safest and most in-demand places to live in Louisiana. To each of my staff members who have served with me and stood by me over these three decades I am most grateful.

Our success has not gone unnoticed, winning recognition from the Metropolitan Crime Commission, City of Slidell, Mandeville Police Department, Village of Folsom and many other communities and organizations that value safety, honesty and efficiency. This District Attorney's office has earned a reputation for a determination to bring law breakers to justice, and for conviction rates that are among the highest in the state.

Lately, as you are no doubt aware, the New Orleans news media has repeatedly cast me, my dedicated staff, friends and even my family in a different and harsher light, making an endless series of allegations regarding my character, and creating unwarranted and obtrusive disruptions in the function of my office.

These allegations have run the gamut, from accusing me of being too tough on crime and too insistent on getting criminal convictions, to how I spend my private campaign donations, to my brother's employment at the parish hospital, proving nothing it seems, but alleging everything under the sun.

As such it has become apparent to me that such time consuming disruptions will continue. They are not fair to me or the people of St. Tammany and Washington parishes, who have become accustomed to an aggressive and effective District Attorney fully able to focus on the important work of his office.

In recognition of these facts, I have notified my key supporters that at this moment, I do not intend to qualify for re-election as District Attorney. I did not reach this decision lightly. It was reached in good conscience and with the best interests of the people of the Northshore parishes in mind.

Importantly, announcing my intentions at this time will also allow those who would like to run, more time to organize their campaigns in the weeks leading up to qualifying.

Rest assured that throughout the remainder of my term, I will continue to put you, the people of St. Tammany and Washington parishes first, regardless of whether or not doing so comports with media efforts to monopolize my time and energies elsewhere.

With sincere best regards and grateful appreciation for your decades of confidence in me,

Walter Reed
District Attorney