

Shreveport Times

NEWS

Non-ADA compliance lands Shreveport three lawsuits

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A New Orleans attorney has filed three lawsuits against Shreveport over alleged non-compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Andrew Bizer, the attorney filing the suits, said his client, a disabled Shreveport resident, is unable to move freely around the city due to non-compliant infrastructure and transit systems.

Shreveport city attorney William Bradford said he has not been served the lawsuits. Mayor Ollie Tyler's spokeswoman Africa Price on Wednesday would not discuss with The Times Tyler's plan to address infrastructure problems in Shreveport.

In 2006 Shreveport entered into a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice to make public parks, sidewalks, curb cuts and public transport ADA compliant.

"Based off my research and my trips to Shreveport, the city has done nothing," Bizer said.

Bizer also accuses Shreveport of being non-compliant in infrastructure construction since the 2006 settlement.

Cracked Shreveport sidewalks reveal broken system

How Shreveport fixes its broken streets

"It's one thing to not fix what you're supposed to fix, but it's another thing to actually make new curb cuts, sidewalks and bus stops and not be compliant," Bizer said.

The lawsuits were filed with the U.S. District Court Western District of Louisiana Wednesday morning. Each lawsuit addresses a different area of concern — sidewalks and curb cuts, buses and parks.

In Tyler's Shreveport-Caddo 2030 Master Plan, ADA compliance with accessibility standards in public and private places is listed as a goal for improving infrastructure. The goal is to raise funds to correct all outstanding deficiencies as well as making ADA accessibility available to the public.

Repairs and construction in residential neighborhoods will take place after the issue is addressed downtown and in high-traffic areas, said public works director Stan Harris in an April interview with The Times. .

In the meantime, Harris said citizens with disabilities are encouraged to alert the public works office when they find an inaccessible sidewalk or curb cut so the city may accommodate.