

TO: Professors Andrea Armstrong
FROM: Wolfe Waguespack
RE: Better Know a Jail Memo, DeRidder Police Detention Center
DATE: April 20, 2026

DeRidder Police Detention Center

Introduction

The city of DeRidder is Beauregard parish's main administrative center. Beauregard Parish is located in western Louisiana near the Texas border, and DeRidder is the largest city in the parish.¹ The DeRidder Police Department operates from 200 S. Jefferson Street in DeRidder, and Craig Richard serves as chief of police.² The DeRidder Police Detention Center appears to function within the city police department rather than as a separate parish jail or sheriff-run corrections facility. Chief Richard stated on September 29, 2022 that all DeRidder arrestees are booked and housed at the Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office.³ The Detention Center therefore appears to serve as the city's point of arrest and initial detention, while longer-term confinement occurs through the parish jail.⁴

Jail Characteristics

The public description of the DeRidder Police Detention Center is limited. The police department page gives the department's address and command information, and the records page states that the Records Department is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., that reports may take seven to ten business days to complete, and that reports cost \$8 cash only.⁵ Those sources do not describe a bed count, rated capacity, housing units, visitation rules, detainee demographics, or a detainee locator for the DeRidder Police Detention Center.⁶

The clearest description of actual confinement appears at the parish level. Chief Richard wrote that all DeRidder arrestees are booked and housed at the Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office.⁷ The Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office states that the parish jail "operates with a capacity of 161 beds" and houses pretrial inmates and "a limited amount of adjudicated offenders." The sheriff's roster page lists the jail address as 412 Bolivar Bishop Drive, DeRidder,

¹ Louisiana Local Government Information, La. State, <https://www.louisiana.gov/local-louisiana/beauregard-parish> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026); About the Parish, LSU AgCenter, https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/our_offices/parishes/beauregard/features/about (last visited Apr. 20, 2026).

² Police Department, City of DeRidder, <https://www.cityofderidder.org/199/Police-Department> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026); Staff Directory: Craig Richard, City of DeRidder, <https://www.cityofderidder.org/directory.aspx?EID=53> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026).

³ Letter from Craig Richard, Chief of Police, DeRidder Police Dep't, to Lale U. Brown, Loyola Univ. New Orleans Coll. of L. (Sept. 29, 2022) (on file with author).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Police Department, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 2; Records, City of DeRidder, <https://www.cityofderidder.org/215/Records> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026).

⁶ Police Department, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 2; Records, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 5.

⁷ Chief Richard Letter, *supra* note 3.

Louisiana 70634.⁸ Local reporting from March 2026 states that Sheriff Mark Herford supported construction of a new 500-bed jail because the current facility could hold only about 160 inmates while the parish typically housed between 275 and 320 inmates per day and sent overflow inmates to neighboring parish jails.⁹ Read together, those sources suggest that the most concrete detention conditions tied to DeRidder arrests are the conditions of parish custody rather than the conditions of a separately described city lockup.¹⁰

Public Records Request and Incarcerated Mortality

The clearest mortality information came through a 2022 public-records exchange. On August 29, 2022, a Loyola law student sent a request to the custodian of records for DeRidder Police Detention seeking records submitted to the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, or Bureau of Justice Assistance concerning deaths in legal custody during calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, including CJ-9 and CJ-9A forms.¹¹ Chief Richard responded on September 29, 2022 that there had been no in-custody deaths “during any detentions during 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.”¹²

That exchange supports stating that no in-custody deaths were reported for 2019 through 2022.¹³ It does not support a broader statement covering the entire period since 2015 because comparable death records for 2015 through 2018 were not identified.¹⁴ The same response also explains why city-specific mortality information is sparse. If DeRidder arrestees are booked and housed through the Beauregard Parish Sheriff’s Office, then death reporting connected specifically to a stand-alone DeRidder detention population would be expected to be limited.¹⁵

Jail Leadership

Craig Richard is the current chief of police.¹⁶ KPLC reported on August 7, 2019 that Mayor Misty Clanton appointed Richard as chief after a career with the department that began in 1993. KPLC also reported on August 9, 2019 that Richard replaced former Chief John Gott.¹⁷ This leadership structure places the DeRidder Police Detention Center within municipal police authority, even though Chief Richard’s 2022 letter indicates that booking and housing occur

⁸ Corrections, Beauregard Parish Sheriff’s Office, <https://www.beauregardparishsheriff.org/corrections> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026); Inmate Roster, Beauregard Parish Sheriff’s Office, <https://www.beauregardparishsheriff.org/roster.php> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026).

⁹ Brendan Brown, Beauregard Parish Officials Propose New 500-Bed Jail Funded by Sales Tax Continuation, KPLC 7 News (Mar. 20, 2026, 8:43 PM), <https://www.kplctv.com/2026/03/21/beauregard-parish-officials-propose-new-500-bed-jail-funded-by-sales-tax-continuation/> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026).

¹⁰ Chief Richard Letter, supra note 3; Corrections, Beauregard Parish Sheriff’s Office, supra note 8; Brown, supra note 9.

¹¹ Letter from Lale Brown to Custodian of Records, DeRidder Police Detention (Aug. 29, 2022) (on file with author).

¹² Chief Richard Letter, supra note 3.

¹³ Brown Letter, supra note 11; Chief Richard Letter, supra note 3.

¹⁴ Brown Letter, supra note 11; Chief Richard Letter, supra note 3.

¹⁵ Chief Richard Letter, supra note 3.

¹⁶ Staff Directory: Craig Richard, City of DeRidder, supra note 2; Departments & Personnel, City of DeRidder, <https://www.cityofderidder.org/327/Departments-Personnel> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026).

¹⁷ DeRidder Appoints New Chief of Police, KPLC 7 News (Aug. 7, 2019, 4:18 PM), <https://www.kplctv.com/2019/08/07/deridder-appoints-new-chief-police/> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026); New DeRidder Chief of Police Discusses Priorities, KPLC 7 News (Aug. 9, 2019), <https://www.kplctv.com/2019/08/09/new-deridder-chief-police-discusses-priorities/> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026).

through the parish sheriff's office.¹⁸ The detention center therefore appears to sit between two authorities: municipal officials control the arrest and initial detention stage, and the sheriff's office controls incarceration after booking.¹⁹

Annual Budget and Financing

The most recent City of DeRidder audit readily verifiable through the Louisiana Legislative Auditor site is the annual financial report for the year ended September 30, 2024.²⁰ That report lists \$5,547,364 in public safety expense at the government-wide level and \$5,881,831 in public safety expenditures in governmental funds. The same report states that the auditor issued an unmodified opinion and reported no current-year audit findings.²¹

Those figures give some sense of citywide public-safety spending, but they do not isolate the detention function. The 2024 audit does not identify a separate line item for the DeRidder Police Detention Center, temporary holding, transport to the parish jail, or any housing arrangement with the sheriff's office.²² The finance picture is therefore clearer at the level of municipal public safety than at the level of detention operations.²³

Evidence of Oversight

The most visible oversight mechanisms on DeRidder's side are administrative and financial. The public-records page identifies Janet Bailey as the public records custodian and provides her email address, mailing address, and phone number. The linked request form states that City Hall has three business days to respond and that copies cost \$1.00 per page while inspection is free. The city council page and agenda center make agendas and minutes publicly available.²⁴ A 2025 city-council agenda and corresponding minutes show that the council considered and passed an ordinance concerning "public records request management."²⁵

Detention-specific oversight is much harder to identify. The police department page, staff directory, and records page do not identify accreditation by the American Correctional Association, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, or another comparable body, and they do not post detention inspections, detention manuals, or annual detention reports.²⁶ By contrast, the Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office maintains a PREA page stating that allegations are tracked and reported annually, and the posted 2022 PREA annual report states that there were

¹⁸ Chief Richard Letter, *supra* note 3.

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ City of DeRidder, La., Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended Sept. 30, 2024, at 1-3 (La. Legis. Auditor), [https://app.la.state.la.us/PublicReports.nsf/0/64E9BD6A9DD6D8A186258C6D00707204/\\$FILE/000073F3.pdf](https://app.la.state.la.us/PublicReports.nsf/0/64E9BD6A9DD6D8A186258C6D00707204/$FILE/000073F3.pdf) (last visited Apr. 20, 2026).

²¹ *Id.*

²² *Id.*

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ Public Records Request, City of DeRidder, <https://www.cityofderidder.org/171/Public-Records-Request> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026); Public Records Request Form, City of DeRidder, <https://www.cityofderidder.org/DocumentCenter/View/85/Public-Records-Request-Form-PDF> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026); City Council, City of DeRidder, <https://www.cityofderidder.org/296/City-Council> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026); Agenda Center, City of DeRidder, <https://www.cityofderidder.org/AgendaCenter> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026).

²⁵ City Council, Apr. 14, 2025 Agenda, City of DeRidder, https://www.cityofderidder.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_04142025-367 (last visited Apr. 20, 2026); City Council, Apr. 28, 2025 Minutes, City of DeRidder, https://www.cityofderidder.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Minutes/_04282025-369 (last visited Apr. 20, 2026).

²⁶ Police Department, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 2; Staff Directory: Police Department, City of DeRidder, <https://www.cityofderidder.org/Directory.aspx?did=10> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026); Records, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 5.

ten PREA-related allegations that year.²⁷ Oversight of actual confinement is therefore easier to identify at the parish level than at the level of the DeRidder Police Detention Center.²⁸

Evidence of Transparency

DeRidder appears reasonably transparent about how to contact officials and request ordinary records. The police department page, staff directory, records page, and public-records page all provide contact information and instructions for obtaining city documents or police reports. The finance page also directs users to audit reports, and the city council page directs users to agendas and minutes.²⁹ A person looking for ordinary municipal records would not need to guess where to begin.³⁰

Transparency becomes weaker once the focus shifts from ordinary city administration to detention operations. The department's pages do not explain whether the DeRidder Police Detention Center maintains holding cells, how long an arrestee may remain there, what policies govern temporary confinement, whether any detainee roster exists, or how transfer to parish custody occurs.³¹ The most important operational detail, that all arrestees are booked and housed at the Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office, appears in Chief Richard's 2022 letter rather than on the department's own pages.³² The sheriff's office partly fills that gap through its corrections page, PREA page, and public inmate roster, but that information is parish-wide rather than city-specific.³³ The overall picture is one of partial transparency: DeRidder is easier to understand as a municipal office than as a detention institution.³⁴

Assessment of the Public Records Request

The 2022 public-records exchange was brief but useful. The August 29, 2022 request was targeted, cited the Louisiana Public Records Act, and sought a defined category of death-in-custody records. Chief Richard's response directly answered the mortality question and clarified that DeRidder arrestees are booked and housed at the Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office.³⁵ That correspondence indicates that the department will provide direct answers to at least some narrow records requests.³⁶

At the same time, the exchange shows how much of the detention structure must be learned from a short letter rather than from a city explanation of the detention process.³⁷ The

²⁷ Prison Rape Elimination Act, Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office, <https://www.beauregardparishsheriff.org/prison-rape-elimination-act> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026); Prison Rape Elimination Act Annual Report 2022, Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office, https://www.beauregardparishsheriff.org/plugins/show_image.php?id=240 (last visited Apr. 20, 2026).

²⁸ Prison Rape Elimination Act, Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office, *supra* note 27.

²⁹ Police Department, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 2; Staff Directory: Police Department, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 26; Records, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 5; Public Records Request, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 24; Finance Department, City of DeRidder, <https://www.cityofderidder.org/169/Finance-Department> (last visited Apr. 20, 2026); City Council, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 24; Agenda Center, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 24.

³⁰ *See* sources cited *supra* note 29.

³¹ Police Department, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 2; Records, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 5.

³² Chief Richard Letter, *supra* note 3.

³³ Corrections, Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office, *supra* note 8; Prison Rape Elimination Act, Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office, *supra* note 27; Inmate Roster, Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office, *supra* note 8.

³⁴ Chief Richard Letter, *supra* note 3; Corrections, Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office, *supra* note 8; Inmate Roster, Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office, *supra* note 8.

³⁵ Brown Letter, *supra* note 11; Chief Richard Letter, *supra* note 3.

³⁶ Chief Richard Letter, *supra* note 3.

³⁷ Compare Police Department, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 2, with Chief Richard Letter, *supra* note 3.

public-records process itself appears functional. The detention model remains much less plainly described.³⁸

Notable Cases or Complaints on Conditions in the Last Five Years

No reported jail-conditions lawsuit, consent decree, or major public controversy directed specifically at the DeRidder Police Detention Center was identified in the sources reviewed here.³⁹ The more visible detention concern connected to DeRidder arrests is the condition and capacity of the Beauregard Parish Jail, where Chief Richard stated DeRidder arrestees are booked and housed.⁴⁰ Sheriff Herford's March 2026 statements about a jail holding only about 160 inmates while the parish runs between 275 and 320 inmates daily suggest that the most substantial detention pressures tied to DeRidder arrests may arise at the parish facility rather than at a separately visible city lockup.⁴¹

Conclusion

The DeRidder Police Detention Center is difficult to describe as a stand-alone jail because actual housing appears to occur through the Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office. The clearest operational description remains Chief Richard's September 29, 2022 letter stating that no in-custody deaths were reported during 2019 through 2022 and that all DeRidder arrestees are booked and housed at the sheriff's office.⁴² DeRidder's official pages make ordinary city records and city contacts relatively easy to find, but detention-specific operations, oversight, and financing are much less visible on the city side.⁴³ The DeRidder Police Detention Center therefore appears more transparent as part of city government than as a detention institution.⁴⁴

³⁸ Public Records Request, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 24; Chief Richard Letter, *supra* note 3.

³⁹ Police Department, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 2; City Council, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 24; Agenda Center, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 24.

⁴⁰ Chief Richard Letter, *supra* note 3.

⁴¹ Brown, *supra* note 9.

⁴² Chief Richard Letter, *supra* note 3.

⁴³ Police Department, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 2; Public Records Request, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 24; Records, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 5; City of DeRidder, La., Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended Sept. 30, 2024, *supra* note 20, at 13, 15, 78-81.

⁴⁴ Chief Richard Letter, *supra* note 3; Police Department, City of DeRidder, *supra* note 2.