



*City of Natchitoches*  
Oldest Settlement in the Louisiana Purchase

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
Ronnie Williams, Jr.

February 14, 2025

I, Mayor Williams, and the City of Natchitoches are deeply saddened by the closure of International Paper (IP), a significant part of our local economy and community. This is undoubtedly a difficult moment for all of us—especially for the employees, the families that depend on this business, and everyone who has been directly impacted by this decision. I have many friends and family members who have been employed or are currently employed by this IP facility. In fact, my grandfather not only helped to build the facility, but he also worked there for years only retiring after a life-changing accident at work left him permanently disabled.

I want to acknowledge the incredible contribution that IP has made to our local economy over the years. IP has provided jobs and supported local initiatives. The closure of such an important institution leaves a void, and I understand the concern and uncertainty this brings to so many. Let me assure you that the City of Natchitoches will work even harder to promote and improve the economic health and social well-being of the Natchitoches community. As such, a primary focus in response to this closure will be to redouble our efforts to attract new business to the area. We will ensure that this closure is not the end of the story, but the beginning of new possibilities.

To everyone affected, know that you are not alone. IP has also announced closures of three other facilities throughout the country. The City of Natchitoches is here to rally around you and offer whatever support we can. We will be here, every step of the way, helping to rebuild and reimagine a brighter future for our community.

Much Love,

Ronnie Williams, Jr.

Mayor of Natchitoches