

Subject: Re: Unresolved Press Pass Issue
Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 3:07:39 PM Central Standard Time
From: Stewart, Cory
To: Michael Lunsford, Matthew
CC: Russ, Clarence, Murphy, Keshauna
Attachments: image001.png

Mr. Lunsford,

Thank you for your letter. Apparently, there has been misunderstandings regarding a requested "press pass" for Ms. Pope. Upon further review of information regarding Citizens for a New Louisiana, it is believed that this organization does not meet the criteria for media credentials.

Information from the Legislative Communications Office website reads as follows:

To receive a legislative media badge, an applicant CANNOT be an employee of an organization that engages in lobbying or paid advocacy, advertising, publicity or promotions for any individual, political party, corporation, organization or government agency.

The applicant must be a salaried staff correspondent, reporter or photographer regularly employed by a newspaper, television or radio station, or other recognized news gathering operation approved by this office. The applicant's employer must verify employment.

News media badges issued by any other entity are not valid for entrance to the designated media areas of the Capitol.

Upon further review, it is found that Citizens for a New Louisiana (based on its own website) is an organization that engages in advocacy and the solicitation of donations for advocacy, not news reporting. It describes itself as a donor-funded government policy research agency. In addition, it seems that Ms. Pope is not a correspondent, reporter or photographer as she is listed on the organization's website as a licensed private investigator. Since Citizens for a New Louisiana is not a newspaper, television or radio station or a recognized news gathering operation and Mrs. Pope does not qualify as an employee of an approved entity, she does not qualify to be issued a legislative media badge.

Media badges are issued as a security measure only to reporters who regularly visit and report from the Capitol for news entities. Legislative media badges are not required for Ms. Pope to attend or communicate regarding the legislative proceedings.

Balcony seating is open to the public and media badges are not required to monitor session proceedings. However, as previously mentioned, cameras are not allowed in the House Chamber balcony.

Cory N. Stewart
Chief Communications Officer
Louisiana State Legislature
Stewartc@legis.la.gov