

Nic Hunter

Mayor of Lake Charles, Louisiana

Speaker Bio:

A life-long resident of Lake Charles, Nic Hunter was elected as Mayor of Lake Charles in April 2017.

Mayor Hunter acquired his work ethic at a young age by working at his grandparents' restaurant, Harlequin Steaks & Seafood. With his grandmother's blessing, he began running the restaurant full time at the age of 17 and today he remains a partner in The Villa Harlequin restaurant.

He graduated from St. Louis Catholic High School in 2002. In 2007, he received a Bachelor of Arts in History from McNeese State University, an experience he credits for sparking his interest in public service.

Mayor Hunter has successfully enacted a number of key initiatives, including increasing funding for drainage improvements and launching the Partners in Parks Initiative. More than \$1.6 million in private funds and grants have transformed several City parks and re-invigorated programming through innovative partnerships.

Making good on his promise to "turn dirt on the lakefront," Port Wonder, home to the Children's Museum and LDWF Science and Nature Center, is currently under construction with an anticipated opening date of late summer 2024. The development has been a catalyst for additional lakefront projects, including Crying Eagle's Lakefront restaurant, currently under construction, and Lake Area Adventures North Beach development.

Mayor Hunter has always looked for ways to encourage philanthropy, with a special focus on children in need, active military and veterans, and encouraging animal adoption. Working with the United Way of SWLA and the Community Foundation SWLA, he has rallied support and assisted in raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for such efforts.

Mayor Hunter passionately led the community through a string of natural disasters in 2020 and 2021. His tireless efforts gave Southwest Louisiana citizens a voice in Washington DC as he staunchly advocated for the community's needs and pointed

out the lacking federal response. After a protracted fight, the federal government did finally allocate the supplemental disaster aid needed to assist Southwest Louisiana with storm recovery. As those dollars are now hitting the streets, Mayor Hunter continues his advocacy efforts aimed at creating a more resilient community, one project at a time.

Mayor Hunter and his wife, Becky, an accomplished lawyer, are the proud parents of two children, Harrison and Colette.

Presentation:

A Conversation on Resiliency

Joining FEMA Administrator, Deanne Criswell in this plenary session on resiliency is Nic Hunter, Mayor of Lake Charles, Louisiana. This session will be moderated by IAEM-USA President, Carrie Speranza, CEM.