Broussard to collect video poker revenues

Trevor R. Badeaux
Staff Writer

BROUSSARD - Lafayette Parish voters ousted video poker in 1996. But Broussard, a Lafayette Parish municipality, will begin collecting the gaming revenues again next year. The city will collect the revenue from video poker parlors located on land it has in St. Martin Parish. That parish voted to keep video poker in 1996.

The result is a deal struck with St. Martin Parish officials to settle a lawsuit that was filed in 1999 to stop the Lafayette Parish municipality from annexing 770 acres along U.S. Route 90. The opposing sides reached a settlement in July in which St. Martin Parish agreed to allow the annexation. In return, Broussard agreed to use some of the video poker revenues it receives to pay for road and drainage improvements in the annexed area.

"We're looking at Jan. 3 to begin servicing that area with police and fire protection," said Durand, whose district lies solely in St. Martin Parish. "It was the people's choice to vote it out. Accepting money against the wishes of the people is wrong."

But Durand's law doesn't apply to Broussard, because it extended into St. Martin Parish before the law was passed. So it doesn't lie "wholly" in Lafayette Parish. Broussard isn't alone. Other parishes in Acadiana communities include: Vermilion, which is in Iberia and Vermilion parishes; and Barataria, which is in Lafourche and St. Martin parishes, and Duson, which is also in Lafayette and Acadia parishes.

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