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### **38-Year Purple Martin Colony at Center of Harahan Legal Battle**

**Trial Set for March 25, 2026**

**HARAHAN, La.** — A long-standing wildlife conservation effort is now at risk as the City of Harahan continues its third prosecution against Andrew and Carol Stamm. For 38 years, the Stamms have maintained a thriving Purple Martin colony at their home. Following complaints from a small number of neighbors, the City of Harahan — which identifies itself as a bird sanctuary — initiated legal action seeking the removal or relocation of the colony’s nesting structures.

An earlier case against the Stamms was dismissed after the city council amended its ordinance, creating new procedures and transferring the matter to the mayor’s court. The changes were ruled unconstitutional because they were applied after the case had already begun. Despite this ruling, the City of Harahan has continued pursuing the matter and is now seeking the removal or relocation of the nesting structures.

A trial date has been set for **March 25**, coinciding with the seasonal return of Purple Martins to Louisiana for the breeding season.

Purple Martins rely almost entirely on human-provided housing for nesting in the eastern United States. The Stamm colony follows widely recognized Purple Martin management practices supported by wildlife agencies and conservation organizations, including providing colony housing, installing predator guards, monitoring nests, and managing invasive species.

This is not just a Harahan issue — it raises broader concerns for conservation efforts across the country. If families can face repeated prosecution for maintaining habitat for federally protected migratory birds, it could set a troubling precedent for Purple Martin colonies nationwide.

The case has also raised broader questions regarding repeated prosecution, the use of taxpayer resources, and the appointment of a Special Magistrate who previously represented the Mayor and the City of Harahan in legal matters.

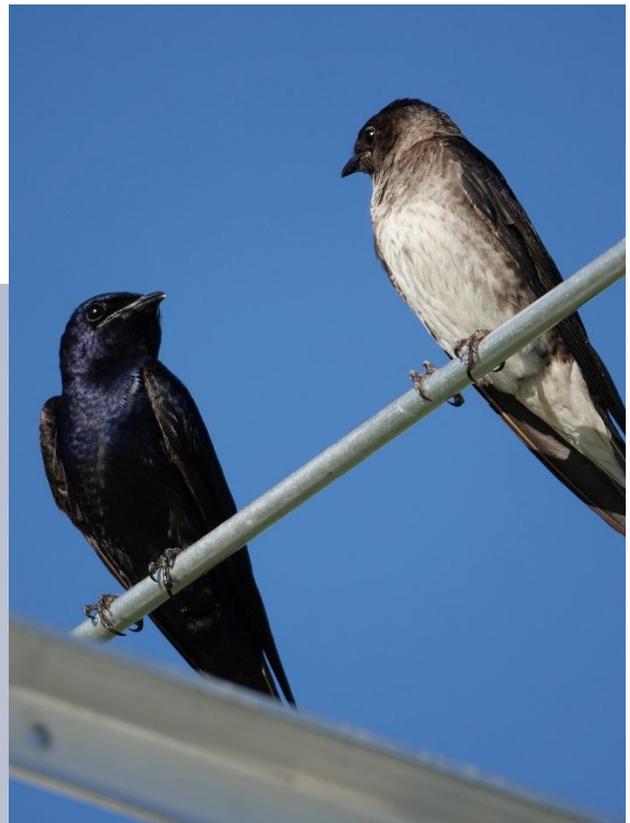
Despite the complaints, the Stamms have offered several mitigation measures, including professional pressure washing and providing car-wash memberships to nearby neighbors — steps that exceed local ordinance requirements.

As legal costs continue to grow, community supporters have created a GoFundMe campaign to assist the family with expenses related to the case. To support the Stamm family and review detailed information about the case, please visit the Purple Martin Conservation Initiative's [webpage](#).

The Purple Martin Conservation Initiative is calling for increased public awareness and media attention as the case moves forward and before this colony — and others like it across the country — face potentially irreversible harm.

### **About the Purple Martin Conservation Initiative**

The Purple Martin Conservation Initiative is a Louisiana-based nonprofit dedicated to protecting Purple Martins through education, habitat support, and community conservation efforts.



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