RESOLUTION NO.__7__OF 2003

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR PERIODIC REPORTS TO THE CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES AND WEEDED LOTS AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

BY: COUNCILMEN LESTER AND WALFORD

WHEREAS, when the City's Property Standards Code was enacted on May 25, 1993, it contained the following finding of fact:

> There exists in the city, structures used for human habitation and nonresidential purposes that are substandard in structure and maintenance. Many of these structures, because of their condition, are havens for criminal activity and contribute to neighborhood decay. In the absence of corrective measures, the neighborhoods where these structures are located will experience a deterioration of social values, a curtailment of investment and tax revenue, an increase in criminal activity and an impairment of economic values. The city, acting through the city council as its governing body, has adopted, by way of ordinance at its regular meeting convened, this chapter which is authorized by R.S. 33:4752 and 33:4754; and

WHEREAS, the Codes Enforcement Bureau's mission is to administer the City's Property Standards Code and specifically "to prevent and eliminate the deterioration of neighborhoods as a result of dilapidated housing, unsightly premises and overgrown properties"; and

WHEREAS, since May 25, 1993, the Codes Enforcement Bureau has spent millions of dollars "to prevent and eliminate the deterioration of neighborhoods as a result of dilapidated housing, unsightly premises and overgrown properties", including $2,183,000 in 2001 and $2,200,00 in 2002; and $2,334,500 is budgeted for this purpose in 2003; and

WHEREAS, although more than $2,000,000 is expended each year on private property to secure and demolish structures, to mow lots and to remove inoperable vehicles; budget documents show actual revenues (reimbursements) in 2001 as follows: Lot mowing fees - ($22,688); Demolition Fees-$18,631, and Securing Structures- $4,124; and

WHEREAS, although millions of dollars have been spent on dilapidated housing, unsightly premises and overgrown properties since 1993, the neighborhoods where most of these properties are located continue to experience a deterioration of social values, a curtailment of investment and tax revenue, an increase in criminal activity and an impairment of economic values; and

WHEREAS, as of December 12, 2002 there were 755 sub-standard structures and thousands of neglected lots in the Codes Enforcement System; and

WHEREAS, citizens complain that some sub-standard and dilapidated houses remain in the Codes Enforcement System for years without being demolished or repaired and the many properties are unsightly and/or overgrown year after year; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that the City of Shreveport make every effort to timely remove substandard structures from our neighborhoods; return the maintenance of weeded lots to the private sector and recover the amounts expended to remove the structures and to maintain the lots when possible: and

WHEREAS, because the Shreveport City Council is the Governing Authority of the City of Shreveport and the members of the Shreveport City Council are the elected officials closest to the citizens of Shreveport, it is therefore necessary and desirable that the City Council receive regular detailed status reports concerning the substandard structure program and the weeded lot program, and the reimbursement of funds expended in these efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Shreveport in due, regular and legal session convened that the Chief Administrative Officer, the Director of the Department of Community and/or the Bureau Chief of Codes Enforcement, or another designee of the Mayor, is authorized and directed to provide the City Council with detailed reports, in the form approved by the Property Standards Task, at each City Council meeting, beginning at the second City Council Meeting in January 2003.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of Council is directed to place on the City Council's agenda for each City Council meeting the following: "Status Report: Property Standards Program", and the item is to remain on the agenda until the item is removed from the agenda by the Council.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

_____

City Attorney's Office

RESOLUTION NO. **7** OF 2003

January 14, 2003

Read by title and as read motion by Councilman Lester, seconded by Councilman Walford for adoption. Approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmen Lester, Walford, Carmody, Gibson, Hogan, Green, and Jackson. 7. Nays: None.

James Edward Green, Chairman

Approved:

Keith Hightower, Mayor

"Adopted by the City Council JAN 1 4 2003

Approved by the Mayor JAN 2 1 2003

And Effective on JAN 2 9 2003

at 12:01 O'clock A.M."

Arthur G. Thompson, Clerk of Council