

Honorable Mayor C. Ray Nagin  
1300 Perdido Street  
New Orleans, LA 70117

Dear Mayor C. Ray Nagin:

The Neighborhoods Partnership Network (NPN) - a 501c3 organization of over 96 member organizations dedicated to making all New Orleans neighborhoods a great place to live - is renewing its commitment to ensure a blight-free New Orleans. Blighted properties prevent the economic growth of our beloved city. Their presence undermines the progress made towards neighborhood recovery, drives down economic development, and poses a glaring threat to resident's quality of life.

The NPN Advocacy Task Force launched its Code Enforcement Committee and has spent the past months convening and facilitating meetings open to our member and non-member organizations. As a result, we have developed the attached resolution, which supports the enforcement of the "existing" ordinances, including the citation of interior structure violations, ensuring the full and complete citation of non-compliant properties.

This resolution is formally endorsed by Forty-Four (44) neighborhood associations (including Twenty-six (26) NPN member neighborhood associations and eighteen (18) non-member neighborhood associations), representing thousands of constituents and over half of the total number of neighborhood associations in the City of New Orleans. **The NPN board, membership, and supporting associations ask you to sign the resolution for a blight-free New Orleans.**

Mayor Nagin, your City Attorney's Office appalling cancellation of code enforcement hearings, critically hinders the blight abatement process and stunts the significant gains of your Code Enforcement Department. **NPN requests that your City Attorney's Office immediately reinstate the canceled legal services contracts in order to resume fiscal year 2010 code enforcement hearings without delay.** We advise the City Attorney's Office to review the balance in the "New Orleans Neighborhood Revitalization Fund" - a revolving fund authorized by Section 28-54 of the Municipal Code - and use its monies to "'sustain its [City Attorney's Office] contractual obligations" and continue code enforcement hearings.

We understand that your schedule is busy with the holidays. **Thus, the Neighborhood Partnership Network and its members ask that you please sign the attached resolution and cover letter by January 14th.**

In the new year the NPN Advocacy Task Force will submit resolutions to your administration that address:

**1.) The Proper and Transparent Use of Funds and Assets for Code Enforcement and Blight Abatement:**

- Increase volume of code lien auctions and proceeds from such sales should be used for code enforcement efforts.
- Make all demolitions criteria transparent and easily accessible to the public.
- Add a formal mechanism for civic groups to assist the code enforcement process.

**2.) Better Execution of the Ordinances, including but not limited to:**

- Strict enforcement of muni. code sec. 28-40, regarding a party's failure to appear at hearings.
- Strict enforcement of muni. code sec. 28-53, to minimize repeat resets for violators.
- Efficient, timely filing of liens according to municipal code sec. 28-58 and sec. 28-7.

The Neighborhoods Partnership Network (NPN) urges you to sign the resolution and re-instate code enforcement hearings. Please direct all questions to the undersigned.

Happy New Year,



Timolynn Sams

Executive Director

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Julius Lee

Board Chair

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Tilman Hardy

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# NPN ADVOCACY TASK FORCE

## RESOLUTION TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2008, the City of New Orleans adopted an ordinance to amend and re-ordain Chapters 6, 26 and 66 and to institute Chapter 28 of the Code of the City of New Orleans (“the ordinances”) to establish a post-disaster “neighborhood stabilization” plan related to unoccupied properties within the City of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Orleans has an inordinate number of unoccupied properties in noncompliance with the ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the ordinances require owners of unoccupied properties to remediate those properties through renovation or demolition; and

WHEREAS, the neighborhood associations listed below agree with the purpose of the ordinances, which is to eradicate blight in our neighborhoods because it has a substantial adverse affect on neighboring properties, including but not limited to contributing to depreciating property values within the surrounding neighborhood; causing substantial and unreasonable interference with the lawful use and enjoyment of other premises within our neighborhoods; contributing to the potential for criminal activity; and reducing the economic stability of the area, community, and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the neighborhood associations find that such substandard, vacant, unremediated, dilapidated, decayed, unsafe or unsanitary unoccupied properties threaten the physical, social and economical stability of the City, thereby undermining post-disaster recovery throughout the City and requiring the City to expend a disproportionate amount of public funds for remedial action, dissuading community reinvestment, and jeopardizing the effectiveness of city government and citizen - led recovery and rebuilding activities; and

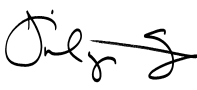
WHEREAS, it is in the public interest of the City’s residents to take the necessary measures to maintain stability for all neighborhoods and promote decent, safe and sanitary properties in all Districts, while the City recovers and rebuilds; and

WHEREAS, the neighborhood associations’ goal is to have a “blight free” City of New Orleans;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the undersigned associations hereby go on record as supporting enforcement of the ordinances, including the citation of interior structure violations, which is our necessary next step in the process of blight eradication.

New Orleans, Louisiana this Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of December, 2009.

SIGNED, Julius Lee  
Chairman, NPN

  
SIGNED, \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director, NPN

**44 ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF NPN ADVOCACY TASK FORCE  
RESOLUTION**  
Monday 21st, December 2009

**NPN Members Code Enforcement Resolution (27 Groups)**

- Broadmoor Improvement Association (BIA)
- Bunny Friends Neighborhood Association
- Bywater Neighborhood Association (BNA)
- Carrollton/Riverbend Neighborhood Association (CRNA)
- Central City Renaissance Alliance (CCRA)
- DeSaix Area Neighborhood Association
- Downtown Neighborhoods Improvement Association (DNIA)
- Fauborg St. John Neighborhood Association (FSJNA)
- Faubourg St. Roch Improvement Association (FSRIA)
- Garden District Association
- Gentilly Heights East Neighborhood Association (GHENA)
- Gentilly Sugar Hill Neighborhood Association
- Gentilly Terrace and Gardens Improvement Association (GT&G)
- Hoffman Triangle Neighborhood Association
- Lake Bullard Homeowners Association
- Lakeshore Property Owners' Association
- Lakewood East
- Melia Subdivision Association
- Milneburg Neighborhood Association
- Mid-City Neighborhood Organization (MCNO)
- O.C. Haley Blvd Merchants & Business Association
- Old Algiers Main Street Corporation
- Parkview Neighborhood Association
- Real Timbers Property Owners Association
- Rosedale Subdivision
- Tunisburg Homeowners Civic Association
- Westbarrington Neighborhood Association

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**Peer Neighborhood Associations - Non-NPN Members (17 Groups)**

- Burbank Civic and Improvement Association
- Carrollton/Hollygrove CDC
- CDC 58:12, Inc.
- Chimneywood Homeowners Association
- Claiborne University Neighborhood Assoc (CUNA)
- Council of Residents of the Historic Town of Carrollton
- Faubourg Marigny Improvement Association (FMIA)
- Gert Town Community Development Center
- Hollygrove Neighbors
- Kenilworth Civic And Improvement Association
- Lakeview Blight Committee (part of LCIA)
- Lake Willow Neighborhood Association
- Paris Oaks/Bayou Vista
- Spring Lake Neighborhood
- St. Charles Ave. Association
- St Claude Main Street
- Tall Timbers Owners Association