

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 173

BY REPRESENTATIVE JIMMY HARRIS

PARISH/ORLEANS: Requests the New Orleans City Council to expand the authority of the city's code enforcement department and its employees

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the New Orleans City Council to expand the authority of the city's code  
3 enforcement department and its employees so as to provide for a more consistent  
4 enforcement of the city's sanitation and zoning ordinances and enhance the city's  
5 ability to collect payment for fines imposed for violations of these ordinances.

6 WHEREAS, the city of New Orleans is a vibrant and lively city and a major driver  
7 of the state's economy as it is an annual destination for millions of conventioners and  
8 tourists from all over the world; and

9 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the city recognize that consistent enforcement of  
10 the city's sanitation and zoning ordinances, including effective litter and blight control,  
11 protects the health, safety, and welfare of its residents and enhances the beauty and quality  
12 of the environment; and

13 WHEREAS, the city's residents, civic leaders, and business owners have a mutual  
14 interest in maintaining all property located in the city in a safe and sanitary condition; and

15 WHEREAS, pursuant to provisions of the city's home rule charter and code of  
16 ordinances, including the city's comprehensive zoning ordinance, several city agencies have  
17 the authority to enforce ordinances pertaining to sanitation and zoning; and

18 WHEREAS, the current administrative adjudication procedures, established pursuant  
19 to the city's code of ordinances, provide for limited jurisdiction over certain public health,  
20 housing, environmental, historic district, and nuisance violations; and

1           WHEREAS, although employees of the city's code enforcement department are  
2 authorized to issue citations for certain violations of the city's code of ordinances, they are  
3 not authorized to issue municipal summonses, as that responsibility rests mainly with  
4 officers of the New Orleans Police Department; and

5           WHEREAS, many officers of the New Orleans Police Department do not have time  
6 to issue municipal summonses for violations of the city's code of ordinances as they are  
7 tasked daily with responding to an overwhelming number of emergency calls; and

8           WHEREAS, because many violators of the city's code of ordinances do not receive  
9 municipal summonses to appear in court, many fail to pay the fines issued for violations of  
10 these ordinances as they are keenly aware that the city's code enforcement department and  
11 its employees lack the ability to enforce the collection of these fines.

12           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the New Orleans City Council to  
14 expand the authority of the city's code enforcement department and its employees so as to  
15 provide for a more consistent enforcement of the city's sanitation and zoning ordinances and  
16 enhance the city's ability to collect payment for fines imposed for violations of these  
17 ordinances.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 173 Original

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