

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 173

BY REPRESENTATIVE JIMMY HARRIS

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES