

ORDINANCE NUMBER 40-2011

THIS ORDINANCE EMBRACES THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS WHICH SHALL CONSTITUTE AND BE DESIGNED AS BLIGHT ELIMINATION FOR THE TOWN OF STONEWALL, DESOTO PARISH, LOUISIANA

SECTION 1-2011: BLIGHT ELIMINATION PLAN

In addition to the numerous ongoing and widespread efforts by the Town of Stonewall to eliminate blight with the Town Corporate Limits, elimination of blight in the town shall also be accomplished by methodically selecting blighted areas within the town limits which need the most urgent attention and designating those areas as "community improvement areas" by resolution of the Board of Council Members. Community improvement areas shall be recommended to the Board of Council Members by the "Blight Elimination Team", created herein, in accordance with the criteria set out in Section 2-2011. Once a community improvement area has been designated, it shall receive concentrated blight elimination efforts from the Blight Elimination Team, until the blight within the community improvement area has been diminished to the extent that such efforts are no longer necessary.

SECTION 1-2011A: BLIGHT ELIMINATION

As to be determined by the Blight Elimination Team some blight may be concealed in rear of residence or business by 6 foot or higher fence as to conceal such blight. Fence must be constructed of quality material and approved by Blight Elimination Team.

SECTION 1-2011B: EXCLUSIONS

Exclusions to such blight are plots of land of Four (4) acres or more.

SECTION 2-2011: DEFINITION OF BLIGHT

For purposes of this article, blight shall be defined as conditions upon or affecting premises, which are hazardous to the health, safety or welfare of the public, and/or conditions which are detrimental to property values, economic stability, or to the quality of the environment. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, the following: the accumulation of junk, trash, garbage, litter, refuse, rubbish, appliances, debris, combustible materials, or junked inoperable vehicles; illegal dumping; noxious weeds; overgrown vegetation; infestation of insects, vermin or rodents; animals running at large; dilapidated structures; condemned properties; abandoned adjudicated properties; criminal violations; weed liens; zoning violations; alcohol beverage control violations; health code violations; and other conditions which are hazardous to public health, safety, or welfare.

SECTION 2-2011: COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AREA CRITERIA

In order for an area to be designate as a community improvement area, the area must have a significant concentration of conditions of blight as defined in Section 1-2011A above as compared with other areas within the town.

SECTION 2-2011B: HOME OWNER'S ASSOCIATION

Each Subdivision in the Town limits has their own restrictions and regulations. These should be enforced by residents of said subdivisions. Note that most streets in the Town limits with varying lot sizes are subdivision.

SECTION 3-2011 BLIGHT ELIMINATION TEAM

There is hereby called created with the Town of Stonewall Municipal Government a multi-agency task force known as the "Blight Elimination Team", hereinafter known as the "team", which shall be designated by the department head of the respective department. The Mayor's office hereby designates the following departments or persons:
(see page 2)

Mayor's office designee (Alternate)

Police Department designee (Alternate)

Two Council Members

Two Planning Commissioners

Two Citizens of the Town

SECTION 3-2011A:

CODE OFFICER

A Code Officer shall be appointed or hired by the Town and have full authority to ticket and fine such violators upon approval of Blight Elimination Team and Mayor.

Adopted Resolution Number 51-2011, whereupon the Board of Council Members have approved the employment of a Code Officer in and for the Town of Stonewall Corporate Limits on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 during a regularly convened session of the Board of Council Members.

SECTION 4-2011:

RESPONSIBILITIES OF BLIGHT ELIMINATION TEAM

- (a) The blight elimination team shall be responsible for recommending the community improvement area for elimination of blight, which shall be approved by the Board of Council Members by resolution.
- (b) The Town of Stonewall Planning Commission designee shall perform an inspection of the community improvement area to determine the existence of any zoning violations and to evaluate which properties are threats to public safety and health.
- (c) The Blight Elimination Team shall coordinate with the Mayor's Office regarding the area to bring into community improvement the priorities for change of the people who live in the area.
- (d) The team shall report on any health or sanitary code violations.
- (e) The Mayor's office designee shall be responsible for assisting with any and all requests of the Blight Elimination Team.

SECTION 5-2011:

MEETINGS

The Mayor's office shall set a date for meetings, during which the aforementioned members shall deliver the reports and the team shall develop a specific action plan for elimination of blight in the area along with a designated time line. Regular meetings shall be set for the acceptance of progress reports and the team shall be responsible for making semi-annual status reports to the Mayor and the Board of Council Members regarding the progress of blight elimination within the community improvement area.

SECTION 6-2011:

PENALTY FOR MAINTAINING BLIGHT

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, and in addition to any other remedy provided by law, any person who allows blight, as defined herein, to be created, or to exist, on property which is in his or her custody, control, or ownership, shall be guilty of maintaining blight, which shall be punishable as a misdemeanor. The penalty for violation of this subsection shall be a fine of not more than \$500.00 and/or imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or both. Each calendar day that such violation exists shall be considered a separate violation.

First Reading having been read by title and introduced by Council Member Curtis McCune at a regular convened Board of Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2011.

Second Reading having been read by Town Clerk, Kay Berry at a Public Hearing held on Tuesday, May 10th, 2011 at the Stonewall Municipal Complex.

