

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, OUTLINING THE GOALS TO BE ACHIEVED IN 2018 WITH REGARD TO THE ELIMINATION OF BLIGHT IN DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the County recognizes that blighted properties cause adverse impacts in the community, including depressing property values and limiting economic development opportunities, and there is a need to address those problems in a systematic and orderly fashion;

WHEREAS, in early 2017, the County undertook the task of identifying various administrative and legislative changes to aid in the reduction of blight in residential areas across the County;

WHEREAS, the County enacted a resolution identifying a number of goals and objectives that were designed to aid in the reduction of blight within the County;

WHEREAS, throughout 2017 the County has accomplished a number of the tasks outlined in its 2017 resolution. Completion of these tasks has allowed the County to reduce blight and eliminate the public health, wealth and safety issues that arise in the course of bringing private property into compliance with various laws;

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2018, the commission passed a Resolution whereby the commission will consider an annual Blight Resolution listing the goals and tasks for that calendar year; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution creates a roadmap listing the goals and tasks for eliminating blight in 2018;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Authority as follows:

1. The County will abate or demolish one hundred forty (140) blighted properties through the Demolitions and Abatements Task Force utilizing the streamlined “Quality of Life” Court that adjudicates In Rem Abatement and Demolition actions;
2. The County will improve staff efficiency, increase transparency, and allow citizens to track code enforcement cases through the implementation of new technology, including through Hansen version 8.4;
3. The County will consider reactivation of the DeKalb County Land Bank Authority for the purpose of converting vacant, abandoned, and tax delinquent properties to productive uses in order to stabilize neighborhoods and promote quality housing;
4. County staff will research best practices and present an ordinance or resolution to the commission that may include the establishment of a “Blight Tax” that increases property taxes on blighted properties until such properties are remediated or redeveloped;
5. The commission will continue to discuss and adopt in 2018 the International Property Maintenance Code to provide Code Enforcement with tools to combat blight;

6. The commission will continue to review and adopt in 2018 an ordinance revising the business license chapter of the Code of DeKalb County to provide clarified processes for issuance, suspension and revocation of business licenses;
7. The commission will consider adoption of an ordinance to establish a code enforcement advisory board;
8. County staff will present an ordinance to the commission revising the sign ordinance to address sign kiosks, large signs, and other visual blight;
9. County staff will review the federal 2017 Tax Reform Act to determine whether it provides any additional opportunities for the County to remediate or incentivize the remediation of blighted properties;
10. County staff will maintain a vacant property and foreclosure registry, submit budget requests to ensure the registry is properly funded, and provide a report to the commission every six months;
11. County staff will maintain and update a spreadsheet to identify and track blighted properties throughout the rehabilitation process; and
12. The Executive Assistant shall prepare a flow chart and brief the commission on the different administrative processes for handling violations of the Code and addressing various blight related issues.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2018.

JEFF RADER
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this ____ day of _____, 2018.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
Interim County Attorney

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:

LUZ BORRERO
Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Development