



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Agenda Item

File ID: 2017-0086

Substitute

3/27/2018

Public Hearing: YES ☐ NO ☒

Department: Board of Commissioners

SUBJECT:

Commission District(s): All Commission Districts are impacted by this item.

2017 Blight Resolution

Information Contact: Larry Johnson, Commissioner District 3

Phone Number: 404-371-2988

PURPOSE:

This resolution lists the goals achieved in 2017 with regard to the elimination of blight in DeKalb County.

NEED/IMPACT:

Elimination of blight improves property values, increases the tax base and foster economic development. When DeKalb County takes steps to eliminate blight, it improves the public safety, health and welfare of all of its citizens. The County is committed to eliminating blight in a systematic way so each year, the County will consider a Blight Resolution listing the goals to be achieved during that calendar year. This Resolution lists the goals achieved in 2017 and can be adopted and approved by the Governing Authority.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No direct fiscal impact

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the resolution and authorize the chief executive officer to execute all necessary documents.

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, OUTLINING THE GOALS ACHIEVED IN 2017 WITH REGARD TO THE ELIMINATION OF BLIGHT IN DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the County recognizes that blighted properties cause significant problems within the community 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; and

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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the County has accomplished the following tasks which reduce blight in the County:

1. Fifty-five (55) blighted properties were abated which means windows were boarded up, doors secured, grass cut, and trash and debris removed from the grounds;
2. The County demolished a total of thirty-seven (37) buildings, including several large burned out buildings at the Brannon Hills Condominium complex;
3. The County authorized the sale of the Blue Sky Complex for redevelopment by the private sector;
4. The Beautification Department collected 641,745 pounds of litter, including 3,683 tires, and cleared five hundred and ninety-two (592) illegal dump sites
5. County departments worked cooperatively to take legal action to begin the legal process to demolish or abate approximately one hundred and twenty (120) blighted buildings;
6. After legal action was begun to abate a property, 34 property owners abated their own properties without court intervention;
7. The Magistrate Court of DeKalb County agreed to create a "Quality of Life" Court that streamlines the In Rem Abatement and Demolition process by (a) specially setting all hearings one day per month and (b) decreasing the time needed to obtain court orders to demolish or abate blighted properties;

8. The County increased the budget for the Solicitor-General of DeKalb County so that there are now prosecutors and investigators primarily dedicated to the prosecution of ordinance violations in the Magistrate Court of DeKalb County;
9. County staff has created drafts of a new International Property Maintenance Code and Business License Code and those drafts will be reviewed and vetted during 2018 with an anticipated adoption in 2018;
10. In 2017, the County enacted an ordinance regulating hotels and motels to eliminate a number of code violations, security and health issues arising in hotels and motels in the community;
11. Each year, the County will consider any needed state law changes to eliminate blight in its legislative agenda; and
12. Each year, the County will consider a Blight Resolution listing the goals and tasks for that calendar year.

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