

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE CITY MANAGER TO INCLUDE FUNDING IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 SUBMITTED BUDGET FOR THE ADDITION OF A PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TO BE EXCLUSIVELY DEDICATED TO PROACTIVE CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, the City Council has adopted Independence for All as the strategic plan for the City of Independence; and

WHEREAS, a key objective of this plan is to reduce blight in commercial corridors, entryways, and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Services Division of the Community Development Department works in partnership with citizens and businesses to promote and maintain a safe, healthy, and desirable living and working environment through the administration of the Property Maintenance, zoning, and right-of-way codes; and

WHEREAS, staff in the Neighborhood Services Division enforce Chapter 4, Article 1 of the City Code, which is known as the Property Maintenance Code of the City of Independence; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Code is "to protect the public health, safety and welfare in all existing structures, residential and nonresidential, and on all existing premises by establishing minimum requirements and standards for premises, structures, equipment, and facilities for light, ventilation, space, heating, sanitation, protection from the elements, life safety, safety from fire and other hazards, and for safe and sanitary maintenance; fixing the responsibility of owners, operators and occupants; regulating the occupancy of existing structures and premises, and providing for administration, enforcement and penalties"; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of this Code is handled by eight full-time Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officers; and

WHEREAS, these officers manage over 10,000 cases annually, many of which are complaint-driven; and

WHEREAS, the City has taken a number of actions to increase service delivery in this area in recent years, including the addition of two full-time positions, cross-training staff to perform multiple inspection activities, and increasing funding for abatement actions; and

WHEREAS, these enhancements have had demonstrated success, including inspecting over 81% of code enforcement cases within five days or less, an 88% increase in proactive code enforcement by City staff, and reducing the timeline for dangerous building demolitions from 120 days to just 40 days; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to further this progress, specifically with regard to proactive code enforcement efforts, it is deemed advisable to pursue the addition of a Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officer dedicated exclusively to proactive code enforcement throughout the City of Independence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That at the City Manager is encouraged to include funding in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Submitted Budget to support the addition of a Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officer dedicated exclusively to proactive code enforcement throughout the City of Independence.

PASSED THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer of the City Council  
of the City of Independence, Missouri

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Counselor

REVIEWED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager