RESOLUTION NO. 7 OF 2003

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR PERIODIC REPORTS TO THE CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES AND WEEDED LOTS AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO

BY: COUNCILMEN LESTER AND WALFORD

WHEREAS, when the City's Property Standards Code was enacted on May 25, 1993, it contained the following finding of fact:

There exists in the city, structures used for human habitation and nonresidential purposes that are substandard in structure and maintenance. Many of these structures, because of their condition, are havens for criminal activity and contribute to neighborhood decay. In the absence of corrective measures, the neighborhoods where these structures are located will experience a deterioration of social values, a curtailment of investment and tax revenue, an increase in criminal activity and an impairment of economic values. The city, acting through the city council as its governing body, has adopted, by way of ordinance at its regular meeting convened, this chapter which is authorized by R.S. 33:4752 and 33:4754; and

WHEREAS, the Codes Enforcement Bureau's mission is to administer the City's Property Standards Code and specifically "to prevent and eliminate the deterioration of neighborhoods as a result of dilapidated housing, unsightly premises and overgrown properties"; and

WHEREAS, since May 25, 1993, the Codes Enforcement Bureau has spent millions of dollars "to prevent and eliminate the deterioration of neighborhoods as a result of dilapidated housing, unsightly premises and overgrown properties", including \$2,183,000 in 2001 and \$2,200,00 in 2002; and \$2,334,500 is budgeted for this purpose in 2003; and

WHEREAS, although more than \$2,000,000 is expended each year on private property to secure and demolish structures, to mow lots and to remove inoperable vehicles; budget documents show actual revenues (reimbursements) in 2001 as follows: Lot mowing fees - (\$22,688); Demolition Fees-\$18,631, and Securing Structures-\$4,124; and

WHEREAS, although millions of dollars have been spent on dilapidated housing, unsightly premises and overgrown properties since 1993, the neighborhoods where most of these properties are located continue to experience a deterioration of social values, a curtailment of investment and tax revenue, an increase in criminal activity and an impairment of economic values; and

WHEREAS, as of December 12, 2002 there were 755 sub-standard structures and thousands of neglected lots in the Codes Enforcement System; and

WHEREAS, citizens complain that some sub-standard and dilapidated houses remain in the Codes Enforcement System for years without being demolished or repaired and the many properties are unsightly and/or overgrown year after year; and