



# *City Of Memphis*

## *Citywide Clean Up Initiative*

To the Citizens of Memphis:

As the Mayor of this Great City, my ultimate vision for our community is to create safe, secure, healthy and economically viable "neighborhoods of choice" for generations now and in the future. In order for our community to grow and flourish, we must first improve the physical environment in which we live, work and play. The cornerstone of our efforts will be predicated on your compliance to our code enforcement ordinances. That is why; we must and will enforce our code ordinances in a fair and consistent manner to secure the future of our Great City for you the citizens.

A major priority of this administration is to develop, focus on and implement short and long-term strategies designed to improve the quality of life by offering a clean and marketable physical environment through consistent and unbiased enforcement of our code ordinances. Several years ago, our City was known as one of the cleanest cities in America. This honor bestowed on our Great City was earned through the full collaboration and cooperation of its citizens. We need to come together to clean up and revitalize our neighborhoods.

Therefore, no longer will we tolerate the wide range of code violations that perpetuate further deterioration of our neighborhoods and community:

- Littering and loitering;
- Nuisance properties;
- Lack of attention to rental/residential building standards by landlords and homeowners;
- Zoning violations; and
- Criminal behavior on problem properties.

Nor will we permit the manipulation of the code enforcement process to minimize property owner responsibilities at the expense of the residents, neighbors, and City government.

A comprehensive approach to enforcing all violations has been designed to reinforce the compliance of all code ordinances. Previous efforts by the City to correct these violations have not been as effective as we would have liked. Some of our major challenges to effective code enforcement included a lack of collaboration and coordination of efforts between code enforcement, other departments, agencies and external stakeholders engaged in related code and clean up activities. In order to accomplish our vision, we must take a different approach to code enforcement and the elimination of problem properties. I have heard the complaints of the citizens and decided to mobilize all city departments around a new approach to our code enforcement efforts.

Our new approach to effective code enforcement will incorporate the establishment of a Task Force to improve the communication between the City, other agencies, and the public regarding enforcement activities. Other



methods will be used to gather community based information from agencies to identify problem areas. Furthermore, the utilization of all methods to eliminate code violations will be used, which includes citing violators directly to court. Moreover, we will also review and assess the need to add new ordinances and make modifications to existing code ordinances.

Many changes are in progress to augment how we sustain our code enforcement initiatives going forward. The Residential Code Enforcement Department has been transferred to the Division of Housing and Community Development. This change will facilitate the decentralization process of the City's Code Enforcement Department (establishment of seven (7) district code offices). The decentralization of the Code Department will help us provide better customer service, accessibility to code inspectors, enhanced service delivery, and improvement in our outreach and communication at the neighborhood level. The outcomes from this re-organization will have a positive impact on our community and provide substantial improvements to the physical environment of our neighborhoods.

The next two years will be challenging and rewarding as we embark on an aggressive neighborhood revitalization initiative to enhance and improve the physical environment and provide economic growth for residents and businesses. To this end; I am initiating a major citywide clean up campaign, "A Cleaner Memphis Starts with You." During this clean up campaign we will focus resources on several targeted neighborhoods in need of immediate attention. In addition, we have identified over eight-hundred (800 +) dilapidated, dangerous structures that have been condemned and ready for demolition. During the six (6) month Citywide Clean Up Initiative, I am inviting all citizens of Memphis to participate in the clean up of their neighborhoods. To succeed in this endeavor, we must come together and work together to ensure that our code ordinances are carried out consistently and fairly citywide and to sustain our clean up efforts to truly affect change.

As citizens, your role is important to the implementation of our new approach to code enforcement and cleaning up our neighborhoods. The City not only wants to improve living conditions, but, it also wants to engage the citizens and property owners to be good neighbors by taking positive actions and preventive measures.

We appreciate your cooperation in our efforts to make the City of Memphis the place of "Choice" to live, work and recreate.

Sincerely,



Willie W. Herenton  
Mayor of the City of Memphis

