



E. "BEN" ZAHN III
MAYOR

CITY OF KENNER

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 25, 2019

KENNER CODE SWEEPS UNCOVER 222 VIOLATIONS

Kenner, LA. – Kenner Mayor Ben Zahn has announced that inspectors from the Code Enforcement Department issued a total of 222 violations in three different code sweeps conducted in the city.

One sweep took place in the 100-300 blocks of Clemson and Duke street and the 2300 block of Idaho Avenue, another sweep was in the 400 and 500 blocks of East Louisiana State Drive and the 3300-3400 blocks of Ole Miss Drive and the third sweep included most of the 3500-3600 blocks of Tulane Drive and the 3500-3600 blocks of West Louisiana State Drive.

In the sweep on Clemson and Duke streets and Idaho Avenue, the following violations were reported:

Address required	6
Abandoned refrigerator	1
Abandoned vehicles	17
Building maintenance required	15
Fascia/soffit issues	13
Fence repair required	17
High grass/weeks	1
Illegal discharge	2
Litter/debris	21
Parking on grass	13
Repair or demolish required	2
Rodent proofing required	6
Stagnant water/mosquitoes	2
Unsafe electrical conditions	10
Vehicles tagged	16

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In the sweep on East Louisiana State Drive and Ole Miss Drive, inspectors reported the following violations:

Address required	3
Abandoned vehicles	11
Building maintenance required	2
Building permits required	1
Fascia/soffit issues	5
Fence repair	1
High grass/weeds	2
Litter/debris	8
Parking on grass	2
Repair or demolish required	3
Stagnant water/mosquitoes	1
Unsafe electrical conditions	2
Unsafe plumbing conditions	1
Unsafe mechanical conditions	1
Vehicles tagged	4

Inspectors reported the following violations in the sweep on Tulane Drive and West Louisiana State Drive:

Address required	3
Abandoned vehicles	14
Building maintenance required	5
Building permits	1
Fascia/soffit issues	1
Litter/debris	6
Parking on grass	2
Rodents	1

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Owners of the properties are notified by warning or summonses, depending on the violation, and abandoned vehicles are tagged to be towed if not removed or brought into compliance within a period of time. Property owners appear in court and are ordered to comply with the city's code laws. Violators can face both fines and court costs. Even if violators come into compliance, they are placed on probation and can be recharged under the original offense if there is a repeat violation.

A total of 82 warning violations and 19 court summons were issued in the three code sweeps. The sweeps took place Districts 1, 2 and 5 in the city.

While the city has been vigilant with code sweeps, District 1 Councilman Gregory Carroll asked residents to continue to report any problems in their neighborhoods.

"Hopefully, we reach a day when there are no complaints about blight," Carroll said. "But we aren't there, yet. There is much work left to do."

District 2 Councilman Mike Sigur said the sweeps send a strong message to property owners who don't properly handle their obligations to change their habits.

"We don't want to take people to court, but we simply cannot – and we will not - ignore repeated violations of our code enforcement laws," Sigur said.

District 5 Councilman Brian Brennan encouraged residents of his district to call his office or the Code Enforcement Department with any neighborhood concerns.

"There is no time to relax when it comes to blight," Brennan said. "Give us the information and we will take action."

Mayor Ben Zahn said the code sweeps – which resulted in more than 2,000 violations in 2018 – remain a top priority.

"This is more than just Code Enforcement Director James Mohamad and his team of inspectors," Zahn said. "These code sweeps are possible because of teamwork involving the administration, the City Council and our Police Chief. As ONE TEAM, we will win the fight against blight."

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