

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING THE CITY'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MISSISSIPPI SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE TO ADDRESS BLIGHTED PROPERTIES IN JACKSON.

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson, Mississippi is fighting diligently to overcome the scourge of blighted and dilapidated buildings in our City in partnership with several non-profit and educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson, Mississippi recognizes that the people who live around blighted properties have a vested interest in trying to reclaim and repair said properties; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson, Mississippi has established the Neighbor's First Program to help sell abandoned and blighted homes to neighbors and community groups around said properties; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi via the Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State has title to thousands of blighted and abandoned properties in the City of Jackson which are state-owned, tax-forfeited land; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi Code Section 29-1-51 gives the Mississippi Secretary of State and the Governor the power to transfer state-owned, tax-forfeited land to municipalities to then retain or dispose of as provided by law

WHEREAS, Mississippi Code Section 21-17-1(11) gives powers to the City of Jackson to address blight aggressively via programs such as the Neighbor's First Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson, Mississippi recognizes that the success of the Neighbor's First Program depends on the Governor and the Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State agreeing to make available to this program some of the thousands of blighted and abandoned properties in the City of Jackson the State of Mississippi has title to via the Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson, Mississippi and the Mississippi Secretary of State have worked collaboratively in the past to sell abandoned properties and get them back on the tax rolls via auctions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jackson and the Mississippi Secretary of State have met to discuss the Secretary of State's possible participation in the Neighbor's First Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, that the City of Jackson expressly supports expanding the relationship between the City of Jackson and the Secretary of State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Jackson hereby asks that the Secretary of State and Governor agree to transfer blighted, state-owned properties in Jackson to the City of Jackson for inclusion in the Neighbor's First Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council of Jackson hereby pledges to take any and all action necessary legislative action requested by the Secretary of State or Governor to make sure that the Neighbor's First Program complies with the requirements of the Mississippi Constitution or other requirements necessary for the Governor and Secretary of State to participate in this program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Jackson requests that Secretary of State's Office engage in any revisions to its administration rules necessary to allow the Secretary of State to participate in the Neighbor's First Program in a manner that allows citizens to purchase blighted, state-owned property at the same price they can purchase City-owned blighted property through this program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Jackson thanks the Secretary of State for his past collaboration with the City on selling blighted property in Jackson and thanks the Secretary of State and his staff for recent meetings to explore the State participating in the Neighbors First Program as described in this Resolution.

Agenda Item #24
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By: Priester