

Ad Hoc Committee
Housing Blight- Code of Ordinance 10-91-10-98
Council Chambers- City Hall
July 17, 2014

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Chairman Vinny Digilio called the meeting to order at 6:01PM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Vinny Digilio, Joe Cavo and Fred Visconti

ALSO PRESENT: Robin Edwards, Corporation Council.

Members of the public included Ex-Officio members Colleen Stanley, Shawn Stillman- Unit, Richie Antous, David Newland, Building Inspector and members of the public.

Mr. Digilio asked Attorney Robin Edwards to give an overview of the purpose of the meeting. They received a request from the Unit members to amend the existing blight ordinance (sections 10-91-10-98 of the Code of Ordinances). The reason was to amend a particular section (10-94) to name the Unit as being responsible for enforcement. The ordinance was written that responsibility was on the Building Department and that position was non-existent at that time. This is a tool the Unit wants to use to enforce its duties regarding blight in the City. Section 10-94 was amended to provide those duties to the Unit. Because the position was originally in the building department, Section 10-95b was amended also to add language indicating that before a written notice or warning or citation was issued, the Unit shall consult with the appropriate official regarding the alleged violation and receive advice and recommendations or advice from the Building Department official, Chief of Police, Fire Marshal or the Health Director depending on the nature of the violation. Other changes were made to bring the existing blight ordinance into compliance with the Connecticut General Statutes. In 2012, Connecticut General Statutes were amended relative to blight. Other changes were made for further clarity. Mr. Visconti asked about landlord-tenant disputes. Those disputes are private matters covered individually between those parties. This is for blight conditions that are existing that Unit officials can issue citations for. Mr. Cavo asked about written notice to the owner and occupant. The owner will be made aware of any violation by the tenant/occupant. Written notice will be sent certified return receipt or sometimes delivered by constable or sheriff and regular mail. Appeals and hearing authority would be Mike Safranek.

A motion was made by, Mr. Cavo seconded by Mr. Visconti to receive the changes to the Ordinance and recommend that the City Council adopt the proposed amendments to Sections 10-91, through 10-97 of the Code of Ordinances regarding the prevention of housing blight and will be referred to a public hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Cavo, seconded by Mr. Visconti to adjourn its meeting at 6:15 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vinny Digillio, Committee Chairman

Joe Cavo

Fred Visconti