

RESOLUTION NO. 144 OF 2024

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAYOR'S DECISION TO EXTEND DECLARATIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY EMERGENCY NUMBER 24-0001 AND 24-0002 DUE TO PROPERTY CONDITIONS, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 29:737 empowers the chief executive officer of a municipality to undertake immediate emergency response measures within the municipality whenever a situation develops within or outside the municipality and the chief executive officer of the municipality determines immediate action is required to preserve the public peace, property, health, or safety within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2024, pursuant to La. R.S. §29:737, the Mayor of the City of Shreveport declared a state of public health and safety emergency at the Jolie Apartments (1017 Quail Creek Croad), Villa Norte Apartments (1620 Fullerton Street), and the Pines Apartments (8020 Line Avenue), in Declaration Number 24-0001 (Instrument #2969825) due to property conditions and unauthorized occupants, as those apartment complexes no longer lawfully house residents, the owners and managers of these complexes ceased active management, and water and power services having been disconnected; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2024, in Declaration Number 24-0002, the Mayor of the City of Shreveport determined that the Linwood Homes (7210 Bernstein Avenue) apartment complex no longer lawfully houses residents, expressly empowered the Shreveport Police Department to remove or arrest any person found there for whom there is probable cause to suspect of criminal activity, and empowered all City Departments to act to prevent or eliminate hazardous conditions affecting either public health or public safety; and

WHEREAS, La. R.S. §29:737 only authorizes the Mayor to extend the authority granted by an emergency declaration up to ninety (90) days without approval from the municipal governing authority; and

WHEREAS, on August 2, 2024, the Mayor determined that the measures in Declaration 24-001 are preserved without the necessity of continuing the declaration regarding the Jolie Apartments, the lawful keeper thereof having provided sworn testimony that anyone present thereupon is unauthorized, appropriate "No Trespassing" signs having been displayed, and authority having been provided to the Shreveport Police Department to enter and enforce all applicable laws on the property; and

WHEREAS, the public health and safety emergency due to property conditions and the threats posed by of unauthorized occupants thereof continues to persist at Villa Norte Apartments, the Pines Apartments, and Linwood Homes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Shreveport, Louisiana, in due, legal and regular session convened, hereby approves the continuation of the Public Health and Safety Emergency declared by the Mayor as Chief Executive Officer of the City of Shreveport, under the Louisiana Constitution and La. R.S. §29:737 et seq., to continue to undertake immediate emergency response measures as follows:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to La. R.S. 29:737, extends the declaration that a State of Public Health and Safety Emergency exists for the buildings and premises on the following properties:

Villa Norte Apartments (1620 Fullerton Street),
The Pines Apartments (8020 Line Avenue), and
Linwood Homes (7210 Bernstein Avenue).

SECTION 2: The Mayor has granted the Shreveport Police Department the authority to remove and, if necessary, to arrest any person found at the above listed apartments for whom there is probable cause to suspect of criminal activity; The Mayor has granted the Departments of Public Works and Property Standards the authority to ameliorate health and safety hazards and remove illegally dumped trash and garbage; and all City departments and agencies are authorized to act to prevent or eliminate hazardous conditions affecting either public health, public safety, or both.

SECTION 3: Signage is posted at the entrances to each property, advising all persons that their presence on the property for any reason constitutes trespass and that such presence may result in arrest.

SECTION 4: The provisions established by Declarations 24-0001 and 24-0002 shall be extended beginning from 12:00 a.m. on September 24, 2024 through 11:59 p.m. on December 24, 2024, or earlier if all the buildings on the properties named herein have been totally demolished. Those provisions may be modified to remove the above City authority on any individual complex for which an owner or their representative takes responsibility to secure and operate properties, or to demolish the existing buildings and rebuild housing or any other permitted use.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

City Attorney's Office