

FACT SHEET

CITY OF SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

TITLE

An ordinance to amend various articles and sections in the City of Shreveport, Louisiana, Unified Development Code, for the purpose of updating the regulations for the electrification of fences, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

DATE

2/26/2024

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT

MPC

COUNCIL DISTRICT

City-Wide

SPONSOR

No Sponsor

PURPOSE

To amend the code text in the Shreveport Unified Development Code.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The MPC has seen a spike in development's wanting to construct electric fences throughout the City of Shreveport. This is due to the rise in theft and other safety issues that has added expense to local businesses.

Currently, the Shreveport UDC prohibits the electrification of fences. In December 2023, a property owner wishing to install an electric fence challenged the legality of this provision, citing state law (La. R.S. 33:1376). Additionally, the City Attorney has advised MPC Staff that the original blanket prohibition on the electrification of fences within the UDC needs to be amended to become more in compliance with state law.

MPC staff proposes adding a new definition for battery-charged fence, as well as additional language to the development standards for fences. These revised development standards mirror those found in state law, and when combined with the existing location and other performance standards, better protect potential unintended interaction with electric fences.

TIMETABLE

Introduction: 02/27/2024

Final Passage: 03/12/2024

ATTACHMENTS

SPECIAL PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

MPC Recommendation. Pursuant to La. R.S. 33:140.27 and La. R.S. 33:140.35, as amended, no amendment shall become effective unless it be first submitted to and approved (recommendation) by the MPC. The MPC reviewed these amendments and provided a favorable recommendation on February 7, 2024. Therefore, the City Council may render its decision to approve the amendments by a simple majority vote. See La. R.S. 33:140.27 and La. R.S. 33:140.35, as amended, and Shreveport UDC 16.1 (D)(3)(b). Notice and Public Hearing at MPC. In

accordance with the intent of La. R.S. 33:140.27 and La. R.S. 33:140.35, as amended, for a Public Hearing and Notice to be issued, the MPC held a Public Hearing at its Public Meeting on September 6, 2023, before voting on the proposed amendments. At least ten (10) days' notice of the time and place of the Public Hearing was published on January 16, 2024, in The Shreveport Times (a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality).

FINANCES

\$ \$0

SOURCE OF FUNDS

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

(1) Adopt the ordinance as submitted, or (2) amend the ordinance, or (3) reject the ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the City Council adopt the ordinance.

FACT SHEET PREPARED BY:

Kamrin Hooks