INTRODUCED BY ALDERPERSON WEST

BILL NO. <u>2592</u>

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 19 OF THE BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS CITY CODE RELATING TO OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC PEACE AND SAFETY.

WHEREAS, Section 19-91 of Article V, Division 2 of Chapter 19, Offenses Against Peace of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, Missouri (the "City") sets forth provisions relating to offenses against public peace and safety.

WHEREAS, the Board of Alderpersons desires and finds it in the best interest of the City and its residents to amend Subsection (a) of Section 19-91 of Article V, Division 2 of Chapter 19, Offenses Against Public Peace and Safety of the Code of Ordinances of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERPERSONS OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTANE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section One.

Subsection (a) of Section 19-91 of Article V, Division 2 of Chapter 19, Offenses Against Peace of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, Missouri, is hereby amended by adding a new Subsection (11) thereof, to read as follows:

Chapter 19. Offenses – Miscellaneous Provisions

Article V Offenses Against Public Peace

Division 2 Noise

Section 19-91 Generally.

- (a) The creation of any unreasonably loud, disturbing or unnecessary noise in the City is prohibited. The following acts are declared to be loud, disturbing and unnecessary noises in violation of this Section, but such enumeration shall not be deemed to be exclusive:
 - (1) Horns, signals, etc. The sounding of any horn or signal device on any motor bus, motorcycle, automobile or other vehicle while not in motion on a public street or highway, except as a danger signal if another vehicle is approaching apparently out of control, or if in motion, the excessive or prolonged sounding except only as a danger signal, after or as brakes are being applied and deceleration of the vehicle is intended; the creation by means of any such signal device of any unreasonably loud or harsh sound;

and the sounding of such device for an unnecessary or unreasonable period of time.

- (2) Radio, phonograph, etc. The playing of any radio, phonograph, loudspeaker, sound amplifier, musical instrument or other device in such manner or with such volume which would reasonably annoy or disturb the peace, quiet, comfort or repose of persons located outside the structure, vehicle or premises where the noise is generated; provided that any such noise that can be distinctly heard at a distance of more than one hundred (100) feet from its source shall be deemed unreasonably loud, disturbing and unnecessary.
- (3) Animals and fowl. Any animal, bird or fowl which by causing frequent or long continued noise shall tend to disturb the comfort and repose of any person in the vicinity; provided that any such noise that can be distinctly heard at a distance of more than one hundred (100) feet from its source shall be deemed excessive.
- (4) Vehicles. The use of any automobile, motorcycle, streetcar or other vehicle so out of repair, so loaded or in such manner as to create loud and unnecessary grating, grinding, rattling or other noise.
- (5) Whistles and sirens. The blowing of any steam whistle attached to any stationary boiler, or any other whistle or siren, except to give notice of the time to begin or stop work or as a warning of danger; or the use of steam under pressure for cleaning purposes in any establishment between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., when the windows of such establishment are open.
- (6) Blow-off, exhaust, etc. The discharge into the open air of the blow-down of any steam engine or of the exhaust of any stationary internal combustion engine or motor vehicle, or of the escape valve from the unloader of any air compressor except through a muffler or other device which will effectively prevent loud or explosive noises therefrom.
- (7) Construction on Sunday. The erection (including excavating), demolition, alteration or repair of any building or other structure on Sunday, except in case of urgent necessity from the city engineer, which permit may be renewed for a period of three (3) days or less while the emergency continues.
- (8) *Hospitals, churches, schools.* The creation of any excessive or unnecessary noise within one hundred fifty (150) feet of any portion of the grounds and premises on which is located a

hospital or other institution reserved for the sick, or any church or any school or other institution of learning, which unreasonably interferes with the proper functioning of any such place; provided that conspicuous signs are placed in the public highways indicating the zones within which such noises are prohibited. The police department is authorized to cause to be placed as many signs as it may deem necessary to properly indicate such quiet zones and to call attention to the prohibition against excessive or unnecessary noises within such zones.

- (9) *Sound trucks, advertising, etc.* The use of any drum, loudspeaker or other instrument or device for the purpose of attracting attention by creation of noise, or for advertising purposes.
- (10) Construction equipment and yard maintenance equipment. The use, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., of construction equipment such as power saws, power hammers, drills, and similar loud power tools; or lawnmowers, grass trimmers, chain saws, shredders, or similar yard or exterior maintenance equipment powered by internal combustion engines; or the use of leaf or grass blowers or yard vacuums powered by internal combustion or electric engines.
- (11) Basketball activity. The playing of any type of game or engaging in other activity with a basketball by one or more persons on residential property between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in a manner which would reasonably annoy or disturb the peace, quiet, comfort or repose of any person.
- (b) No sound source specifically exempted from a maximum permissible sound level by this Section shall be a public disturbance noise, insofar as the particular source is exempted.
- (c) The following sounds are exempt from the provisions of this Section at all times:
 - (1) Sounds originating from aircraft in flight;
 - (2) Sounds created by safety and protective devices, such as relief valves, where noise suppression would defeat the safety release intent of the device;
 - (3) Sounds created by fire alarms; and
 - (4) Sounds created by emergency equipment and emergency work necessary in the interest of law enforcement or of the health, safety or welfare of the community, including but not limited to snow removal

and other equipment involved in clearing streets, parking lots and driveways.

Section Two.

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Board of Alderpersons that the sections, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, phrases and words of this ordinance shall be severable, and if any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or words of this ordinance shall, for any reason, be held unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, Missouri hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and phrases be declared unconstitutional.

Section Three.

The Chapter, Article, Division and/or Section assignments designated in this Ordinance may be revised and altered in the process of recodifying or servicing the City's Code of Ordinances upon supplementation of such code if, in the discretion of the editor, an alternative designation would be more reasonable. In adjusting such designations the editor may also change other designations and numerical assignment of code sections to accommodate such changes.

Section Four.

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERPERSONS FOR THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS THIS ____ DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

Presiding Officer

Attest:

Fran Stevens, City Clerk

APPROVED THIS ____ DAY OF AUGUST, 2020

Tommie Pierson Sr., Mayor

INTRODUCED BY ALDERPERSON WEST

BILL NO. <u>2593</u>

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE III NUISANCES OF CHAPTER 13 HEALTH AND SANITATION OF THE BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS CITY CODE.

WHEREAS, Article III Nuisances, Chapter 13 Health and Sanitation of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, Missouri (the "City") sets forth provisions relating to nuisances; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Alderpersons desires and finds it in the best interest of the City and its residents to amend Article III Nuisances, Chapter 13 Health and Sanitation of the City Code by enacting a new Article III Nuisances, Chapter 13 Health and Sanitation of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, Missouri to conform with applicable Missouri law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERPERSONS OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTANE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section One.

Article III Nuisances of Chapter 13 Health and Sanitation is hereby repealed in its entirety and a new Article III Nuisances, Chapter 13 Health and Sanitation is hereby enacted in lieu thereof, to read as follows:

Article III. NUISANCES.

Division 1. Properties.

Section 13-36.010. Property Nuisances Defined.

Any condition of property done or made, permitted or allowed and continued on any property, public or private, by any person or corporation, its agents or servants, to the annoyance, detriment, damage or injury of the public, or which is injurious to the public health, safety or welfare is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and, as such, punishable as specified herein upon conviction in a court of competent jurisdiction or abated through the administrative procedure set forth herein, or both.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the definition of "**public nuisance**," as set forth above, shall not include otherwise legal conduct such as reporting an incident of domestic violence, that a person is the victim of another crime or any person placing repeated calls for emergency services unless such calls become so repetitive as to be abusive and are found after notice and a hearing, as provided herein, to have been made without a good faith basis.

The definition of a "public nuisance" shall include the following:

- a. The accumulation upon any premises, lot or parcel of ground, building or the discharge thereof upon any public street or private property, of stagnant or foul waste, water or liquids of any kind whatsoever.
- b. The maintenance of any outside toilet, privy water closet or private vault which is kept in such condition as to emit any offensive, noxious or disagreeable odor.
- c. All carcasses of dead animals which the owner or keeper thereof shall permit to remain unburied for a period exceeding twelve (12) hours after death.
- d. The keeping of animals of any kind, domestic or wild, upon any public or private place or premises in such a manner or condition that same constitutes a hurt, injury, annoyance, or danger to the public or the residents in the vicinity.
- e. Placing, causing, keeping, maintaining or permitting trash, garbage, rubbish, junk, decaying vegetable or animal matter, ashes, debris, obnoxious or filthy substances, or any kind of waste materials upon any public or private property or premises (which, for purposes of this ordinance, is defined to include all buildings or other structures on the premises) in such a manner and extent as to render the same unsightly, unclean or unsafe.
- f. The burning, ignition, setting afire or maintenance of the burning of garbage, refuse, waste, trash, straw, paper, wood, leaves, weeds, grass clippings or other combustible materials or other substances of any nature or description is prohibited, except in incinerators constructed in accordance with the St. Louis County air pollution control requirements and the building code of the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors and located in accordance with the Bellefontaine Neighbors Zoning Code.
- g. Ashpits or rubbish or compost containers, the contents of which are not removed from the premises when full in a manner to avoid spilling and in compliance with all local, state and federal environmental laws and regulations.
- h. Any unclean, stinking, foul, defective or filthy drain, ditch, tank or gutter or any leaking or broken slop, trash or garbage box or ashpit, or receptacle of like character.

- i. Any building where hazardous materials are stored or materials used for explosives are stored that is not maintained in compliance with federal law, state statute, county ordinance or this Code.
- j. Any factory or business place permitted by the person owning or having charge of the same to operate or be in such condition as to become offensive, annoying or injurious to the public.
- k. Any animal pen or cage permitted by the person owning or controlling the same to be in such condition as to be offensive, annoying or injurious to the public or harmful to the animal(s) confined.
- I. Any swimming pool, open containers of water, pond or pool of water kept, maintained or allowed to remain stagnant, or which enables the breeding of mosquitoes, and any foul or dirty water or liquid discharged through any pipe, or thrown into or upon any public rightof-way or private property to the injury or annoyance of the public.
- m. Any condition which is conducive to the feeding or harborage of rats.
- n. The maintenance, upon public or private property, of dead or dying trees or tree limbs or branches, which by reason of their location, size, or state of deterioration, constitute a danger to the public health, safety or welfare, or the maintenance upon public or private property of trees which are infected with Dutch Elm or other contagious disease or blight, dangerous to persons, animals, or other trees or plant life.
- o. The parking or stopping of a motor vehicle in a yard or lot, as defined in the zoning ordinance of the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, in any place other than a parking space or other durable surface allowed by the Bellefontaine Neighbors Zoning and or Building and Property Maintenance Codes.
- p. Allowing trailers, junkers, wrecks, or dilapidated or abandoned automobiles (i.e., those for which ownership cannot be determined upon reasonable inquiry), whether the same are operable or not, to remain on any street, alley, roadway, public driveway or public parking lot for a period of time in excess of the minimum time allowed by state law.
- q. The presence graffiti on private property exposed to public view. As used in this section the word "graffiti" shall mean and refer to any inscription, word, phrase, motto, name, figure, symbol, picture or design which is written, scribbled, marked, etched, scratched, drawn or painted on any exterior surface or structural component of any building, structure, or other facility regardless of the nature of the

material of that structural component that is unauthorized by the owner of such building, structure or facility.

- r. No unregistered or unlicensed motor vehicle or trailer shall be permitted on any premises and shall display their current state licenses, unless: (1) such motor vehicles or trailers are within a fully enclosed structure, closed to public view and view from adjacent properties; or (2) such motor vehicles or trailers are stored or displayed as part of a licensed vehicle dealership business that is in compliance with the Bellefontaine Neighbors Zoning Code; or (3) such motor vehicles or trailers or the premises of a state licensed vehicle inspection station or motor vehicle service station licensed in the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, waiting for services or repairs; provided that such motor vehicle(s) or trailer(s) are not on the premises for more than five (5) consecutive business days.
- No motor vehicle or trailer shall at any time be in a state of S. disassembly, disrepair or shall be in the process of being stripped or dismantled. A motor vehicle or trailer shall be defined as being in a state of disassembly or disrepair; or being stripped or dismantled if any one or more of the following conditions exist: (1) a motor vehicle containing no engine, or (2) a motor vehicle or trailer missing one or more wheels or tires, or (3) a motor vehicle or trailer missing a body part such as a hood, fender, door or trunk lid, or (4) a motor vehicle or trailer partly or entirely supported by a method other than its tires, such as ramps, jacks or blocks, or (5) a motor vehicle or trailer which exhibits a defective component or defective condition such as a missing windshield wiper, missing window glass; a convertible without top in adverse weather; missing bumper; a missing door handle; broken headlamp, tail light, or warning lights; and similar items. A current license and/or inspection certificate shall not be considered as exempting motor vehicles or trailers from this provision. Exemptions are as follows: (1) such motor vehicle or trailer is kept within a fully enclosed structure, closed to public view and view from adjacent properties; or (2) such motor vehicles are undergoing repairs on the premises of a service station duly licensed by the City and in compliance with the Bellefontaine Neighbors Zoning, Building and Property Maintenance Codes.
- t. The maintenance of any substance emitting an offensive, noxious, unhealthy or disagreeable smell or odor in the neighborhood where it exists that would be unreasonably harmful or annoying to persons of normal sensibility, injurious to health or unreasonably interfere with the free use and comfortable enjoyment of the properties in the vicinity.

Section 13.36.020. Duty of Owner and Occupant to Maintain Premises in Safe and Sanitary Condition.

Every person who owns, occupies, or controls any building, residence, vacant lot, or other premises must maintain the same in such a manner that it will be safe and sanitary. The neglect, disregard, abandonment, or other act, or failure to act, so as to permit any building, residence, premises or lot to become unsafe, unsanitary or injurious to the public health, safety and welfare is a public nuisance and is prohibited and subject to abatement as provided in this Chapter.

Section 13.36.030. Inspection of Premises; Access.

Either by consent from the property owner or consistent with the requirements for an administrative search warrant under Missouri law, the Chief of Police or Fire Chief, a St. Louis County Health Department Inspector and the Mayor or any officer, agent or employee duly appointed by any of them are hereby authorized to enter and inspect all buildings and parts of buildings and other premises for the purpose of examining the sanitary conditions thereof and for the discovery and abatement of nuisances therein.

Section 13.36.040. Emergency Abatement.

Whenever it becomes necessary to abate a nuisance immediately in order to protect the public health, safety or welfare, the Mayor, or his/her designee, may abate such nuisance after service of written notice to the owner and occupant of the property at issue. The notice shall describe each condition of the property declared to be a public nuisance and risk to the public health or safety, identify what action will remedy the public nuisance and state that the City shall immediately remove, terminate or abate such nuisance, and the Mayor or his/her designee may use any suitable means or assistance for such purpose. The Mayor or his/her designee shall certify the cost of abating such nuisance to the Board of Alderpersons and upon receipt by the Board of Alderpersons of that report, the Board of Alderpersons shall assess against the property concerned a special assessment for the cost thereof, plus administrative costs in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per lot, and shall direct the City Clerk to issue a special tax bill therefor, against the property. Such special tax bill shall be due and payable thirty (30) days after its date, shall bear interest at the rate of eight percent (8%) per annum from and after thirty (30) days after its service, and shall be a lien against the property until paid in full.

Section 13.36.050. Notice and Hearing; Abatement.

Before ordering the abatement of a nuisance that is not immediately necessary for the protection of the public health, safety or welfare, the Mayor or his/her designee shall notify the owner(s), and if the property is not owner-occupied, any occupant of the property to forthwith remove, terminate, or abate such nuisance. Such notices shall be given either personally, by First Class United States Mail, or by United States Certified Mail return receipt requested to the owner or owners at the last known address of the owner(s) and to the occupant of the property at the property address, if different from the owner, or the owner's agent(s) where the City has actual notice of such agency. Such notice may also be posted on the premises by means of a placard upon the property. Any such notice of public nuisance shall include a statement of the condition constituting a public nuisance and those actions necessary to remove, terminate, or abate the nuisance. Such notice shall also include a reasonable time within which the City demands such owner(s) or person(s) in care and control of the property to abate the nuisance condition, which shall be at least ten (10) days, but may be more in the sole discretion of the City, absent an emergency which may be abated by the City as described in Section 13.36.040. Such notice shall also state that upon failure to abate the condition causing the nuisance within the given time, the Mayor or his/her designee may, in addition to any other available legal remedies, call a nuisance abatement hearing where all parties may be heard and present evidence to the Mayor or his/her designee as to whether the condition on the property constitutes a nuisance, and, if so, how same shall be abated.

If the owner(s) of a property or occupant of the property, if different, which has been declared a public nuisance, fails to abate the nuisance cited in the notice described herein within the time provided by such notice, the Mayor or his/her designee shall hold a hearing consistent with the provisions of the Missouri Administrative Procedure Act, as amended from time to time, unless such formalities are waived in writing by the City and the owner, occupant or authorized agent of the owner.

At least ten (10) days before the date of the hearing, written notice shall be given personally or deposited in the United States Mail, by certified mail with a return receipt requested and by first class delivery, directed to the last known address of the owner, occupant, management company or other person in charge or control of the property at issue or the owner's agent(s) where the City has actual notice of such agency by First Class United States Mail, or by United States Certified Mail return receipt requested. The notice shall include a date, time, and place of the scheduled hearing. In addition, notice shall be posted by means of a placard upon the property at least 10 days before the date of the hearing. In the event of non-delivery of mailed notice, the posted placard shall serve as notice and the hearing may proceed in rem as action against the property.

All interested parties may appear at such hearing either in person or by attorney and present testimony and evidence regarding the alleged nuisance. If, upon such hearing, the Mayor or his/her designee finds that a nuisance(s) exists, written findings of fact and conclusions of law shall be issued and an order entered requiring the owner, occupant and/or management company/agent of the premises, or the person causing or maintaining any nuisance(s) found to exist, to abate each such nuisance, and if it be not abated within the time prescribed by the Mayor or his/her designee in the written order (or as extended in writing by the Mayor or his/her designee upon a showing of good cause not within the control of owner, occupant or agent of the premises), the Mayor or his/her designee shall abate same, and the cost thereof shall be levied as a special tax in the manner designated in the foregoing section. The owner or occupant of the premises, or his agent, or the person causing or maintaining such nuisance, shall abate the same upon receipt of the written order of the Mayor or his/her designee in accordance with the terms prescribed in the order, which shall be served in the same manner as notice of the hearing regarding the alleged nuisance condition(s).

The hearing may be canceled, at the sole discretion of the Mayor or his/her designee, if the property owner abates the conditions described in the notice and provides

satisfactory proof of such abatement to the Mayor or his/her designee prior to the scheduled date of the hearing.

Section 13.36.060. Apportionment of Costs of Abatement; Special Tax Bills

If any nuisance is abated by the City, as hereinabove provided, extends over the property of more than one owner, the costs of abating same shall be assessed in proportion to the amount of work and expense for each proportionate part of the entire work and area, including an administrative fee of \$100 per lot, and, if not paid by the property owner(s) within 30 days, special assessment taxes shall be levied and collected in accordance with state law. The Mayor or his/her designee shall report expenses that remain unpaid for more than 30 days after a special tax bill is served in the same manner as mail notice in Section 13.36.050 above, to the Board, certifying to the correctness thereof, showing the lot by lot and block numbers or other legal descriptions of each property involved, and the date or dates on which the repairs or replacements occurred, and the name and address of each owner, lessee, occupant or other person exercising control of each lot subject to apportionment. Upon receipt by the Board of Aldermen of that report, the Board of Aldermen shall assess against each lot concerned a special assessment for the exact apportioned cost thereof, plus administrative costs in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per lot, and shall direct the City Clerk to issue a special tax bill therefor, against each such lot. Such special tax bill shall be due and payable thirty (30) days after its date, shall bear interest at the rate of eight percent (8%) per annum from and after thirty(30) days after its service, and shall be a lien against each lot against which it is issued until paid in full.

Section 13.37 Access for Abatement.

Any person or entity who is employed or enters into a contract with the City for the abatement of a nuisance and any agent or employee of such person or entity shall have the right of entry for that purpose into and upon any premises after a written order is entered and not complied with or upon an emergency abatement as provided in Section 600.040 above.

Section 13.38. Responsibility for Observance.

The owner of any premises, or his agent in control thereof, as well as the tenant or occupant of such premises, is charged with the duty of observing all of the provisions of this Chapter 600. Any or all of such persons, together with any person causing or contributing to cause any nuisance, may be charged with violation thereof, and may be found jointly and severally liable after notice and a hearing as set forth in this Chapter.

Section 13.39. Penalty for Violation.

Any person who maintains a nuisance, or fails to comply with a lawful order of abatement, or who interferes with any person duly engaged in inspection of premises or abatement of a nuisance, or posting of notice, or who in any other way violates any of the provisions of this Chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a fine as set forth in Section 1-10 of this Code, as determined by the Municipal Judge.

Division II. Weeds

Section 13.40. Definitions.

For the purpose of this Chapter, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings given herein. Where terms are not defined by this section, such terms shall have ordinarily accepted meanings such as the context implies. The definitions follow in alphabetical order:

Invasive plant: shall mean a vegetation species that grows aggressively in the State of Missouri, as listed by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Lot: as used in this Chapter shall include any lot or parcel of land within the city limits of Bellefontaine Neighbors.

Native plant: shall mean a vegetation species that existed prior to the arrival of settlers within the State of Missouri, as listed by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Noxious weed: shall mean a vegetation species that is listed as a Missouri State Noxious Weed by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Nuisance plant: shall mean a toxic species known to cause death or severe allergic reactions among a segment of the human population such as Poison Hemlock, Poison Ivy, and Ragweed.

Stormwater: shall mean rainfall runoff, snow melt runoff and surface runoff and drainage.

Stormwater Management Facility: shall mean a structure and constructed feature designed for the collection, conveyance, storage, treatment and disposal of stormwater runoff into and through the stormwater system. Stormwater management facilities included vegetative or structural measures, or both, to control the increased volume, rate, and quality of stormwater runoff caused by manmade changes to land.

Turf grass: shall mean a type of vegetation ground cover, managed by weed removal and mowing to maintain a uniform height.

Turf weed: shall mean broadleaf, weeds, annual and perennial grasses that invade or disrupt the uniformity of turf grass lawns.

Weeds: shall mean all grasses, annual plants and vegetation in excess of 10 inches in height and noxious weeds, nuisance plants and invasive species; provided, however, this term shall not include trees, managed stands of native plants, ornamental grasses, or shrubs, and cultivated agricultural crops (provided they are properly zoned in compliance with the Bellefontaine Neighbors Zoning Code), vegetable gardens or flower gardens exceeding ten (10) inches in height provided they are maintained free of turf weeds and grasses, nuisance plants, invasive plants and noxious weeds, are kept at least four (4) feet from a property line, and do not impair sight distance, or constitute a hurt, injury, inconvenience or danger to the health safety or welfare of the public or residents and occupants of the immediate vicinity.

Section 13.41. Weeds; Cutting and Removal; Height.

Any person who owns, leases, occupies, or exercises authority or control over any lot shall cut to the side and rear lot lines and to the curb or pavement line of the immediate adjacent road(s) and remove from such lot all weeds as defined in this Chapter.

Failure to mow or cut turf grass or turf weeds, to maintain a maximum height of not more than ten (10) inches for grasses, annual plants or vegetation, or failure to control or remove those nuisance plants, invasive plants and noxious weeds listed in Appendix A to this Chapter shall constitute a public nuisance because they serve as harbors for rats and other vermin that are an inconvenience or danger to the health, safety and welfare of the public or residents and occupants of the immediate vicinity.

Any private stormwater management facility located on any property shall be declared a public nuisance if it has conditions impairing its proper operation, including, but not limited to, excessive build-up of sediment, extensive ponding of water, rubbish or trash, noxious weeds or invasive plants or nuisance plants, or any material which is unhealthy or impacts the proper operation of the private stormwater management facility; provided, however, that native plants, turf grass, ornamental grasses, or shrubs, including plants that are part of a designed private stormwater facility maintained so as to meet the Metropolitan Sewer District compliance document do not constitute a public nuisance.

Section 13.42 Notice of Violation.

The Mayor or his/her designee or his duly authorized representative shall inspect all properties within the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors as often as necessary to insure proper observance of this Ordinance. Upon finding that any property has upon it any weeds in excess of ten (10) inches in height or any noxious weeds or invasive plants, written notice shall be given the owner, lessee, occupant or other person having control or exercising authority over the property to remove the weeds, noxious weeds or invasive plants within ten (10) days from the date of mailing and/or posting the lot at issue with notice. The notice shall be deposited in the United States Mail directed to the last known address of the addressee, by first class mail. In addition the notice shall be posted by means of a placard upon the lot giving notice of the requirement to cut and remove the weeds within 10 days of the date contained on the placard. In the event of non-delivery of mailed notice, the posted placard shall serve as notice.

Section 13.43. Violation Not Corrected; Removal by City; Special Tax Bill.

After the expiration of ten (10) days after the date of the notice of violation, if the weeds, noxious weeds or invasive plants are not removed from the property, the Mayor or his/her designee shall have the weeds removed therefrom, keeping an accurate record of the expense of all labor and material used in such removal as to each property. The Mayor or his/her designee shall report such expense to the Board of Aldermen, certifying to the correctness thereof, showing the lot by lot and block

numbers or other legal description, and the date or dates on which the cutting and removal occurred, and the name and address of the owner, lessee, occupant or other person exercising control of the lot. Upon receipt by the Board of Aldermen of that report, the Board of Aldermen shall assess against each lot concerned a special assessment or tax equivalent to the expense incurred in removing the weeds therefrom, including administrative costs in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), and shall direct the City Clerk to issue a special tax bill against the real property affected; such a tax bill shall be a lien upon the property and shall be deemed a personal debt against the property owner(s). A tax bill or assessment under this subsection shall bear interest at the rate of eight percent (8%) per annum until paid in full.

Section 13.44 Penalty for Violation.

Any person who maintains a nuisance, or fails to comply with a lawful order of abatement, or who interferes with any person duly engaged in inspection of premises or abatement of a nuisance, or posting of notice, or who in any other way violates any of the provisions of this Chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a fine as set forth in Section 1-10 of this Code, as determined by the Municipal Judge.

Division III. Nuisance Properties Based On Criminal Conduct

Sec. 13.45. Nuisance Properties Based on Criminal Conduct.

A nuisance property based on criminal conduct exists when real property, buildings or other structures are used for more than one (1) of the following incidents within the previous twelve (12) months from the date of latest offense:

- (1) The illegal sale, manufacture, storing, possession, distribution or use of narcotics or other controlled substances or precursors;
- (2) The illegal sale, manufacture, storing, possession, distribution or use of drug paraphernalia or precursors;
- (3) The illegal sale, storing, possession, use or distribution of a firearm(s), weapons or explosive devices;
- (4) Prostitution;
- (5) Illegal gambling;
- (6) The illegal sale, distribution or consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Section 13.46. Violation and notice.

- (1) No owner shall make, keep, permit or allow a nuisance defined in this Article on or in any premises, building or other structure.
- (2) Whenever a nuisance is alleged to exist on or in any premises, building, or structure, written notice shall be given to the owner. The notice shall:
 - a. Be accompanied by a copy of this article;
 - Identify the activities or conditions allegedly constituting the nuisance and shall direct the owner to immediately abate such nuisance;
 - c. Inform the owner that any recurrence of the nuisance so specified or any occurrence of another nuisance identified in this Article on or in the premises, building or structure within the following twelve (12) months may lead to criminal prosecution and/or administrative enforcement under this section; and
 - d. Provide the owner with a reasonable opportunity to meet with the Mayor or his/her designee to discuss the nuisance and the need for abatement measures.
- (3) The notice shall be delivered personally or sent via first class United States mail and a copy shall also be posted in a prominent place on the premises.
- (4) If additional nuisance activity occurs on the noticed premises within twelve (12) months of the date of the notice, an owner may be: (a) prosecuted for the violation of permitting or maintaining a nuisance under this Article, and (b) subject to administrative enforcement of this section as provided herein.

Section 13.47. Prosecution.

Any owner who engages in, encourages, permits or otherwise fails to abate a criminal nuisance after receiving any required notice to abate same may be charged with permitting or maintaining a nuisance in violation of this article. An owner convicted of the charge shall be subject to a fine and imprisonment not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and ninety (90) days in jail, or both. Each occurrence of a criminal nuisance within the twelve (12) month time frame, regardless of proximity in time to any other nuisance violation, shall be deemed a separate and distinct offense for which a summons may be issued. If the owner fails to abate a nuisance under this Division after having received notice to abate, each day that the charged violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense and shall be subject to the imposition of separate penalties by the municipal court.

Section 13.48 Administrative enforcement.

- (1) If additional nuisance activity occurs on the noticed premises within twelve (12) months of the date of the notice, the city may initiate an administrative hearing to ensure the abatement of the nuisance. Administrative enforcement may be pursued in addition to or in lieu of prosecution in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (2) The Mayor or his/her designee shall issue a notice of hearing to the owner of the subject premises. The notice shall be in writing and either sent by United States Mail, certified with a return receipt requested and by first class mail or served in person, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the hearing. A copy of the hearing notice shall also be posted in a prominent place on the premises. In addition, the notice shall:

a. Be accompanied by a copy of this Article III of Chapter 13;

b. Identify the activities or conditions constituting the nuisance and shall direct the owner to immediately abate the nuisance;

c. Provide the time, date and location at which the hearing is to be conducted; and

d. Provide the owner with a reasonable opportunity to meet with the Mayor or his/her designee to discuss the nuisance, the need for abatement and the hearing.

(3) The Mayor or his/her designee shall serve as hearing officer and shall be represented by the city attorney. The hearing officer:

a. May grant continuances on application and a finding of good cause; and

b. May issue subpoenas to secure the attendance and testimony of relevant witnesses and the production of relevant documents.

(4) Conduct of the hearing.

a. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the Missouri Administrative Procedure Act, Chapter 536.010 through 536.090, inclusive, unless waived in writing by the City and the Owner or the Owner's duly authorized representative.

b. The case for the city shall be presented by the City Attorney, and in order to prevail, the City shall prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that nuisance activity as defined in this Article has occurred and has recurred on the noticed premises within the twelve (12) months of the date of the original notice.

c. Proof of a germane conviction in the Municipal Court of Bellefontaine Neighbors or any other court of competent jurisdiction in St. Louis County shall be prima facie evidence of the occurrence or recurrence of nuisance activity under this Division III.

d. The owner may appear and be represented by an attorney, who shall file a written appearance with the hearing officer.

e. The owner shall have such rights as are afforded under the Missouri Administrative Procedure Act, Chapter 536.010-090, unless waived in writing.

(5) Post hearing.

On conclusion of a hearing, the hearing officer shall issue findings of fact, conclusions of law and an order setting forth the hearing officer's determination.

a. If the hearing officer finds that the city has failed to carry its burden of proof on whether nuisance activity under this Article has occurred or recurred, there shall be no administrative enforcement;

b. If the hearing officer finds that criminal nuisance activity has occurred and recurred, the hearing officer shall require that the owner implement reasonable measures designed to prevent the recurrence of the nuisance activity. Those measures may include, but are not limited to, making security improvements to the premises, hiring of licensed and insured security personnel, appointment of a receiver, the initiation and execution in the Circuit Court of St. Louis County of eviction proceedings under Missouri law against tenants or occupants who engaged in the nuisance behavior, or the closing and boarding of the premises for a period not to exceed one (1) year.

c. The hearing officer's order shall inform the owner of the right to seek judicial review as provided in RSMO 536.100 to 536.140.

d. The city shall maintain a record of all criminal nuisance hearings, which shall include: (i) the recording of the testimony presented at the hearing, (ii) all exhibits submitted as evidence at the hearing, and (iii) a copy of the findings of fact, conclusions of law and subsequent order.

(6) If the hearing officer determines that a nuisance exists and orders that the abatement of the nuisance requires closure of the subject premises, the following shall apply:

a. If the premises are occupied at the time of the order of closure, the building shall be deemed a nuisance, condemned and vacated in accordance with the laws of Missouri. It is unlawful for any person to occupy or use any premises ordered to be closed through such a proceeding.

b. After an order of condemnation or vacation, prior to any reoccupancy, the premises shall be inspected by all germane city, state and federal inspectors, and the premises shall be in compliance with all applicable city, state and federal health, safety, property maintenance and building regulations, including this Chapter 13, Article III.

ADDENDUM A

<u>NOXIOUS WEEDS</u>: shall include, but not be limited to, the following as may be amended from time to time by the United States Department of Agriculture Missouri State Listed Noxious Weeds.

Canada thistle Common teasel Cut-leaved teasel Field bindweed Johnson grass Kudzu

Marijuana Multiflora rose Musk thistle Purple loosestrife Scotch thistle

<u>INVASIVE PLANTS</u>: shall include, but not be limited to, the following as may be amended from time to time by the Missouri Department of Conservation Listed in the Missouri Vegetation Manual.

Autumn olive Black Locust Bush honeysuckles Common buckthorn Crown vetch Garlic mustard Gray dogwood Honey locust (with seeds) Japanese honeysuckle Leafy spurge Osage orange Reed canary grass Sericea lespedeza Sesbania Smooth sumac Sweet clover (white and yellow) Wintercreeper

<u>NATIVE PLANTS</u>: Shall include, but not be limited to, those listed, as may be amended from time to time, by the Missouri Department of Conservation on the Grow Native Website: <u>www.grownative.org or subsequent such listings</u>.

Section Two.

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Board of Alderpersons that the sections, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, phrases and words of this ordinance shall be severable, and if any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or words of this ordinance shall, for any reason, be held unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, Missouri hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and phrases be declared unconstitutional.

Section Three.

The Chapter, Article, Division and/or Section assignments designated in this Ordinance may be revised and altered in the process of recodifying or servicing the City's Code of Ordinances upon supplementation of such code if, in the discretion of the editor, an alternative designation would be more reasonable. In adjusting such designations the editor may also change other designations and numerical assignment of code sections to accommodate such changes.

Section Four.

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERPERSONS FOR THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS THIS ____ DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

Attest:

Presiding Officer

Fran Stevens, City Clerk

APPROVED THIS ____ DAY OF AUGUST, 2020

INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN THOMAS

BILL NO. 2594

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY TO JOIN MIRMA HEALTH; APPROVING THE FORM OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO THAT END; AND FIXING THE TIME WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE.

WHEREAS, the City is a municipal corporation formed under the Statutes of the State of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized by § 537.620 RSMo to join with other political subdivisions and participate in an entity to provide health insurance; and

WHEREAS, MIRMA Health is an entity formed for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, joining MIRMA Health is in the best interest of the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERPERSONS OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTANE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section One.

That the Mayor and City Clerk be, and are hereby authorized to execute a membership agreement with MIRMA Health, substantially in the form of the attached Exhibit A, as well as any and all additional documentation necessary to establish the City of Bellefontaine as a member of MIRMA Health.

Section Two.

That the per employee per month rates for the initial period of membership September 1, 2020, through December 31, 2021, shall be as follows:

	Employee	Employee	Employee	Employee	
	Only	with Spouse	with Child(ren)	with Family	
Plan 5	\$650.17	\$1,202.82	\$1,072.78	\$1,755.47	

Section Three.

That above rates shall be payable monthly depending on the selected plan(s) and the City's actual enrollment.

Section Four.

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its final passage and execution by the Mayor.

PASSED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERPERSONS FOR THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS THIS ____ DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

		Presiding Officer	
	ate: g Date:		
Roll Call Vote:	Yeas: Nays:		
Attest:			
Fran Stevens, Cit	y Clerk		

APPROVED THIS ____ DAY OF AUGUST, 2020

Tommie Pierson Sr., Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Dorothy White-Coleman, City Attorney



MIRMA Health MEMBERSHIP CONTRACT

Effective September 1, 2020, The City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, Missouri does hereby bind itself contractually for an indefinite term to MIRMA Health thereby accepting and adopting its Articles of Association, Articles I through VIII, and any current or subsequent amendments and its By-Laws, Sections I through XVIII and any current or subsequent amendments and does hereby agree to abide by said Articles and By-Laws accepting all rights, privileges, and obligations therein contained as a condition of membership in said Association. It is therefore agreed and understood that MIRMA Health does hereby extend all rights and privileges of membership to The City of Bellefontaine Neighbors to become effective on September 1, 2020, and shall fulfill all obligations of the Pool, as set forth in the Articles of Association and By-Laws and their amendments. The payment of consideration for membership during FY2020 and FY2021, to be made by The City of Bellefontaine Neighbors shall be established by the following rates per employee per month for each of the selected plans based on the City's actual monthly enrollment.

	Employee	Employee	Employee	Employee
	Only	with Spouse	with Child(ren)	with Family
Plan 5	\$650.17	\$1,202.82	\$1,072.78	\$1,755.47

Each year after December 31, 2021 consideration shall be established in accordance with provisions contained in the above noted Articles of Association and By-Laws, and any subsequent amendments.

As a condition of membership, the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors hereby agrees to permit and require an official or employee of The City of Bellefontaine Neighbors to attend the Pool's Annual Meeting to be held in Branson, July 21, 2021.

This contract is binding upon The City of Bellefontaine Neighbors as of the date of signing and is a condition of membership, for membership to become effective September 1, 2020.

This agreement is hereby executed this 21st day of August, 2020 by the parties hereto as follows:

MIRMA Health

The City of Bellefontaine Neighbors

By:

Title: <u>Executive Director</u>

By:		
Title:	Mayor	

Witness: Title:

City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

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Medical Rate & Benefit Comparison for City of Bellefontaine Neighbors 2020

Fran Stevens

From:	aadailes <aadailes@aol.com></aadailes@aol.com>
Sent:	Friday, August 14, 2020 11:17 AM
То:	Fran Stevens
Cc:	2bsassy1950@att.net; aadailes; Alease Dailes; alderwomanreed18@gmail.com; aldrwmn-
	west2018@att.net; Barbara West; chezplug@yahoo.com; Dinah Tatman; Fran Stevens;
	James Carroll; Jim Christian; James Thomas; Miranda Avant-Elliott;
	minjwthomas@hotmail.com; Tommie Pierson; Theresa Reed;
	ward1communityfirst@gmail.com; ward4neighborsforchange@gmail.com;
	whitecoleman@whitecoleman.net; Jeremy Ihler
Subject:	Ward 4 Street Closures
Attachments:	W4 Closure Map.pdf; Ward 4.xlsx; 7-13-20 CL - Ordinance Amending Section 17-23.doc

Hi Fran, would you please add to the 08/20/20 agenda "Discussion of Ward 4 Street Closures" under "New Business"?

Greetings Board Members,

I have attached all the information regarding Ward 4 Street Closures. I love what was done in Bissell Hills, and give "Shout Out" to all those who worked on making this happen for the Citizens to keep the Neighborhood safe.

The Citizens in Ward 4 have been requesting for the streets closures since 2016 and are hopeful the same will be done in Ward 4.

If you have any questions before the meeting, please fill free to call me. We cannot dialogue by email.

Thanks,

Alderwoman Alease Dailes

Notes:

1a & 1b signage (black letters/white background, 3" min font STREET CLOSED)
All remaining font shall be a minimum of 1" tall font

STREET CLOSED

This street is closed to public use by authority of Section 17-23 of the city code.

2. Maintain 48" clearance between each barrier

<u>Street closures under consideration</u> Donnell Avenue Church Road

Church Road Frederick Street Newby Street Edna Street Longridge Drive

1				
	Option 2	approx 24 ft. wide	Option 1	Typical Street
		Concrete barriers 120" W x 32" H	Nore 1b	

Ward 4 Cost breakdown per street

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		Note 2													

Cost breakdown (Option 2)

Grande

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Note:

Price includes (3) 36" tall round planters priced per linear foot.
 Concrete, material, labor, etc total \$525.00/street

Grande

\$1,319.52

Option 2 requires some work by Image & beautification. Plant on Cabot drive was \$135.00



9641 Bellefontaine Road St. Louis County, MO 63137 314 / 867-0076 Fax: 314 / 867-1790



		COMMISSION	BOARD APPLICATION
Na	me: Lonita	Blackm	an
Stre	eet Address: 990	6 GIDUCE	zip Code: 63137
Hov	w long have you beer	a resident of Bell	efontaine Neighbors? 04 2003
Hon	ne Phone: (314)	869-03	28 Home Fax: NA
Edu	cation: <u> </u>	G AI	Mistry
Emp	oloyer:Dil Po	·	CS Inc
Busi	ness Phone: 314	-733-08	22 Business Fax: 314-426-5780
	ail Address: LD_		in Qyahoo. com
Do y	ou prefer to be called	(Plea d at your home or l	use circle one) business or email regarding Bellefontaine Neighbors issues?
	HOME	BUSINESS	EMAIL (please circle one)
	Ple	ase put a check m	ark next to your choice below.
	Board of Adjustment		Human Relations Commission
X	Image & Beautification	n Board	Parks & Recreation
	Planning & Zoning Co	mmission	Public Safety Commission
	Youth Commission		

Please briefly describe your interest in your choice(s) of commission(s) and any ideas or suggestions you may have. (Attach another sheet if necessary)

Jackman Signature

(For office use only) Date Received:_____ Date Distributed:_____ Distributed To:_____

06/15/2020 Date

Date Appointed:	
Term Expires:	
Notification Letter Mailed:	
Date Entered Into Database:	

Lonita Blackman 9966 Gloucester Dr. St. Louis, MO 63137 Ld_blackman@yahoo.com

Please briefly describe your interest in your choice (s) of commission (s) and any ideas or suggestions you may have:

I am writing today to submit my application for the Image & Beautification Board. I have lived in Bellefontaine Neighbors since April 2003 in the same home.

Recently due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I had to pivot in regard to my exercise routine as my gym is closed. Without having any cardio equipment at home, I opted to walk in my neighborhood. Over the years, I have walked around my neighborhood, but it has been several years since as I stated I do have a gym membership.

As such, when walking (my loop is out of the subdivision onto Chambers-Lilac-Scenic into subdivision or Chambers-Toelle-Shepley-Bellefontaine back to Chambers into the Subdivision). As such, the streets are lined with trash. At times I found myself picking up items and placing them into trash cans siting at the edge of a driveway on trash days. The overpass on Chambers and Shepley are filled with trash, broken glass, and weeds.

My thoughts are as follows:

- 1. Develop community clean up days
- 2. Adopt a street program
- 3. Small offenses, such as speeding, truancy, etc. clean the streets.
- 4. Provide community service hours for students who help to clean up streets
- 5. Plant flowers in areas in need of beautification
- 6. Encourage residents to beautify their homes.
- 7. Contest for Spring, Summer, and Holiday times.
- 8. Add more trash cans to areas most affected.

I look forward to hearing from someone in regard to my application.

Sincerely, Lonita Blackman 9641 Bellefontaine Road St. Louis County, MO 63137 314 / 867-0076 Fax: 314 / 867-1790



COMMISSION/B	OARD APPLIC	ATION						
Name: Ebohiy Williams								
Street Address: 10008 Cobvig Lan.	Zip Code:							
How long have you been a resident of Dellafa.	- i'l							
Home Phone: <u>314 363 1797</u>								
How forg have you been a resident of Bellefontaine Neighbors?								
Employer:								
Business Phone:	Business Fa							
E-mail Address: Chisen diamonds 182 qmail. Com								
Do you prefer to be called at your home or bus	circle one) iness or email r ues?	egarding Bellefontaine Neighbors						
HOME BUSINESS	EMAIL	(please circle one)						
Please put a check mark	next to your cho	ice below.						
Board of Adjustment	Human	Relations Commission						
Image & Beautification Board	Image & Beautification Board Parks & Recreation							
Planning & Zoning Commission								
	nay w star ta							

Please briefly describe your interest in your choice(s) of commission(s) and any ideas or suggestions you may have. (Attach another sheet if necessary) I'm interested into becoming there in the interested into the community in the interested into the community in the interested into the community in the interest of t

Data Signatuje		_
(For office use only) Date Received:	Date Appointed:	
Date Distributed:	Term Expires:	-
Distributed To:	Notification Letter Mailed:	
	Date Entered Into Database:	

9641 Bellefontaine Road St. Louis County, MO 63137 314 / 867-0076 Fax: 314 / 867-1790



Name: Ehony Hartfield	BOARD APPLICATION		
Street Address: 1845 Gleason Driv	Zip Code: <u>43137</u>		
How long have you been a resident of Bellefontaine Neighbors? <u>5 years</u>			
Cull Home Phone: <u>512-939-2888</u> Home Fax:			
Education: B.A. African & African American Studies UT Austin			
Employer: Chase Bank			
Business Phone:	Business Fax:		
E-mail Address: hart field, ebony@gmail.com			
(Please circle one) Do you prefer to be called at your home or business or email regarding Bellefontaine Neighbors issues?			
HOME BUSINESS	EMAIL (please circle one)		
Please put a check mark next to your choice below.			
Board of Adjustment	Human Relations Commission		
X Image & Beautification Board	Parks & Recreation		
Planning & Zoning Commission	Public Safety Commission		
Youth Commission			

Please briefly describe your interest in your choice(s) of commission(s) and any ideas or suggestions you may have. (Attach another sheet if necessary) Plase read a Hached work.

Signature Date (For office use only) Date Received:

Date Appointed:_ Term Expires:_ Notification Letter Mailed: Date Entered Into Database:_

Date Distributed:

Distributed To:

1

My name is Ebony Hartfield, I've been a Bellefontaine resident for 5 years. During my time in this community I've noticed some changes, most of them aren't for the better. In 2015 I chose to live here because this neighborhood was safer and more beautiful than my previous municipality. Unfortunately, I no longer feel that way. Improvements in beautification and public safety are desperately needed. Property values have remained stagnant or continue to decline, the unaccredited school district relies on property taxes that are evaporating, and we are practically redlined where insurance costs and availability are concerned. These matters need to improve!

I am passionate about creating positive, lasting change in this community. I've witnessed the deterioration of "community" and watched as this neighborhood crumbles, and I am tired. I'm tired of hearing gun shots, tires screeching, helicopters circling, and sirens wailing. I am tired. I'm tired of sitting on the sidelines complaining about the performance of law enforcement and public officials while offering no support. We need to establish and enforce a baseline of standards that we can all agree to abide by, before this neighborhood slips further into decay and decline.

In the words of Eldridge Cleaver "There is no more neutrality in the world. You either have to be part of the solution, or you're going to be part of the problem." I want to be an *active* part of solving problems in our community. I can no longer, in good conscience, wait for others to produce the environment necessary for my family to thrive. I wish to join the BFN Image and Beatification and Public Safety Commissions to democratically enhance our community. It's time for a change and I need to get involved now!

Respectfully. Ebony Hartfield

All: