

City of Independence



111 East Maple P.O. Box 1019 Independence, Missouri 64051 - 0519
www.independencemo.org 816-325-7000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Craig Brenner in the
City Manager's Office at
Cbrenner@indepmo.org or
call 816-325-7086.

City of Independence Announces New Strategy to Clean Up Major Corridors

(INDEPENDENCE, Mo.) Day, Month Date, 2016 . The City of Independence announces a new strategy to address various City Code violations on properties in high visibility corridors. This strategy aligns with the City Council's desire to enhance the focus placed on code enforcement in order to improve the overall appearance of the city, especially at the entryways and high traffic areas.

With direction and support from our City Council, city staff has begun work on a long-term strategy to deal with property maintenance enforcement surrounding the major corridors within the City of Independence, said Independence City Manager Zachary Walker. The initial efforts made along 24 Highway will serve as a spring board. As time and resources allow, we will expand to proactively target property maintenance issues along the other major corridors in an effort to improve the physical appearance of our city.

District 1 Councilmember John Perkins will hold a public meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at the North Branch of the Mid-Continent Public Library to answer questions from residents about code enforcement of properties located along U.S. 24 Highway. The North Branch of the Mid-Continent Public Library is located at 317 W. 24 Highway, Independence, MO 64050.

One of the priorities that I had when I ran for First District Council seat was to address the condition of properties and businesses along 24 Highway, from the city limit to Noland Road, said Councilmember John Perkins. To improve these conditions it will require communication and a dedicated effort by both the City of Independence and the community.

It has been great to team with Councilmember Perkins as we work to clean up the entire 24 Highway corridor that covers the first and second districts, said District 2 Councilmember Curt Dougherty. We look forward to continued work with city staff and my fellow councilmembers as we expand our efforts to improve the physical appearance of our city east on 24 Highway into the second district.

During the inspection process, Community Development Department staff will be addressing all zoning and property maintenance violations on the exterior of property, and staff will also ensure that all businesses have appropriate City licenses. If necessary, a building inspector will provide support when addressing potentially dangerous buildings.

While all violations of City Code will be addressed, the following issues will be the primary area of concern for City staff:

- Tall grass and weeds
- Prohibited open storage
- Building maintenance
- Non-operable vehicles
- Trash
- Proper signage

Residents or business owners who have any questions concerning this program should contact the Independence Community Development Department at 816-325-7193

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