HLS 19RS-321 ENGROSSED

2019 Regular Session

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**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 173** 

BY REPRESENTATIVE JIMMY HARRIS

PARISH/ORLEANS: Requests the New Orleans City Council to expand the authority of the city's code enforcement department and its employees

A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the New Orleans City Council to expand the authority of the city's code 3 enforcement department and its employees so as to provide for a more consistent 4 enforcement of the city's sanitation and zoning ordinances and enhance the city's 5 ability to collect payment for fines imposed for violations of these ordinances. 6 WHEREAS, the city of New Orleans is a vibrant and lively city and a major driver 7 of the state's economy as it is an annual destination for millions of conventioneers and 8 tourists from all over the world; and 9 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the city recognize that consistent enforcement of 10 the city's sanitation and zoning ordinances, including effective litter and blight control, 11 protects the health, safety, and welfare of its residents and enhances the beauty and quality 12 of the environment; and 13 WHEREAS, the city's residents, civic leaders, and business owners have a mutual 14 interest in maintaining all property located in the city in a safe and sanitary condition; and 15 WHEREAS, pursuant to provisions of the city's home rule charter and code of 16 ordinances, including the city's comprehensive zoning ordinance, several city agencies have 17 the authority to enforce ordinances pertaining to sanitation and zoning; and 18 WHEREAS, the current administrative adjudication procedures, established pursuant 19 to the city's code of ordinances, provide for limited jurisdiction over certain public health, 20 housing, environmental, historic district, and nuisance violations; and

1 WHEREAS, although employees of the city's code enforcement department are 2 authorized to issue citations for certain violations of the city's code of ordinances, they are 3 not authorized to issue municipal summonses, as that responsibility rests mainly with 4 officers of the New Orleans Police Department; and 5 WHEREAS, many officers of the New Orleans Police Department do not have time 6 to issue municipal summonses for violations of the city's code of ordinances as they are 7 tasked daily with responding to an overwhelming number of emergency calls; and 8 WHEREAS, because many violators of the city's code of ordinances do not receive 9 municipal summonses to appear in court, many fail to pay the fines issued for violations of 10 these ordinances as they are keenly aware that the city's code enforcement department and 11 its employees lack the ability to enforce the collection of these fines. 12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the New Orleans City Council to 14 expand the authority of the city's code enforcement department and its employees so as to 15 provide for a more consistent enforcement of the city's sanitation and zoning ordinances and 16 enhance the city's ability to collect payment for fines imposed for violations of these 17 ordinances.

## DIGEST

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Jimmy Harris

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