

ORDINANCE NUMBER 1067

AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERRIS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DECLARING ZERO TOLERANCE ON VANDALIZING AND SETTING FIRES TO VACANT HOMES, SETTING UP ZERO TOLERANCE ZONES WITHIN THE CITY AND MAKING TRESPASS AND REMOVAL OF CITY NOTICES A VIOLATION OF THE PERRIS MUNICIPAL CODE AND DECLARING THE URGENCY THEREOF

WHEREAS, it is documented that there are approximately 200 vacant homes within the City of Perris; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the homes were abandoned by homeowners due to negative impacts of the recession suffered over the last few years; and

WHEREAS, such homes are vacant and often times in disrepair thereby creating attractive nuisances to the children of the community, providing shelter for vagrants and those persons who engage in illegal activities, and negatively affecting the quality of life of Perris residents; and

WHEREAS, such homes have become the object of arsonists who have set fires inside and around vacant homes which endanger the entire community due to the proximity of such homes to other homes in the neighborhood since the fires are generally started in small housing tracts; and

WHEREAS, Code Enforcement, Fire, Law Enforcement and the City Attorney (the "Team") met to brainstorm on how the City should respond, immediately, particularly with the limited amount of financial resources available to the City; and

WHEREAS, the Team developed the concept to establish "Zero Tolerance Zones" within the City whereby concentrated efforts of the Team would be utilized to attempt to eradicate quality of life crimes generally associated with vacant housing.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERRIS DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. There are created Zero Tolerance Zones within the City whereby vandalizing and setting fires to vacant homes shall not be tolerated.

Methodology to eradicate quality of life crimes shall include, but are not limited to, immediate board-up of vacant houses, increase police patrols and citizen on patrol, citations for property maintenance, prosecution for illegal receipt of utilities and City posting of all vacant properties and follow-up.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 1067

Page 2

Section 2. Any person who trespasses upon private property that they know, or have reason to know, is vacant, abandoned, or the subject of foreclosure is guilty of an infraction.

Section 3. The City shall post a Notice of Vacancy and No Trespass signs on all vacant properties. Such properties appear on a list generated by HUD.

Section 4. Law Enforcement, Code Enforcement and Fire Officials shall have access to the list on a daily basis.

Section 5. Any person observed removing a City sign shall be guilty of an infraction.

Section 6. Zero Tolerance Zones is defined as, but not limited to, small lot development, 10% or more vacancy rate, reports of repeated acts of vandalism, fire and trespass, areas with a high degree of property maintenance violations, and areas, upon considering said factors, present the severest problem area in the City as determined by the Team. The Team shall utilize creditable statistics to determine a Zero Tolerance Zone.

Section 7. The Public Safety Commission shall review this Ordinance and shall report its findings to the City Council on a quarterly basis.

Section 8. Enactment of this Urgency Ordinance is necessary to preserve the peace and safety of the general public for the reasons cited above.

This Urgency Ordinance shall become effective immediately after receiving a 4/5th vote of the City Council.

Ordinance Number 1067 *ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED* this 11th day of May, 1999.

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PERRIS

Attest:

CITY CLERK

ORDINANCE NUMBER 1067

Page 3

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE) ss
CITY OF PERRIS)

I Margaret Rey, City Clerk of the City of Perris, do hereby certify that the foregoing Urgency Ordinance Number 1067 was introduced at the regular meeting held on the 11th day of May 1999, and adopted at a regular meeting held on the 11th day of May 1999, by the following called vote:

Ayes: Yarbrough, Larragoitiy, Torres, Larios and Landers
Noes:
Absent:

CITY CLERK