

CHAPTER 24

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION

(Adopted, Ordinance No. 2005-55, June 20, 2005)

1. **ESTABLISHED.** There is hereby established to advise and make recommendations to the Council a commission to be known and designated as the “Neighborhood Improvements Commission” consisting of nine (9) members to be appointed by the Mayor, with the consent of the Council, for terms of three (3) years and until the respective successor of each member is appointed and qualified. The terms shall be staggered and each member shall serve without compensation. All terms shall commence on May 1 and as to which vacancies shall be filled by appointment for the remainder of any unexpired term.

2. **RESIDENCY.** All Commission members shall be residents of the City of Decatur.

3. **QUALIFICATIONS.** There shall be nine (9) members of the Commission, three (3) members shall be representatives of the Coalition of Neighborhood Organizations (“CONO”), selected and recommended by CONO, three (3) members shall be representatives of the Decatur Landlord Association (“Association”), selected and recommended by Association and three (3) members appointed from the community at large.

4. **STAFF.** The City Manager may designate officers and employees of the City to serve as advisory and staff personnel for the Commission.

5. **OFFICERS, RULES AND MEETINGS.** From among its members and by the concurrence of a majority of the Commission members, the Commission shall elect a Chairman and a Secretary and provide rules for the conduct of its business, among which rules shall be provisions for the time and place of regular meetings and the calling by the Chairman, or on the concurrence of not less than a majority of the Commission members, of special meetings. All

meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public and any person, or his duly authorized representative, shall be entitled to appear and be heard on any matter then pending before the Commission.

6. **RECORDS.** The secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept a record of all proceedings and actions of the Commission, which record shall be kept and maintained at the office of the City Clerk and provided to the City Council on a monthly basis.

7. **POWERS AND DUTIES.** The Neighborhood Improvements Commission has the following powers and duties:

(a) To provide input and make recommendations to the City Council and staff of the City of Decatur on issues designed to build upon neighborhood strengths and prevent their decline.

(b) To consider issues and make recommendations related to neighborhood parking issues, neighborhood recreation, neighborhood policing, sanitation and refuse removal, general housing upkeep and enforcement and planning and zoning.

(c) To receive and hear concerns and complaints from neighborhood groups and residents regarding neighborhood issues.

(d) To assist in soliciting and providing input for the City's annual Community Development Block Grants ("CDBG") and HOME funding process.

(e) To assist in the development of a grants program for projects supporting neighborhood improvement and development including the solicitation and review of grants and the making of recommendations to Council for grant awards.

(f) To perform such other and further functions as may be from time to time provided by the Council.

8. **GRANTS.** There is hereby established, until the further order of the Council, a fund to be separate other funds of the City to be known as the Neighborhood Improvements Commission Fund into which monies received shall, upon direction of the Council, be deposited to be expended or transferred therefrom only upon the direction of the Council. The Commission may solicit and recommend to the Council the acceptance of gifts or donations of money. The Council may, from time to time, provide for the administration and use of the money so acquired and the Commission may make recommendations with regard thereto. Grants may be provided for projects supporting neighborhood improvement and development. At least one (1) of the grants awarded must be used to fund an education project which promotes City of Decatur funding sources and housing programs.