

Jonesboro Fire Department  
3215 E. Johnson Ave.  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Jonesboro Police Department  
1001 S. Caraway Rd.  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Jonesboro Quality of Life Unit  
1505 N. Church St.  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Jonesboro Inspections Department  
300 S. Church St.  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

November 30, 2015

To: Jonesboro City Council  
Jonesboro, AR

Dear Council Members,

We, the leadership of the Jonesboro Fire Department, Jonesboro Police Department, Jonesboro Quality of Life Unit, including Code Enforcement, and the Jonesboro Inspections Department urge you to consider passage of the proposed Jonesboro Property Maintenance Code in its entirety. With careful consideration we believe that this code will provide the necessary minimum standards which will protect the lives of Jonesboro residents, reduce crime in Jonesboro neighborhoods, stabilize property values, and promote the peaceful enjoyment of one's property, residence, and place of employment.

The Jonesboro Property Maintenance Code was derived carefully from a code that has been successfully implemented in various cities in all fifty states, including Arkansas. It has been tried in the court systems across this great nation and has met all constitutional tests. Furthermore, this code seeks to hold individuals accountable for maintaining their own properties in line with the traditions of a free society. The committee members carefully examined every aspect of the code and eliminated or modified parts of the code that they didn't feel were in the best interest of the citizens of Jonesboro or the city as a whole. The members of the committee supported the entire code by a six to three margin and support for the majority of the code was unanimous.

This code has been accused of being government overreach; however we believe that the legitimate purpose of government is to protect Jonesboro citizens where they are otherwise powerless to do so. When one property owner allows their property to fall into disrepair, they negatively affect the crime rate, property values, and safety of the neighboring properties and occupants. Under the current system, these citizens have very limited means of protection against these consequences.

A home represents the most important investment that many Jonesboro citizens will ever make and this code provides a guideline for how that investment can best be protected. The exterior components of this code will protect neighborhoods from decay, protect property values, and reduce crime. The interior portion of this code will protect lives and promote the health of Jonesboro residents.

In support of this code, we pledge to enforce this code in the same compassionate manner that we perform all our other duties, holding to the honor and tradition of our individual departments as well as the City of Jonesboro as a whole. We are united in our support of the Jonesboro Property Maintenance Code and ask you to pass this legislation without further delay.

Please provide us with this valuable tool needed to best serve and protect this great city in which we live and work.

Sincerely,



Chief Kevin Miller

Jonesboro Fire  
Department



Chief Rick Elliott

Jonesboro Police  
Department



Lt. Todd Nelson

Jonesboro Quality of  
Life Unit



Chief Building Official  
Tim Renshaw

Jonesboro Inspections  
Department