

RESOURCE GUIDE FOR COMMON NEIGHBORHOOD PROBLEMS

EXCESSIVE NUMBERS OF RENTERS

The homes in the SSCA area are mostly zoned A-1 Single Family. The meaning of A-1 is:

1. Any family that constitutes an individual, or two or more persons who are related by blood, marriage or adoption, living together with single culinary facilities and occupying the same premises.
2. Not more than two (2) persons unrelated occupying the same premises.
3. Not more than four (4) persons, one being the owner and the other three being unrelated occupying the same premises.

What should you do if you suspect these rules are being violated (e.g., 3 or 4 persons living in the same house, with no owner living there)?

1. Observe the number of cars parked at the house consistently. Record license plates numbers and take photographs. Documentation is very important to prove a violation is occurring.
2. Call Mr. Neal Bezet at DPW at 389-8680 and ask for an inspection. You will need to know who the owner of the house is. To determine the owner you can call the following numbers: Clerk of Court at 389-3979 and then the Assessor's office at 389-3920.
3. The owner will be notified if there is a violation. If the situation is not corrected, then the city can file a suit in District Court.

Be prepared to testify in Court if necessary, and please remember all that you can document will help prove the violation of the law.

LOUD MUSIC/PARTIES

East Baton Rouge Parish has a Noise Ordinance. Any offensive loud noise that interferes with the enjoyment of life or public peace and comfort is punishable by a fine of not less than \$200.00 or possible jail time.

What steps should you take to control loud music/parties?

1. Call the police at 389-3831 and report the problem. Document the time of your call, response time, and number of cars at the house.
2. Call the owner of the house (this includes the owner of the rental house). You must make this call immediately after calling police even if it is in the middle of the night. The owner of the rental house probably will not appreciate being awakened—just as you may have been awakened. (If you're not sure who the owner is, see previous column.)
3. If there are cars parked in your yard, you can call to have them towed. You will pay this expense initially, but legal action can possibly recover the costs.

To be effective, you must call the owner every time a loud party occurs. Be consistent!

PARKING VIOLATIONS

City ordinances establish certain rules governing parking:

1. Cars must be on a dust free surface.
2. Parking over a sidewalk is not permitted.
3. Parking a car on a narrow street causing it to be blocked is not permitted.
4. Parking in the wrong direction is not permitted.
5. Parking too close to a fire hydrant or too close to an intersection is not permitted.
6. Cars that are parked on a city servitude that are not moved within 48 hours may be towed. Call the Police Impoundment Division at 389-3819.

Cars on private property that are not running or that are broken down or have flat tires can cause the owner to be issued a Notice to Abate. The owner has the option of 1) removing the car within 15 days of notice, 2) beginning repairs within 15 days and completing the repairs within 30 days, or 3) moving the car into an enclosed building. You can call the Impoundment Division at 389-3819 if you have a car to report