

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 317\_\_**

**WHEREAS**, the issue of the maintenance and registration of vacant properties is of great concern to this Board of Aldermen and many city residents; and

**WHEREAS**, State Senator Jeff Smith has introduced Senate Bill No. 131 pertaining to vacant property registration fees; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill No. 131 allows the governing body of any city not within a county, may, by ordinance, establish a semiannual registration fee of not more than two thousand dollars to be charged to the owner of any such property; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Louis has over 3,900 vacant privately-owned properties throughout the city; and

**WHEREAS**, in the fiscal year 2008, the city spent over \$212,000 on grass maintenance, over \$682,000 on debris removal, over \$77,000 on board ups and over \$45,000 on tree removal on vacant properties; and

**WHEREAS**, in the fiscal year 2008, the city spent over \$1,282,000 on demolition of vacant properties; and

**WHEREAS**, since June 2008 there have been more than 800 units that have been foreclosed in the city, at a value of \$62,637, 470; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities across the nation are imposing higher penalties for vacant buildings through legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, communities taking a tougher stand include Cincinnati, Ohio, Providence, Rhode Island and Chula Vista California; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposed legislation is very vital to the citizens of St. Louis; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we fully support Senate Bill No. 131 and believe it would only help and protect the citizens of St. Louis through the increased fees of vacant buildings.

Introduced on the 6th day of February 2009 by:

**Honorable Jeffrey L. Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward**

Adopted this the 6th day of February, 2009 as attested by:

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen