

New law creates the Hampton Village Crime Prevention and Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the beautification, security, and overall betterment of the district. Provides for district boundaries and provides that the district is governed by a board of seven commissioners, all of whom shall be residents and qualified voters of the district, composed as follows:

- (1) The president of the Hampton Village Estates Homeowners Association, Inc., or its successor (association).
- (2) One member appointed by the board of directors of the association.
- (3) One member appointed by the member of the La. House of Representatives whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (4) One member appointed by the member of the La. Senate whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (5) One member appointed by the governing authority of the city of Central.
- (6) One member appointed by the mayor of the city of Central.
- (7) One member appointed by the assessor for East Baton Rouge Parish.

New law provides that members appointed pursuant to (3) through (7) above serve terms concurrent with the appointing authority and the member appointed pursuant to (2) above serves a two-year term. Requires members to serve without compensation but authorizes reimbursement of expenses. Provides relative to the powers and duties of the district.

New law authorizes the governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish, subject to voter approval, to impose and collect a parcel fee within the district. Provides that the amount of the fee shall be as requested by duly adopted resolution of the board. Further provides that the fee shall be a flat fee per parcel of land not to exceed \$125 per year. Defines "parcel" as a lot, subdivided portion of ground, or an individual tract on which a residential structure is situated.

New law authorizes the board, not less than five years after the approval of the imposition of the fee, to increase the amount of the fee one time without election. Provides that the amount of the fee shall be as provided in a duly adopted resolution of the board and shall not exceed \$250 per parcel per year.

New law provides that the fee shall expire 10 years from initial levy, but may be renewed for a term not to exceed 10 years. Requires that the fee be collected in the same manner and at the same time as ad valorem taxes are collected. Requires the sheriff to remit to the district all amounts collected not later than 60 days after collection, but authorizes the board to enter into a contract with the sheriff to authorize the sheriff to retain a collection fee.

New law requires the board to adopt an annual budget in accordance with the Local Government Budget Act and provides that the district shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

New law provides that if the district ceases to exist, all funds of the district shall be transmitted to the city of Central and shall be used for law enforcement purposes in the area included within the district.

New law requires the district to indemnify its officers and board members to the fullest extent permitted by existing law (relative to indemnification of officers, directors, employees, and agents of nonprofit corporations) as fully as if the district were a nonprofit corporation governed thereby and as may be provided in district bylaws. Provides further with respect to the liability of board members.

Effective upon signature of governor (May 22, 2012).

(Adds R.S. 33:9097.13)