

Alfred Williams (HB 1010)**Act No. 831**

New law creates the Villa del Rey Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish for the purpose of enhancing security and providing for the overall betterment of the district. Provides that the district shall be governed by a board of commissioners consisting of the following members:

- (1) The president of the Villa del Rey Citizens Assoc., Inc.
- (2) Two members appointed by the board of directors of the Villa del Rey Citizens Assoc., Inc.
- (3) One member appointed by the member of the La. House of Representatives who represents all or the greater portion of the area which comprises the district.
- (4) One member appointed by the member of the La. Senate who represents all or the greater portion of the area which comprises the district.
- (5) One member appointed by the member of the East Baton Rouge Parish governing authority who represents all or the greater portion of the area which comprises the district.
- (6) One member appointed by the mayor-president of the city of Baton Rouge and parish of East Baton Rouge.

New law provides that members serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement for expenses, not to exceed \$100 per year.

New law provides that the district has the following powers and duties:

- (1) To sue and be sued.
- (2) To adopt, use, and alter a corporate seal.
- (3) To receive and expend funds in accordance with new law.
- (4) To enter into contracts, including contracts with other districts.
- (5) To provide for or enhance security patrols and to provide for improved lighting, signage, and other security matters.
- (6) To provide services and make expenditures.
- (7) To acquire or lease items and supplies.
- (8) To procure insurance against liability of board members.
- (9) To perform or have performed any function or activity to carry out its purposes.

New law authorizes the district, subject to voter approval, to impose and collect a parcel fee on each improved or unimproved parcel of up to \$250 per parcel per year.

Existing constitution provides for freezing the assessment level for ad valorem taxes on property with a homestead exemption for an owner whose income is below a certain level (\$50,000 adjusted annually for inflation) and who meets one of the following qualifications:

- (1) Is sixty-five years of age or older.
- (2) Has a service-connected disability rating of 50% or more.

- (3) Is a member of the U.S. armed forces or the La. National Guard who owned and last occupied such property and was killed in action, or is missing in action or a prisoner of war for a period exceeding 90 days.
- (4) Is permanently totally disabled.

New law provides that a person who qualifies for the special assessment level shall be charged a parcel fee that is half of the fee charged to other owners.

New law authorizes the district to levy and collect the fee for 10 years from initial levy and authorizes renewal. Provides that the fee shall be collected in the same manner and at the same time as ad valorem taxes and that any unpaid fee shall be added to the city tax rolls and enforced with the same authority and subject to the same penalties and procedures as unpaid ad valorem taxes. Authorizes an agreement with the parish tax collector for fee collection; authorizes a collection fee of not more than 1%.

New law authorizes the district to solicit, accept, and expend voluntary contributions and grants.

New law requires the district's board to adopt an annual budget in accordance with existing law (R.S. 39:1301 et seq – The La. Local Government Budget Act) and provides that the district shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor.

New law provides that it is the intent of new law that the additional law enforcement personnel and services provided for through the fees authorized by new law shall be supplemental to and not in lieu of personnel and services provided in the district by publicly funded law enforcement agencies.

New law provides that no board member or officer of the district shall be liable to the district or to any individual who resides, owns property, visits, or otherwise conducts business in the district for monetary damages for breach of his duties as a board member or officer unless the board member performs an act or omission not in good faith or which involves intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law or any transaction from which he derives an improper personal benefit.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 23, 2014).

(Adds R.S. 33:9097.22)