

New law creates the Tara Subdivision Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District in East Baton Rouge Parish as a political subdivision of the state for the purpose of aiding in crime prevention by providing for an increase in security patrols in the district and providing for overall betterment of the district. Provides for district boundaries. Provides that the district will be governed by a board of commissioners composed as follows:

- (1) Four members appointed by the board of directors of the Tara Civic Assoc., Inc. or its successor.
- (2) 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.
- (3) One member appointed by the member of the La. Senate whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district.
- (4) One member appointed by the parish assessor of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Requires board members to own property and reside in the district and to be qualified voters of the district. Provides that members serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses up to \$100 per year.

New law provides for the district's powers and duties including the following:

- (1) To sue and be sued.
- (2) To adopt, use, and alter at will 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 or enhance security patrols in the district, to provide for improved lighting, signage, or matters relating to the security of the district, to provide for the beautification of and improvement to the district, and to provide generally for the overall betterment of the district.
- (6) To acquire or lease items or supplies.
- (7) To procure insurance against liability of board members.
- (8) To perform or have performed any function or activity to carry out its purposes.

New law authorizes the board, subject to voter approval, to impose a parcel fee on each improved and unimproved parcel within the district not to exceed \$200 per parcel per year. Provides, however, that the initial fee for the first calendar year shall not exceed \$100 per parcel. Authorizes the board, subject to voter approval, to increase the fee one time during each calendar year not to exceed 10% of the amount of the fee imposed during the previous calendar year. Provides that the fee and the board's authority to increase the fee expires in 10 years, but authorizes renewal of the fee.

New law 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 parish tax rolls and enforced with the same authority and subject to the same penalties and procedures as unpaid ad valorem taxes. Requires the tax collector to remit to the district all amounts collected not more than 60 days after collection and authorizes the district to enter into an agreement with the tax collector to authorize the retention of a collection fee, not to exceed 1% of the amount collected.

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 purpose and intent of new law that the additional law enforcement personnel and their services provided for through the fees authorized by new law shall be supplemental to, and not in lieu of, personnel and services provided by publicly funded law enforcement agencies.

New law provides that if the district ceases to exist, all district funds and property shall be transmitted to the parish of East Baton Rouge and used to promote and enhance the security, beautification, and overall betterment of the area included in the district.

Effective June 4, 2014.

(Adds R.S. 33:9097.22)