

RESOLUTION

NO. R-21-356

CITY HALL: September 23, 2021

BY: COUNCILMEMBERS BANKS, GISLESON PALMER AND MORENO

Resolution urging State Legislature to pass updated and consistent regulations relating to Residential Care Facilities' emergency preparedness systems

WHEREAS, The New Orleans City Council supports efforts to improve and protect the quality of life for all of its citizens, particularly those who are members of vulnerable populations and are in need of the care and support of others; and

WHEREAS, The City Council believes that in the event of an emergency or natural disaster, no resident should be left behind nor allowed to be left in a situation that endangers their health or their life itself; and

WHEREAS, In parishes already susceptible to the catastrophic effects of storms and natural disasters, residents who are members of vulnerable populations need particular attention and heightened care during a declared emergency or evacuation; and

WHEREAS, As a result of Hurricane Ida as well as past declared emergencies or natural disasters, there is a demonstrated need for reliable staffing and emergency planning at residential care or independent living facilities; all stakeholders, including but not limited to management, staff, residents, family members, and relevant City and/or State departments, should have access to well-developed and clearly communicated plans for evacuation or sheltering in place; and

WHEREAS, The Health Department, the Department of Safety and Permits, the City Attorney's Office, and the City Council of the City of New Orleans, along with other partners, are working to promulgate guidelines and implement regulations that will define the types of facilities that need heightened emergency plans; and

WHEREAS, These legislative updates will focus on identifying and defining the types of residential care or independent living facilities that will require emergency plans, which may include, but not be limited to the following required submittals:

- detailed points of contact and backup contacts, including a person on premises and available to the City at all times

- manifests of residents with appropriate and applicable information to ensure resident safety and security
- demonstrated compliance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Handbook 4350.1, Chapter 38: Multifamily Emergency/Disaster Guidance
- details on types and capabilities of any and all generators on site; and

WHEREAS, The relevant sections of Louisiana regulations include, but may not be limited to, Louisiana Revised Statutes 40:2166 *et seq.* and the Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) Section 48:6801 *et seq.*, neither of which regulate nor license independent living facilities specifically; **NOW, THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Orleans City Council strongly urges the Louisiana State Legislature, with leadership from the New Orleans delegation and those representing parishes with similarly impacted constituents, to pass regulations that further protect and improve the quality of life for residents of residential care or other independent living facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council requests that the State Legislature and Governor join Councilmembers in supporting regulatory updates that protect the safety and well-being of Louisianians in residential care and other independent living facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of Council shall transmit this resolution to Governor John Bel Edwards; Mayor LaToya Cantrell; Representative Clay Schexnayder, Speaker of the Louisiana State House; Senator Patrick Page Cortez, President of the Louisiana State Senate; Representative Mandie Landry; Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman; and all other members of our Legislative delegation as follows: Senator Karen Carter Peterson, Senator Sharon Hewitt, Senator Jimmy Harris, Senator Joseph Bouie, Senator Gary M. Carter, Jr., Representative Royce Duplessis, Representative Raymond E. Garofalo, Jr., Representative Stephanie Hilferty, Representative Matthew Willard, Representative Candace Newell, Representative Jason Hughes, and Representative Mack Cormier.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.