

NEW BLIGHT ORDINANCE

Fremont is a beautiful community with mostly well kept homes, businesses and property. However, like any town we do have properties that need cleaning up. The City's existing ordinances governing blight, junk and weeds were outdated, difficult to enforce and considered by many to be ineffective.

One of the City Council's goals was a thorough review of these laws and the development of a consolidated blight control ordinance. An ad hoc committee of Council representatives, staff and legal counsel reviewed blight ordinances from other communities and examples from the Municipal League and other sources. The committee then drafted a new comprehensive blight control ordinance, with sections addressing blighted buildings, junk and weeds/noxious vegetation. Following careful review, the Council adopted the ordinance, which is now in effect.

The Committee also produced a new Civil Infractions Ordinance to assist in the enforcement of the blight and other ordinances. The ordinance de-criminalizes certain offenses, treating them more like traffic citations. The burden of proof is also much less than a misdemeanor offense. The Council adopted by resolution a set of infraction fines based on the type of offense, with each day of noncompliance considered a separate offense and the fines increasing for subsequent offenses.

The City is now equipped to step-up enforcement of various property maintenance ordinances and will begin doing so this spring. Copies of the new blight ordinance are available at City Hall and can be found on the City's website at www.cityoffremont.net.