



UPDATED: 8:47 p.m. CDT, July 03, 2008 New Orleans, LA, Partly Sunny with Thunderstorms 77° F • [Complete Forecast](#) | [Homepage](#) | [Site Index](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise](#)



Everything New Orleans

SEARCH:



NEWS SPORTS FORUMS BLOGS CAMS ENTERTAINMENT MORE TOPICS JOBS AUTOS REAL ESTATE CLASSIFIEDS

[NOLA.com - News](#)



Latest Metro New Orleans news

Updated 24 hours, every day

BREAKING NEWS UPDATES

- [Sports News](#)
- [Business News](#)
- [Crime News](#)
- [Living News](#)
- [Entertainment News](#)
- [North Shore News](#)

Browse Metro news updates by day posted:

Select a date

Browse Metro news updates by week posted:

Select a date

GET NEWS YOUR WAY

Receive news updates to your inbox or mobile device

- [Sign up for breaking newsletters](#)
- [Follow NOLA.com on Twitter](#)
- [What's Twitter?](#)

TIMES-PICAYUNE PHOTOS

- [Holt Cemetery in New Orleans clean up](#)
- [Small businesses along Bayou Road](#)
- [Purple martins roosting under the Causeway](#)
- [Homicide unit closes cases](#)
- [Race against the clock](#)

ALL TIMES-PICAYUNE PHOTOS >>

TIMES-PICAYUNE VIDEO

St. Bernard Parish on hook for legal fees in rental ordinance fight

by Mary Elise DeCoursey, The Times-Picayune
Thursday July 03, 2008, 5:09 PM

St. Bernard Parish will have to pay \$123,771.92 in attorney fees to a fair-housing advocacy group that sued the parish in 2006 over a controversial rental ordinance.

The payment comes in addition to the \$32,500 settlement that the parish agreed to earlier this year with the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center. The ordinance, which the Parish Council adopted in September 2006, required council approval or owners to rent homes to anyone who was not a blood relative. The ordinance applied only to single-family homes that had not been rentals prior to Hurricane Katrina.

But fair housing advocates said the ordinance, particularly the blood relative clause, violated the federal Fair Housing Act. In challenging the ordinance in federal court, they argued that since the parish's pre-hurricane population was around 93 percent white, the blood relative clause would largely exclude nonwhites from renting.

Council members removed the blood relative clause in December 2006, amending the ordinance to demand council approval of all rentals of single-family homes that had not been rentals prior to the hurricane.

The payment will be covered by the parish's general liability insurance, and the parish is not planning to appeal, St. Bernard Parish President Craig Taffaro said Thursday.

"We just remain focused on the overall recovery of our community, and this is one aspect of it," Taffaro said.

Lucia Blacksher, general counsel with the action center said the group will continue to monitor the applications coming in for the conditional use permit.

"The court retains jurisdiction for three years," Blacksher said. "If we ID a possible violation of the consent agreement and aren't able to resolve it between the parties, then we can file a motion to enforce the decree."

The parish still faces a suit against the ordinance filed by Your Home Solution Louisiana, an investment group from Florida.

Taffaro said the parish is sticking by its ordinance.

"No, the rental ordinance is not causing us trouble," he said. "But like anything that's worth standing up for we are accepting and responding to

EDITORS' PICKS OF TODAY'S The Times-Picayune STORIES

- [COPS STOP PRICE, LET HIM GO IN '06](#)
- [FULL VOLUME](#)
- [Chat about the kids isn't city business](#)
- [Faith leaders to cull signs of hatred](#)
- [Ruling calls for credits on Entergy Louisiana bills](#)
- [Judge declines to halt clearing of levee](#)
- [CAUSEWAY POLICE CHIEF LOICANO RESIGNS](#)

[MORE HEADLINES >>](#)

OTHER STORIES

- [New Orleans](#)
- [West Bank](#)
- [East Jefferson](#)
- [St. Tammany](#)
- [River Parishes](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Money](#)
- [Page One](#)
- [Baton Rouge](#)
- [Washington](#)
- [St. Bernard](#)
- [Metro](#)
- [Living](#)

CRIME NEWS



N.O. Murders: Interactive map and case details

- [New Orleans](#)
- [Bellevue](#)





If you see just one movie this week, this is The One.

- St. Louis Cathedral Archaeological Dig
- Streetcar Line Opens on South Carrollton
- She's a Prisoner of War
- If you see just one movie this week, this is The One.

ALL TIMES-PICAYUNE VIDEOS >

TIMES-PICAYUNE MULTIMEDIA



- See slideshows, interactive graphics, games, videos and more

AP LOUISIANA NEWS

- Paul, Hornets agree to new deal 7/3/2008, 7:32 p.m. CDT
- DT Kyle Williams agrees to contract extension 7/3/2008, 7:03 p.m. CDT
- La. high court sets new rules for lawyers' ads 7/3/2008, 6:53 p.m. CDT

MORE AP LOUISIANA NEWS >

AP VIDEO

[More AP video](#)

challenges by those people who may disagree with us."

- Send To A Friend | Print this | Permalink
- Reddit | Digg | del.icio.us | Google | Yahoo | Facebook

COMMENTS (12) Post a comment

Posted by **boywonda** on 07/03/08 at 5:29PM

stick to your guns craig!!! we dont want st. bernard to become all rentals. its not a race issue its a lifestyle issue. owners have pride - most renters dont care what the neighborhood turns into.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#) [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **stbanawd** on 07/03/08 at 5:32PM

screw florida...thats what you get for coming in trying to take advantage of our misfortune. punks. florida. go play with the sharks.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#) [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **bigfrankeee** on 07/03/08 at 5:47PM

if you don't want rentals you better move

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#) [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **mrlaloosh** on 07/03/08 at 5:48PM

So the poor dumb taxpayers in St. Bernard Parish are on the hook for all the fees in this stupid illegal ordinance. It's always been a race issue,nothing more. The ghost of Judge Leander Perez still haunts this backward parish.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#) [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **possomhd** on 07/03/08 at 5:54PM

boywonda and stbanawd, I am in total agreement with both of your comments. I suppose you need overseers to any issue, but it seems to me if I own a piece of property I should be able to rent to anybody I choose, or refuse to rent to anybody I don't want living on my property. There will be many challenges now just to make sure the parish is abiding by the concert agreement. I'm all for St. Bernard Parish. Stick to your guns, and don't be pushed around or intimidated by these do gooders.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#) [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **tati1** on 07/03/08 at 6:20PM

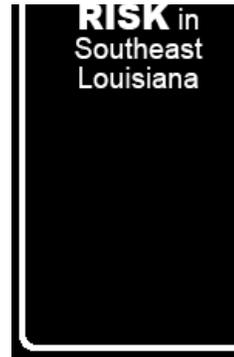
rebuil 9 ward,and you can rent all you want

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#) [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **anothername** on 07/03/08 at 6:27PM

I could of refurbished many of these blighted properties in the parish but did not because of this rental oridinace. A good question that I have for you homeowners is would you prefer a renter next door to you or a blighted rat

- Force Broiler
- NOPD crime alerts
- East Jefferson
- St. Bernard
- St. Tammany
- St. Charles & St. John
- West Bank



LET THE TIMES-PICAYUNE KNOW!

Fix this, Please!

- What problems around the New Orleans area need a little attention?

[Read about what you think needs fixed >](#)

- See something that needs fixing? [Post it online](#)

[View photos of your needed fixes >](#)

Reporters want to know...

Did you get a Road Home grant? Is your home assessment too high?

- Welcome!

MORE OF YOUR SUBMISSIONS >

Do you have a story idea?

- Tell the Times-Picayune

METRO COLUMNISTS

Lolis Eric Elie

- Crusaders ease plight of children
- Jindal's image has taken hits
- Enrichment program for girls helps feed imagination



MORE FROM LOLIS ERIC ELIE >

Sheila Stroup

- Freedom to work and to play
- Freedom to work and to play
- House is a tribute to family



MORE FROM SHEILA STROUP >

NEWS FORUMS

Sound Off

- What are demos gonna do... by [confusionsez](#)
- George Carlin Nails it... by [hurricane](#)
- Harlan for Congress by [SPSWolves09](#)

Orleans Parish

- 9550. ron midkiff fired... by [wynterbeauty](#)
- Dillard's ad by [god4u2](#)
- legal fees by [twistedOaks](#)

St. Tammany Parish

CONTESTS & EVENTS

- Win the Ultimate AFL Prize Pack!!
- Get your news delivered for FREE!
- Enter to win Zephyr's tickets
- Shop The Times Picayune Store

infested house with 6 ft tall grass? Well I guess the answer for most is quite obvious. St. Bernard has always been a backward place to live and YES eventually it will become the new ninth ward. Just a matter of time.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **nolalou** on [07/03/08 at 6:43PM](#)

The idiots on the St. Bernard council would have you believe that this is about quality of life or protection of property values. They conveniently ignore both the racial and property rights implications of their ridiculous ordinance, even when confronted with the illegality of their votes.

So while I'm sorry for the taxpayers in St. Bernard, who have to shoulder the bill for this foolishness, I'm thrilled that the council is being punished for its hubris, and hope that this will serve as a warning for other so-called leaders.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **dayspast** on [07/03/08 at 6:44PM](#)

Somebody should tell Lakeview, Gentilly, and all the other areas about this deal. They rent single-family houses to anyone with the cash and those were not rented houses pre-katrina.

Why does St. Bernard have all the clout and not these areas in New Orleans?

The previous homeowners are only concerned about monthly cash flow, not who is paying it.

And these rented houses don't need any kind of approval either.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **twainhearn** on [07/03/08 at 7:15PM](#)

You just have to follow Federal Law folks, as long as we are federated. It is just that simple. Not to mention that Fair Housing laws prevent unjust treatment of people and property. So, bottom line, St Bernard, like Orleans and LA at-large needs better advisers and leadership. It's that simple!

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **tofumamma** on [07/03/08 at 7:38PM](#)

St.Benard Parish has always been weird.The Parish has lived by its own rules for almost 100 years.Remember, most of the people settled in the Parish after leaving Orleans Parish during the sixties.I have rental property. I didn't always own my home and I can remember when I was a renter.It is very easy to do a background check on tenants. If you have doubts , you simply don't rent it to the persons.As usual, St. Bernard is trying to keep the status quo. It seems like they need a lot of people down there because most of the population has sold out to Road Home.Come on St.Bernard this is 2008,Make it right!

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **wakeupfriend** on [07/03/08 at 7:50PM](#)

Thanks, tofumamma.

How about an Ordinance that requires peoperty owners to do background checks, and that restricts maybe some people based on their criminal background. That is perfectly legal.

However, what a stupid waste of taxpayer dollars! Beyond the race issue ... what right does a Council have to tell me that I cannot rent my property if I can't find a blood relative to occupy it? Is the Council going to pay my note, my taxes, my insurance? Is it going to purchase my property?

- [Happy 4th to everyone!](#) by [jussme](#)
- [Question](#) by [Shawnyppoo](#)
- [Mandeville mayor vows](#) by [maqoo123](#)

Jefferson Parish

- [Happy 4th to everyone!](#) by [jussme](#)
- [Question](#) by [Shawnyppoo](#)
- [Mandeville mayor vows](#) by [maqoo123](#)

Crime & Safety

- [Hey loyno...](#) by [geauxdown](#)
- [Its so funny.....](#) by [geauxdown](#)
- [47188 pay attention!](#) by [CLSutton26](#)

[MORE FORUMS »](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Council, stop wasting the dollars that could have been used to maybe put more inspectors on the streets, or to have enhanced patrols in some areas, or to post signs warning renters to maintain their property .. or something reasonable.

Inappropriate? [Alert us.](#)

 [Post a comment](#)

Username (Don't Have a Username? [Sign up here](#)):

Password:

Remember Me



[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Forums](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Multimedia](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Classifieds](#)
[Complete Forecast](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [Site Index](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Help/Feedback](#)



• [Subscribe to the Times-Picayune](#)

© 2008 New OrleansNet LLC. All Rights Reserved. Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#) , [Privacy Policy](#) and [Advertising Agreement](#).