

With the help of civic leaders and churches we can get citizens involved and instill pride in Crowley again.

Chad Monceaux For Mayor

Early Voting
October 25th
through
November 1st

Kickin' Up Dust

The stately neighborhoods I rode my bike in as a kid are gone. Today, many of those same homes sit vacant and crumbling. Business owners have vanished, leaving behind their commercial buildings to rot until they collapse. Year after year, our community has continued to decay with no real end in sight.

Crowley's issues with blight go back much further than the current administration. However, very little has been done by this administration to reconcile one of Crowley's greatest hindrances. It is past time for issues with tall grass and abandoned properties to be rectified. Not only are these homes and properties an economic burden, but they are also a health hazard and safety risk to neighboring homes and businesses.

A 2019 study out of the LSU Sociology department found that not only is a house fire twice as likely to occur in an abandoned property, but also that crime increased exponentially where there was an excess of blighted properties. One study in Columbus, Ohio found that a single blighted property can decrease the value of neighboring homes by as much as twenty percent. Sadly, it was also found that if you live within two and a half blocks of blighted property, the risks of violent crime increased by as much as thirteen percent. Luckily, these same studies found that once these blighted properties were demolished, property values in these neighborhoods immediately stabilized and violent crime plummeted. It was also noted in these studies, that there was a substantial increase in property tax revenue once blight was rectified.

The issue of blight has become such a nuisance, that local citizens took charge and created the non-profit organization titled Citizens Against Blight. Together, they identified hundreds of structures throughout Crowley that were deemed condemnable and reached out to the current administration for assistance in addressing these properties. Despite multiple attempts by the city council, members of CAB and other concerned citizens, all requests for help were ignored. On April 14th, 2021, ordinance 1516 was created to assist with expediting the process of demolishing blighted properties. This ordinance requires the Mayor to appoint an Administrative Hearing Judge to replace the city council in their capacity as related to the condemnation of properties. It also requires the Mayor to appoint a Blight Attorney, who will then present all blight cases to the Administrative Hearing Judge. At one point, things had gotten so bad, that the current Mayor had refused to allow CAB representatives to speak at council meetings despite being placed on the agenda. This behavior was both reckless and unacceptable.

I believe the next Mayor should be leading the city's fight against blight. Instead of hindering change, the next Mayor should be out in the community,

developing ideas and assisting in any efforts that make our city more presentable and appealing to residents. He will occasionally have to roll up his sleeves and get a little dirt on his boots. Some candidates have had four years to make improvements with blight and others have merely stated what they plan to do once elected. While they've been making promises, I've been taking action. You've probably seen me kickin' up dust in your neighborhood. Thankfully, I was able to assist numerous families with the demolition of their blighted properties in order to make way for future endeavors.

We must also work quickly to strengthen the city's enforcement powers and assist with streamlining the process for addressing blighted properties. It needs to be clear that these neglected properties are a cancerous rot in our neighborhoods and they will no longer be tolerated. Based on the tangible research of the cost of blight on the safety and welfare of the public, it is legally defensible for local municipal codes to have strong anti-neglect ordinances.

I will also advocate for a Rental Registration Program in order to improve the living conditions of our citizens and hold owners accountable for the properties they rent. This program would require all persons or companies who lease or offer for lease, any residential unit or residential property to register that property with the city's Code Compliance Division, by submitting a Landlord Registration Application. Many of our issues regarding blight can be traced back to just a handful of individuals. It's time they cleaned up their act for the betterment of our citizens.

We should not merely focus on tearing down structures. Our goal should also be economic development, social development and community revitalization. It is not enough to simply knock down structures and leave lots vacant. Where structures are salvageable, we should do our best to rehabilitate and encourage home ownership and small business development. Multiple studies have shown that home ownership boosts the educational performances of children, induces higher participation in civic and volunteering activities and lowers crime rate and lessens welfare dependency.

One of my goals to revitalize our neighborhoods is to work towards the implementation of my Crowley Neighborhood Lagniappe Program. Many structures that seem abandoned are home to some of our elderly and most vulnerable citizens. Some that either physically or financially cannot address their home's needs. Together, with various donations and volunteers, we can effectively beautify neighborhoods one house at a time. With the help of our local churches and civic leaders, we can get our citizens involved in their communities and instill pride in Crowley again.



First 100 Days

* Immediately enact Ordinance 1516 by appointing an Administrative Hearing Judge and appointing a Blight Attorney in the event that the current Mayor has not done so.

* Continue working hand in hand with Citizens Against Blight to further assist their efforts at reducing blight and welcome any and all knowledge they present.

* Hire an additional Code Enforcement Officer to assist with enforcing litter, blight, grass and other violations that fall under this department.

* Initiate a citywide Rental Registration Program in order to hold owners accountable for the upkeep of their properties.

* Work towards the implementation of the Crowley Neighborhood Lagniappe Plan in hopes of revitalizing some of our properties through various donations and volunteers.

* Assist various local programs such as AHU Properties with their attempts at revitalizing properties for affordable housing.



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