

# St. Charles Parish

## Department of Planning & Zoning

### Land Use Report

**Case Number: 2020-01-ORD**

**Introduced by Paul J. Hogan, PE, Councilman-at-Large, Division B**

To amend the Zoning Ordinance to provide a definition of (parade) floats and general provisions for a restriction on storing parade floats in residential zoning districts.

#### **Background**

This ordinance was on the Planning Commission's July 11 agenda. The staff recommendation was that it go to the Council's Legislative Committee for hearing. The Planning Commission's July 11 meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Barry and the sponsor withdrew the ordinance prior to the Planning Commission's August meeting. The ordinance has been scheduled for hearing at the Legislative Committee, but it appears the meetings have not met quorum.

The Planning Department's Permit, Code Enforcement, Inspections database (PCI) indicates that Code Enforcement responds to 0 to 2 complaints regarding floats per year; a total of 29 float complaints are recorded in the PCI—notably, the database shows no complaints regarding floats in 2016 or 2017. (Total number of complaint records in PCI is 23,596; records date to 1998).

#### **Potential outcomes**

The new restrictions will prohibit the outdoor storing of floats in residential zoning districts. It may result in a substantial increase in code violations and challenges in neighborhoods where floats have historically been stationed without incident. Code enforcement will have the authority to require floats to be stored inside a structure or be removed from private property.

The Department has historically viewed floats as similar to RVs and regulated them as such. Departure from this policy will present substantial challenges for residents accustomed to the status quo.

#### **Recommendation**

Denial