



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brookhaven approves increased living standards for apartment complexes

Brookhaven, GA, April 10, 2013 – A new ordinance and a \$500,000 grant will help improve living conditions for thousands of residents of apartment complexes in Brookhaven.

The Brookhaven City Council voted unanimously Tuesday night on a new ordinance that requires all multi-family housing units to be inspected in order to get a business license. Under the ordinance, an independent third-party will inspect the interior of each occupied unit in the city's 72 apartment complexes to ensure compliance with minimum life safety standards. City staff will inspect the exterior of the complexes.

The inspections will occur over the next 18 months.

The ordinance is just the beginning of the Buford Highway Improvement Program, which Brookhaven plans to launch in several weeks. The city is currently finalizing details on an Intergovernmental Agreement between Brookhaven and DeKalb County's Community Development departments.

Under the program, the city will partner with DeKalb and use \$500,000 from the county's Community Development Block Grant program to assist apartment complex owners with upgrades. The \$500,000 grant is only a portion of the county's CDBG program and will be designated for repairs and upgrades to the exterior of the complexes.

Additional initiatives are planned to enhance tourism in the area as a component of Brookhaven's comprehensive plan, which will start this summer.

"Our goal is to provide safe and affordable workforce housing so our residents can live close to where they work and go to school," City Manager Marie L. Garrett said. "We are excited about the opportunity to partner with DeKalb County and provide needed improvements to a heavily populated area that serves as the gateway to the City of Brookhaven."

Additional details will be released later this month.

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