

**“GO DARK” ORDINANCE FOR THE
CITY OF CANTON, MISSISSIPPI**

Pursuant to the authority granted by the Legislature to the City of Canton, Mississippi by the Section 21-17-1 *et Sequa* and Section 21-19-1 *et Sequa* of the Mississippi Code of 1973, Amended and such other statues as may be applicable, the Canton Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Canton, Mississippi does hereby ordain as follows;

Purpose

WHEREAS, the City of Canton finds vacant and abandoned commercial buildings create a health hazard for the surrounding community by providing shelter for rats and other vermin; and

WHEREAS, these vacant and abandoned commercial buildings become a breeding ground for gang activity, crime and jeopardized the safety of neighboring property owners, tenants and the general public; and

WHEREAS, the City of Canton has determined that existing laws do not sufficiently encourage commercial building owners to take reasonable steps to secure their property; therefore

Duties of Owner

The owner of any commercial building that has become vacant, and any person maintaining, operating or collecting rent for any commercial building that has become vacant or currently vacant shall, within 30 days, do the following:

- 1) Enclosed and secure the building;
- 2) Maintain all landscaping in standard condition and in accordance with the Landscaping Ordinance of the City of Canton;
- 3) Provide lighting for parking lots at full capacity after dark;
- 4) Interior lighting shall be supplied after dark;
- 5) All signs shall be removed;
- 6) Maintain the building in a secure and closed condition until the building is again occupied or until repair or completion of the building had been undertaken.

Penalties

Violation of this ordinance will constitute a misdemeanor, and each day of violation will constitute a separate offense, for which a fine not less than \$100.00 or more than \$1,000.00 and/or a jail sentence not exceeding sixty days may be imposed. Each day that a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense,

Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect after its passage and publication according to law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN FOR THE CITY OF CANTON that the proposed Ordinance is hereby approved and adopted.

This ordinance having been reduced to writing, Alderman Weems moved to adopt the aforesaid ordinance. Alderman Jones seconded the motion. Upon the following vote, the aforesaid ordinance passed.

SO RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CANTON, MISSISSIPPI, this the 20th day of June 2006.

Alderman Rosamond	Voted: <u>"Aye"</u>
Alderman Myers	Voted: <u>"Aye"</u>
Alderman Weems	Voted: <u>"Aye"</u>
Alderman Smith	Voted: <u>"Nay"</u>
Alderman Jones	Voted: <u>"Aye"</u>
Alderman Gilkey	Voted: <u>"Aye"</u>
Alderwoman Scott	Voted: <u>"Aye"</u>

The Motion having received the affirmative vote of the majority of the members present, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the Ordinance duly adopted the 20th day of June 2006.

S/Fred Esco, Jr.
Mayor

Attest:

S/ Valerie Smith
City Clerk