

City of Press Release Hawaiian Gardens



HAWAIIAN GARDENS CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS AMNESTY PROGRAM

Hawaiian Gardens Amnesty Program

At the February 10, 2009, City Council meeting, Resolution No. 008-2009 was adopted establishing a one year Amnesty Program for the Code Enforcement Division. The City Council is concerned that there is a high volume of garage conversions and structures that may have been built in the City with out the proper approvals from the Community Development Department. In order to encourage residents to bring their property up to code, the City Council voted unanimously to waive all Building Division penalty fees and demolition permit fees associated with code enforcement cases for single-family residences and duplexes that are owner occupied. The purpose of the permit is to help protect residents, homes, neighbors and infrastructure of the City from potential hazards associated with fire, overcrowding, improper construction techniques or structural failure. Bringing the property up to code is very important both for a safety reason and for a smoother real estate transaction for when property owners decide to sell their homes. The goal of the program is to ensure the safety of all residents through inspections while allowing homeowners to receive all the proper permits free of charge from City penalty fees. The following is a few examples of projects that will likely require permits:

- Garage Conversions
- Room Additions
- Interior and Exterior alterations/repairs
- Kitchen and/or Bathroom remodeling
- Decks and Patios
- Electrical or Plumbing work
- Furnace/Water Heater replacement

Also, please note that garage conversions are not allowed under the Zoning Code and that this program will help you bring your garage back to it's approved use. In addition, the City will work with property owners that have illegal additions on their property to the extent that the improvements meet all applicable Zoning and Building regulations. Some properties may be referred to Housing Programs for financial assistance on a case-by-case basis based on need and scope of work.

Any questions regarding the Amnesty Program may be directed to Joseph Colombo, Community Development Director at (562) 420-2641, ext. 208.

Expires: February 10, 2010

