



ST. CHARLES PARISH HOUSING AUTHORITY

200 Boutte Estates Drive, P.O. Box 448, Boutte, LA 70039

(985) 785-2601, F A X (985) 785-6238

www.scphousingauthority.com

October 10, 2017

To: All SCPHA Residents

From: SCPHA Management

Ref: Proposal for Cutting Grass Throughout the 2018 Season

In the Housing Authority's effort to ensure that the grass is routinely and efficiently cut with the least interruptions in the lives of the residents and staff and that it is done in a cost-effective manner, the following is proposed. This proposal will go into effect as of January 8, 2018.

General Idea:

The residents will pay a very low monthly maintenance fee during the active growth seasons (March, April, May, June, July, August, September, and October) to subsidize the cutting/landscaping of the lawns. An outside vendor will be hired to cut the lawns with SCPHA paying the balance of the contract. Those residents that choose to opt out will only be penalized (fined) if they do not have their grass cut by a specific date (To be Determined)

Why is this Necessary?

SCPHA and its residents are faced with several difficult decisions

1. The cost of this activity is becoming increasingly more expensive
2. The storage of fuel and equipment containing fuel is prohibited on the site
3. The storage of equipment in the housing units is unacceptable (fire code violations)
4. Many residents do not have the means to purchase the needed equipment or the service to cut their lawns
5. Many residents are physically unable to cut their grass
6. SCPHA is attempting to serve all residents equally
7. SCPHA does not desire to penalize its residents for non-compliance

How Will It Work?

- Residents will be given an opportunity to sign up and pay a nominal fee of \$10 per month during the eight (8) active months (March, April, May, June, July, August,

September, and October)

- Once agreed the \$10 monthly maintenance fee will be added to the rent and payable when the rent is paid.
- Residents that choose not to participate will be given a date during the active months that the grass must be cut
- Residents who do not pay the \$10 monthly maintenance fee nor have their lawns cut by the established date will have an automatic \$25 added to their rent for each month the grass is not cut
- Residents who chose not to participate (pay \$10/mo) will be given a firm date to have their grass cut; if not cut by that date, they will be assessed a fee of \$25.00; the vendor will still cut the grass
- Residents who elected to not pay the \$10 monthly maintenance fee, but cut their grass before the established cutoff date will be in good standing and need not worry about violation notices
- Residents who commit to cut their own grass and do so by the established date will not be charged. However, they will not be allowed to store fuel in their unit, on the front or back porches, nor in the sheds (utility rooms). This will be monitored through all different types of inspections. Considerations are being discussed to allow storage of lawn mowers **“without fuel”** in the sheds, if they exist
- Residents will sign a “rider” to their lease to “opt in or out” by an established date (to be determined)

Residents can comment on this proposal throughout the months of October and November 2017. All comments must be in writing, email (bbell@scpha.nocoxmail.com), or entered on the website (www.scphousingauthority.com). The information here will be posted in the office as well as on the website.

Benjamin R. Bell, Executive Director