

## **Ombudsman: Double Standards of Yerevan Municipality in Territory Privatization**

Today, the legalization of garages, booths and other territories may lead to corruption practices. The reason for this is that the Municipality uses Yerevan zoning schemes for legalization of the territories of the citizens in one case and in others for rejecting them. The rejection Municipality justifies on the basis of making changes in the zoning schemes or their lack of being approved.

The zoning draft is the document based on which lands, as well as permission to build buildings and structures are allocated in administrative districts of Yerevan. However, there are such administrative districts in Yerevan which still lack urban zoning schemes, and in those districts where there are already approved zoning schemes the Municipality unreasonable delays the process of privatization claiming that they need a final clarification. Meanwhile, in many cases this justification is just unreasonable as the urban zoning drafts of some administrative districts of Yerevan were approved years ago, and the four-year development plan of Yerevan does not stipulate to draft or change them.

Recently, Yerevan Municipality through similar justification unreasonably rejected a legal application of an Arabkir resident. Therefore, Mr. Karen Andreasyan, the RA Human Rights Defender, made a Human Rights Violation Decision. The case was that back in 2007 the citizen applied to the Municipality with request to legalize the garage used by him. He received a tax account by the relevant department of the Municipality, paid the required sum; however, the privatization process of the garage has not been conducted up to day. In this case Yerevan Municipality justifies the delay of the privatization with the necessity of final clarification of zoning schemes in the territories of Arabkir administrative district, while the urban zoning draft of that territory was approved back in 2007.

Thus, *as a result of non-legitimate actions of the employees of Yerevan Municipality the rights of many citizens continue to be violated.* That is people are often unable to privatize the territories used by them and are obligated to wait for years or look for a Municipality employee who will give a personal solution to their problem.

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