



CITY OF DANBURY
OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE

Shawn Stillman
UNIT Coordinator
s.stillman@danbury-ct.gov

203-796-8026

Livable Neighborhoods 2014
“Building a Better Danbury”

January 2014

January 27, 2014

Honorable Mayor Boughton and City Council Members:

Below is a table highlighting UNIT activity from the time of last month’s City Council report. This does not include any UNIT activity regarding follow up and re-inspection work from previously noted issues. The UNIT works to ensure that each and every issue is resolved as quickly as possible.

Time Period	Dec. 26, 2013 – Jan. 27, 2014
Number of Quality of Life Issues	57
Year to Date	54

The top issues addressed by the UNIT were:

- Garbage/Debris on property (23)
- Illegal Apartments/Overcrowding, Unpermitted Construction (5)
- Front yard Parking (6)
- Miscellaneous (6)
- Abandoned or unregistered vehicles (6)
- Exterior Blight Order (4)

EXTERIOR BLIGHT CITATIONS:

Our department has started January with an aggressive push toward improving some properties that have demonstrated consistent signs of decline and/or no signs of improvement. This month, the UNIT issued four (4) Exterior Blight Warnings to property owners. In this case, thirty days are allowed for the property owner to remediate the issues highlighted on the citation warning. If compliance isn’t achieved during this time

frame, then our department goes to the next step of issuing daily fines of \$100/day until the issues have been resolved.

Orders written by UNIT (YTD): 4

Below is a review of the warnings sent this past month:

- **83 Mill Plain Road:** Property and business owner required to remove large accumulation of rubbish around dumpsters. This is a repeated act that has shown no improvement, even after UNIT warning. Property owner must also come up with a solution to prevent further occurrences. (additional pickups, construct a fence, etc).
- **3 Cooper Road:** Property contains two unregistered, inoperable vehicles that have not been moved in years. Property owner had been previously advised to have them removed and/or registered, but nothing had been done.
- **15 Franklin Street:** Property owner is required to clean exterior of property. Rubbish accumulation consisting of mattresses, old furniture, construction debris, litter and other stuff. Additionally, removal of large flat-bed unregistered, commercial trailer from the rear of the property. This property historically requires UNIT intervention to keep it clean, and is not proactively taken care of.
- **18 Ken Oaks Drive:** Property owner required to remove large, unregistered commercial vehicle from the property. Owner had agreed to remove it in the past, but has since taken no action.

UPDATES:

- **21 Spring Street:** While this property has been significantly cleaned up as a result of our enforcement action, the dwelling continues to get broken into. Upon speaking to the bank, they have agreed to improve the security by installing a better means to cover the window and doors, thus preventing easy break ins. Additionally, they will have the plywood painted over, so it's a bit "easier on the eyes"
- **8 Garry Knolls:** this property has now been improved and the requirements of the exterior blight order have been met.
- **89 Stadley Rough Road:** serving the orders on this house has been difficult, as the previous owners have passed and the house is in probate. Rich Antous has invested much time in determining the proper administrative steps in order to ensure that this vacant property is improved right away. Papers have been issued through Judge Yamin and the probate court.
- **53 Morris Street:** orders that were originally undeliverable have been personally delivered by the UNIT. Vacant house is in disrepair and was once taken over by the bank, but since returned to local title holder. UNIT discussed

with property owner and her lawyer the necessary steps needed to bring this property to compliance. This property will be a challenge, however, our department will stay on it.

The Exterior Blight Ordinance and our department's enforcement of it WORKS. The results have been very noticeable around our city. Our department continues to work on the remaining open orders and is prepared to continue issuing them, as this has become a valuable enforcement tool for our department.

311 Call Center Report: January 2014

The month of January saw the 311 Call Center receive approximately 660 calls, with the cold weather and snowstorms that coincided bringing 220 calls and requests for phone numbers bringing 112 inquiries. Christmas tree pickup, which began in early January, brought 37 calls while questions regarding the recycling truck brought 24 calls. Residents seeking information on where and how residents can dispose of household garbage brought 20 calls while an additional 14 calls were placed regarding Household Hazardous Waste Day and Clean City Danbury Day 2014. As the winter months progress the 311 call center is well-prepared to manage the influx in calls and requests associated with snow removal and traffic concerns by keeping in constant contact with other departments. Residents are encouraged to continue to report issues immediately to 311 as they occur so that they can be logged and responded to accordingly.

The UNIT continues to encourage the participation of Danbury's residents to report any concerns in their neighborhood by utilizing the City Line 311 system. Residents of Danbury can simply dial 311 from their home phones, or 203-744-4311 from out of town or cell phones. Additionally, residents can log on to the City's webpage, www.ci.danbury.ct.us, and click on the City Line 311 link and register their complaint at their convenience, and now, residents can utilize the Danbury Direct app from their iPhone to submit a concern or question. Residents can choose to provide their contact information, so the UNIT can follow up and provide an update on the situation. By visiting the Neighborhood Assistance Department on the City's website, residents will also be able to view the UNIT's monthly activity.

If we can be of any assistance to you or residents in your ward please contact us at 796-8026 or 311.

Sincerely,

Shawn Stillman
Coordinator, Office of Neighborhood Assistance