



## CITY OF DANBURY OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE

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**203-796-8026**

Livable Neighborhoods 2014  
“Building a Better Danbury”

**February 2014**

February 24, 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.

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>Time Period</b>                      | Jan. 27 – Feb , 2014 |
| <b>Number of Quality of Life Issues</b> | 51                   |
| <b>Year to Date</b>                     | 105                  |

The top issues addressed by the UNIT were:

- Miscellaneous (18)
- Garbage/Debris on property (7)
- Illegal Apartments/Overcrowding, Unpermitted Construction (6)
- Front yard Parking (6)
- Abandoned or unregistered vehicles (6)
- Exterior Blight Order (1)

The last few weeks, Danbury has seen record accumulations of snow fall, all within a short period. Our department recognizes the challenges of ensuring that the streets are cleared/plowed of snow and ice. Vehicles are required to be removed during Level 1 snow emergencies, however, they should be removed from the streets *anyway* just simply to enable the highway department to effectively clear the streets. As a result, in the last month, the UNIT had identified six (6) vehicles that were left on the street, unregistered and seemingly abandoned. These vehicles were marked accordingly and appropriately towed away. In total, nine (9) applicable vehicles have been removed from the street since the beginning of the year.

Another snow based complaint is sidewalks not being shoveled. The UNIT received a complaint from a tenant within the Fairfield Ridge neighborhood due to some sidewalks not being cleared and residents having to walk out into the streets because of the snow. As a result of the response by our department, eleven (11) properties needing for the sidewalks to be cleared were taken care of. In each instance, tenants were notified by the UNIT that they are responsible for clearing and maintaining the sidewalks, or subject to \$90 fine if they do not comply. No fines needed to be issued.

### **EXTERIOR BLIGHT CITATIONS:**

This month, the UNIT issued one (1) 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): 5**

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

- **41 Rowan Street:** Property owner required to remove large, unregistered commercial food vehicle from the property. Numerous tags and violation notices were left in the past and always un-responded to. We expect the Blight Order to be effective in this case.

### **UPDATES:**

- **3 Cooper Road and 18 Ken Oaks Drive:** reinspection is scheduled today (2/24) and both property owners have led me to believe that everything has been taken care of.
- **6 Meadow Street:** Received a \$100 check as a result of a warning citation for inaction regarding moving a dumpster off of the sidewalk. Property owner had been provided 24 hours (2 times) to have it relocated. Upon the second inspection, dumpster was still there, so a citation warning was issued.

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: February 2014**

The month of February saw the 311 Call Center receive approximately 500 calls, as requests for phone numbers were the most-requested item at 123 inquiries. The numerous snowstorms, and subsequent clean-up, brought 62 calls as residents reported dangerous snow mounds that block the line-of-sight, damaged mailboxes, and updates on snow removal operations. Calls regarding the recycling truck, and its subsequent locations, brought 22 calls while residents seeking information on where they dispose of household garbage brought 20 calls. As the winter progresses into the spring the constant freeze/thaw cycle creates numerous potholes along city streets; said potholes must be reported immediately to ensure that they are patched and re-patched as needed. Motorists are encouraged to exercise extreme caution while driving during the coming weeks, especially because the asphalt plant is still closed – meaning that potholes may reform within a few days of after being patched. Residents are also anxiously awaiting the announcement of Clean City Danbury Day 2014 and as the information becomes available, it will be disseminated to the public.

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](http://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