



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”

July 2014

July 28, 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	June 23 – July 28, 2014
Number of Quality of Life Issues	100
Year to Date	549

The top issues addressed by the UNIT were:

- Garbage/Debris and Blighted property (38)
- Miscellaneous (18)
- Exterior Blight Order/Notice of Violation (13)
- Front Lawn Parking (10)
- Illegal Apartments/Overcrowding, Unpermitted Construction (7)
- Abandoned cars (5)
- Abandoned houses/properties (4)

Last week, the Danbury News Times featured our department in the Sunday paper with an informative article on our department and the many tasks we do to help maintain the quality of life in our city. It included many photos, including one of a foreclosed property that we are currently working on remediating. Property is on Morris Street and it is overgrown with brush, the house is in poor shape and it is also not secure as it is routinely broken into. The article did a nice job portraying the various issues that our department tackles each day and the challenges that are faced to ensure that the issues get resolved quickly and effectively.

On July 10th, our department met with the Council Ad Hoc committee regarding our proposed Structural Blight ordinance enhancements. Currently, the enforcement of this ordinance is housed in the Building Department and we have requested the UNIT be the department that oversees the enforcement, as it directly pertains to blight within the community. The UNIT has already had major success in remediating structurally blighted properties and it would be appropriate for our department to oversee these issues in our city. Additionally, it is imperative that we partner and seek any necessary consult from the Building Department to ensure that any structural issues are handled accordingly.

EXTERIOR BLIGHT CITATIONS:

Orders written by UNIT (YTD): 51

Below is a review of the Exterior Blight Citations sent this past month: (11)

- **6 Morris Street:** Issued order for the property to be cleaned up and free of garbage/rubbish both in the rear and front of the property.
- **8 South Avenue:** Issued order for the removal/re-registration of unregistered vehicle that has been on the property for several months.
- **54 Kenosia Avenue:** Issued order for property to be mowed and maintained on a regular basis. This house is vacant as well and it is imperative that it is routinely maintained.
- **1 Crescent Drive:** Issued order for property to be mowed and maintained on a regular basis. Complaints on this property have been ongoing for years as there is often litter around the exterior as well as the property not being maintained. Property owner only seems to be responsive after UNIT leaves a tag.
- **30 Nancy Drive:** Issued order for property to be routinely maintained, but furthermore, it is a property that causes concerns among the neighbors as the house does not have water and electric and the homeowner can often be found living in it. This issue has been ongoing for years. Our order is requiring the property owner to take appropriate action to restore the property to acceptable and appropriate standards.
- **14 Cedar Street:** Issued order for property to be mowed and maintained on a regular basis. This house is vacant as well and it is imperative that it is routinely maintained. Additionally, neighbor complaints of rodent infestation, so order also requires treatment plans.
- **52 Meadowbrook Road:** Issued order to ensure routine maintenance of this property with lawn to be mowed, as well as to repair rear gutter hanging off the house.
- **5 Mendes Road:** Issued order for property to be mowed and maintained on a regular basis. This house is vacant as well and it is imperative that it is routinely maintained.

- **114 Hayestown Road:** Issued order for property to mowed and maintained on a regular basis. This house may be vacant as well and it is imperative that it is routinely maintained. The back yard has not been maintained in several years.
- **6 East Pearl Street:** Issued order for owner to remove an inordinate amount of junk and rubbish that is being stored on the property, as well as the removal of commercial vehicles.
- **14 Parker Street:** Issued order for the removal of commercial trucks, rubbish around the exterior of the property, and the immediate repair of septic line in the rear of the house.

311 Call Center Report: July 2014

The month of July saw the 311 Call Center receive approximately 476 calls, with requests for phone numbers being the most-requested item at 132 inquiries. Calls from residents seeking information on the where they can dispose of household garbage brought 27 calls while residents seeking information on the recycling truck placed 19 calls. The approaching Household Hazardous Waste Day on September 27 brought 24 calls while another 12 residents sought information on Clean City Danbury Day. Residents also reported 38 potholes during the past month while the torrential rains brought about drainage and flooding issues, as residents reported 20 separate incidents. During the summer months, residents are encouraged to report dangerous trees that are overgrown onto the road or high grass and bushes that block the line-of-sight for motorists. Drainage issues typically coincide with heavy thunderstorms, as evidenced during the middle of July, and residents should call immediately to report a clogged catch basin or to suggest an area that may need attention or review.

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