



## CITY OF DANBURY OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE

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Livable Neighborhoods 2014  
*“Building a Better Danbury”*

**September 2014**

September 29, 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>	August 25 – September 29, 2014
<b>Number of Quality of Life Issues</b>	130
<b>Year to Date</b>	756

The top issues addressed by the UNIT were:

- Garbage/Debris and Blighted property (44)
- Miscellaneous (19)
- Front Lawn Parking (18)
- Exterior Blight Order/Notice of Violation (15)
- Illegal Apartments/Overcrowding, Unpermitted Construction (14)

September was one of the busiest months of the year, as over 75% of UNIT activity for the period was generated from resident complaints. The UNIT also issued several more Exterior Blight Orders to property owners ranging from many different issues, including garbage on properties, unregistered vehicles, high grass, etc. More details of these orders are highlighted below.

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, the UNIT coordinated a volunteer cleanup, partnering with the Church of Latter Day Saints, as well as student volunteers from Western Connecticut State University. We’re so appreciative of their time and effort given to the city. Beaver Street park endured a significant clean up, as well as major landscape facelift around the fence line. Additionally,

down City Center was cleaned up of litter and the railings on Post Office walk as well as across the street on Main Street, were repainted. Thanks again for your effort.

At the September City Council meeting, the Structural Blight Ordinance 10-91 through 98 was approved and I thank you for your support. This will give our department enforcement authority over those properties that are structurally failing. Examples of structurally blighted properties consist of houses with broken windows, holes in the roof, missing siding, porches in disrepair, etc. All of these constitute issues that have an immediate impact on the quality of life within our neighborhoods. The penalty of the ordinance is similar to the Exterior Blight Order where fines of \$100/day can be issued after 30 days notice. The ordinance will take effect within the first week of October.

### **EXTERIOR BLIGHT CITATIONS:**

**Orders written by UNIT (YTD): 83 (Includes Notice of Violations)**

Below is a review of the Exterior Blight Citations sent this past period: (15)

- **23 Woodside Ave:** Issued order for the removal of unregistered, inoperable vehicles, removal of garbage and car parts from the front lawn, additionally, continual front lawn parking. Property owners and its residents have continually been warned over the years.
- **36 Washington Avenue:** Issued order for the cleanup of garbage/litter all around the property. Additionally, the removal of commercial vehicles and equipment. Another example of where the UNIT has had repeated visits to the home for the same problems.
- **5 Austin Street:** Issued order for the cleanup and removal of garbage/rubbish around exterior of property. Mattresses, toilets, tires, wood debris, etc.
- **7 Austin Street:** Issued order for the cleanup and removal of garbage/rubbish around the property. Old furniture, litter, items on sidewalk, garbage and furniture on porches, car parts, overflowing dumpster. Also, removal of unregistered, inoperable vehicle.
- **8 Harding Place:** Issued order for property to be cleaned up. Overflowing dumpster, high grass. Continual issues for this property. Also, removal of unregistered vehicle.
- **7 Christopher Columbus Avenue:** Issued order for this property to be maintained and cleaned up. Litter/rubbish around property, large wood rubbish pile, commercial equipment and the removal of 2 unregistered vehicles.
- **17 Austin Street:** Issued order to property owner for the cleanup and removal of garbage/rubbish around the property mostly consisting of old furniture, garbage, tires, car parts, wood debris.
- **35-37 Wildman Street:** Issued order for the removal of unregistered vehicles that have been displayed for sale.

- **16 Great Plain Road:** Issued order for property owner to clean up parking lot of mini strip mall. Parking lot has an overflowing dumpster and litter strewn about.
- **8 Wixon Road:** Issued order for chicken coop to be removed, unregistered vehicle to be removed or re-registered, garbage to be cleaned up, and for permits to be issued for unpermitted construction, as well referred to Building and Zoning Department for installation of commercial light fixture.
- **29 Center Street:** Issued order for garbage to be cleaned up from rear of property, consisting of commercial rubbish, litter, tires, car parts, etc. Removal of chicken coop and commercial equipment.
- **5 Elmbrook Drive:** Issued order for the property to have its lawn mowed and routinely maintained. Also, the removal or re-register of unregistered vehicle. Additionally, the cleanup of garbage around the front of the property.
- **20 Springside Avenue:** Issued order for the cleanup and removal of rubbish all around the property, notably in the driveway and rear of the property. Removal or re-register of vehicle and elimination of front yard parking. Also, the detached garage is in need of structural repair
- **28 Grove Place:** Issued order for the removal or re-register of 3 unregistered vehicles and an inoperable motorcycle. Also the lawn needs to be mowed and maintained. Additionally, there is garbage around the property that needs to be cleaned up.
- **33 Park Avenue:** Issued order for the cleanup of garbage and large furniture placed and left outside a dumpster in the front yard, residents issued complaint to UNIT. This order has been responded to and has now been remedied.

### **Notice of Violation letters: (graffiti)**

The UNIT has proactively eliminated graffiti around town. We do this ourselves or with the assistance of individuals serving community hours. We've also taken steps to remove graffiti on building offices and homes by contacting the owner and requesting that they clean it up. In an effort to stay on top of this and keep our city clean by eliminating all graffiti around town, our office sent three (3) Notice of Violation letters to property owners this last period. The letters require the removal of the graffiti and allow them thirty (30) days to comply.

- **181-185 Main Street**
- **70 Beaver Street**
- **1-3 Division Street.**

## **311 Call Center Report: September 2014**

The month of September saw the 311 Call Center receive approximately 571 calls, with requests for phone numbers being the most-requested item at 186 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 14 calls. Requests for information pertaining to the Household Hazardous Waste Day on September 27 brought 33 calls while another 16 calls were placed regarding the Fall Leaf Pickup Program, which is yet to be announced. Residents also reported 24 potholes during the past month which were quickly responded to. As the autumn progresses, residents are encouraged to continue to report drainage issues and be vigilant in keeping catch basins clear of leaves and other debris; residents should call to report a clogged catch basin or to suggest an area that may need attention or review to help prevent flooding and freezing in the winter months.

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