



## CITY OF DANBURY OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE

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Livable Neighborhoods 2015  
*“Building a Better Danbury”*

**January 2015**

January 26, 2015

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>                      | December 29 – January 26, 2015 |
| <b>Number of Quality of Life Issues</b> | 69                             |
| <b>Year to Date - 2015</b>              | 59                             |

The top issues addressed by the UNIT were:

- Garbage/Debris and Blighted property (23)
- Miscellaneous (13)
- Front lawn parking/Parking violations (12)
- Exterior and Structural Blight Orders/Notice of Violation (11)

Last week, the Danbury New Times published an article regarding pan handling in downtown Danbury. Our department has been tirelessly working on eliminating this practice as much as possible. Downtown UNIT Coordinator, Rich Antous, was quoted a few times, encouraging that if people feel the need to donate, they should donate to organizations that help the cause of the homeless, rather than the homeless person themselves.

Below are some downtown quality of life initiatives that, in conjunction with the Mayor’s Office, the UNIT will be rolling out.

### **Pan Handling Awareness program:**

This program will hopefully raise awareness to our residents. Usually a dollar or two given to pan-handlers funds either alcohol or drugs. We are a very compassionate community that feeds, houses and clothes our less fortunate population. So the program will consist of an awareness poster and language to the fact that if you want to give, that funding can be put to use for real support and help from our non-profit sector.

### **Clean Communities Provision:**

This is Danbury's Broken Window's Program which basically says if we take care of the small problems, the bigger issues like drugs, and more violent crimes are usually very low. A well kept, clean, and friendly city usually leads to a very safe community.

### **Main St window coverage campaign:**

According to the ordinance of front windows on Main St, only 15% can be covered by signage. Two reasons for only 15% of coverage is safety and to foster a more market friendly environment. We want people to window shop and see what these wonderful shops have to offer. Earlier in the month, an article in the Tribuna, printed in Portuguese, Spanish and English, was published and explained the rationale for this ordinance.

## **EXTERIOR AND STRUCTURAL BLIGHT CITATIONS:**

**Orders written by UNIT (YTD): 11 (Includes Notice of Violations)**

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

### **Exterior Blight Citations:**

- **32 Spring Street:** Issued order for the removal of garbage and rubbish in the rear of the property, mostly discarded furniture and other bulky debris. This is a recurring issue for this property.
- **32 Irving Place:** Issued order for the cleanup of garbage/litter most notably in the rear of the property. Property backs up into woods and this area is filled with trash. UNIT met with homeowner who will have everything cleaned up.
- **2-12 Mill Ridge Drive and 29-35 Mill Ridge Road:** Issued order to Housing Authority for the cleanup of the wooded property behind these homes. Whether it is a result of unwanted dumping, or from garbage can overflow blowing into the woods, it must be cleaned and maintained on a routine basis. Met with Housing Authority as well as some tenants and reviewed protocol to keeping the property clean.
- **16 Barnum Court:** Issued order for the cleanup and removal of garbage/rubbish in rear of property, includes furniture, mattress, household garbage and litter. Also the re-registration or removal of unregistered vehicle.

- **22 Spring Street:** Issued order for the removal of garbage and rubbish in the rear of the property. Overflowing dumpster, furniture in back yard, tires, unregistered vehicle, etc.
- **8.5 Peace Street:** Issued order for the removal of garbage from the rear of the property, including discarded furniture and TV's, garbage bags and construction debris.
- **17 Stevens Street:** Issued order for the routine maintenance of this lot. There are 3 garbage bags that have been left near the street curb for several months, as well as some litter/trash in the rear. Also, a pile of branches left out near the curb that the highway department will not remove. This property needs to be mowed in the summer, leaves taken care of in the Fall and the sidewalk to be maintained and cleared of snow during the winter.
- **34-36 Shelter Rock Road:** Issued order for the following violations: property to be clean of garbage/rubbish. Appliances, metal, litter, car parts. Re-registration or removal of 4-5 unregistered vehicles. Property being used as storage for dumpsters and commercial sanitation trucks without the authority of the Zoning Department. These must be removed or appropriately applied for approval from the Zoning Department.
- **33 Shelter Rock Road:** (*same property owner as above*) Issued order for the following violations: property to be clean of garbage/rubbish. Appliances, metal, litter, car parts. Property being used as a mini transfer station and storage for dumpsters and commercial sanitation trucks without the authority of the Zoning Department. These must be removed or appropriately applied for approval from the Zoning Department.

### Notice of Violation letters:

- **65 Sandpit Road:** Sent notice to Portuguese Club regarding cleaning up the rear of property. There was a couch dumped behind their lot, as well as strewn garbage cans, crates, boxes and other rubbish.
- **69 Sandpit Road:** Sent notice to Western CT Medical Center as the rear of the property is being improperly used as an entrance/exit over the curb, on the lawn through Morgan Avenue. Advised the property owner to put up some of barricade to prevent this unapproved, unsafe vehicular traffic.

### Graffiti Removal:

Our department remains vigilant on issues like graffiti and we work to remove it right away because we believe that it contributes to the decay of the quality of life in our city. So far, the results have been successful.

Below is a list of where violation notices were sent and property owners have been required to clean up graffiti from their buildings.

- **246 White Street**

## **311 Call Center Report: January 2015**

The month of January saw the 311 Call Center receive approximately 472 calls, with requests for phone numbers being the most-requested item at 136 inquiries. The moderate climate in the beginning of the month meant that the traditional requests pertaining to winter storms were minimal. Christmas tree pickup, which began in early January, brought 18 calls while questions regarding the recycling truck brought 16 calls. Residents seeking information on where and how residents can dispose of household garbage brought 14 calls while 11 potholes were reported. 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](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