



**CITY OF DANBURY**  
**OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE**

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Livable Neighborhoods 2016  
*“Building a Better Danbury”*

**February 2016**

March 28, 2016

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>	February 22 – March 28, 2016
<b>Number of Quality of Life Issues</b>	99
<b>Year to Date - 2016</b>	225

The top issues addressed by the UNIT were:

- Front lawn parking (24)
- Garbage/Debris and Blighted property (20)
- Overcrowding/Illegal Apartments and Construction (12)
- Abandoned vehicles/parking violations (10)
- Miscellaneous (9)
- Exterior Blight Orders/Notice of Violation (5)

The mild winter has given our department a head start on the upcoming spring season. Our department has begun conducting ACTION in our neighborhoods. Additionally, as stated in last months report, the UNIT has recently identified several properties in town that would be considered blight. We continue to work with the property owners to address these concerns establish reasonable deadlines for improvements. As a result, some structures have been slated for demolition.

Earlier in the month, there was structure fire on Stevens Street that resulted in a fatality. Although, there was not any condition of overcrowding in the residence, this tragedy prompted

residents to contact the UNIT and the Fire Marshal office regarding potential concerns in their neighborhoods. Our office responds to these complaints diligently and helps coordinate and schedule for the applicable annual Fire Marshal inspection. Currently, none of these complaints revealed any violations, however, each of the properties received a safety inspection. We continue to encourage our residents to notify our department with any concerns of safety they may have in their neighborhood.

Our department is vigilant in removing graffiti around town, as well as investigating cases leading to an arrest. Naturally, this is difficult to prevent. Unfortunately, several buildings downtown and other locations were hit within the last two weeks. The UNIT will be coordinating with property owners to have it all removed. It is a frustrating practice, however, it is critical that these tags be removed at once, or it will lead to even more. Thus, the “broken window” policy is best effective in this case. Taking care of the smaller issues at once, prior to them becoming even bigger.

Our department is preparing to initiate Mayor Boughton’s Clean Start program. This program will consist of volunteers from the homeless and sheltered community to be assigned a route in town and for them to clean up litter along the streets and sidewalks. As a result of their effort, they will receive valuable gift cards for food and other essential purchases, and in turn, our city will be routinely maintained and clean. The UNIT will help oversee the program, by establishing routes, coordinating volunteers and supplies, as well as the disposal of the garbage.

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

**Orders written by UNIT (YTD): 25 (Includes Notice of Violations)**

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

#### **Exterior Blight Citations:**

- **147-149 Westville Avenue:** Residential property that is currently an open lot at the moment. Was once a site of over a dozen unregistered vehicles and commercial activity. Order was sent to remove the last of unregistered vehicles, as well as two commercial vehicles.
- **2 Putnam Drive:** Issued order for the removal of two unregistered, and possibly inoperable vehicles. Additionally, the removal of a pile of rubbish left in the driveway and rear of the property.
- **27 Locust Avenue:** Issued order for the removal of the rubbish in the rear of the property. Additionally, four unregistered and inoperable vehicles. Property owner was advised in the past, however, did not comply.

**Notice of Violation letters:**

- **115 Great Plain Road:** Issued notice to property owner to remove commercial vehicles and equipment from property.
- **5 Cottage Street:** Issued notice to remove unregistered vehicle that has been there for a long period of time. UNIT has had previous discussions with the property owner in the past, but with no success.

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