



CITY OF DANBURY OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE

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Livable Neighborhoods 2016
“Building a Better Danbury”

August 2016

August 29, 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.

Time Period	July 25 th – August 29 th , 2016
Number of Quality of Life Issues	91
Year to Date - 2016	662

The top issues addressed by the UNIT were:

- Garbage/Debris (21)
- Blighted properties (21)
- Front Lawn Parking (12)
- Abandoned/Unregistered vehicles (10)
- Overcrowding/Illegal Apartments and Construction (9)
- Exterior Blight Orders/Notice of Violation (7)

Our office has maintained its busy pace throughout the season, with August being no different. We finally have made some positive progress on a couple properties that have been troublesome over the years:

- **26 Filmore Avenue:** This property has had its issues over the years as the previous owners were not capable of maintaining the property. Grass was usually high, yard overgrown and trees were fallen over in the rear of the property. At times, there were issues with overflowing garbage as well. The home has since foreclosed and the UNIT has been issuing orders to the lender, however, the lenders switched over at least three

times resulting in no action being done on the property. Finally, the process seems to have completed and our department has been in contact with the new property management company and they are currently submitting bids to the lender in order to begin the cleanup. We anticipate that the neighboring residents will finally be able to see some progress soon enough.

- **30 Nancy Drive:** This property has been a difficult challenge for a decade. For various reasons, the homeowner has been absent and unable and incapable of taking care of the property and maintaining the house. As a result, the structure has deteriorated and additionally, the house is not livable. Recently, the UNIT has assisted in what is hoped to be, a very likely sale of the property to an investor who will immediately begin to remodel and enhance the property. This is precisely what the neighborhood needs. Nearby residents have had to put up with the problems associated with this property and the person that owns it for many years. Patience has run out. Due to the recent UNIT intervention on this property, our department hopes that the property will soon be in the competent hands of another owner and improvements can begin right away.

CLEAN START: As the summer season winds down to the end, so will the inaugural Clean Start program. Thus far, it has been a resounding success. Homeless residents have worked each day completing various jobs, mostly litter clean up, resulting in receiving gift cards in exchange for their labor. Most recently, the crew assisted the Health and Highway Departments with a cleanup that has long been in the making. They did a great job. We hope to continue this program next year and possibly expand the tasks as well.

Over the last few weeks, the UNIT has received a slightly higher number of complaints regarding unpermitted construction. It's not uncommon that these issues occur and our office efficiently responds to ensure that necessary permits have been applied for and issued. Our department simultaneously coordinates with the Building and Zoning departments to ensure that these complaints are responded to quickly as well as diligent follow up with the property owner, making sure that the permit application is submitted in a timely manner.

Two weeks ago, the UNIT spent the day on graffiti removal on our city bridges, walls, power boxes, signs, etc. It is tedious work, and often frustrating, however, well worth it. Our efforts may not be routinely noticed by others, however, we take pride in knowing that our large city is, for the most part, graffiti free.

EXTERIOR AND STRUCTURAL BLIGHT CITATIONS:

Orders written by UNIT (YTD): 66 (Includes Notice of Violations)

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

Exterior Blight Citations:

- **107 Old Post Road:** Issued order for the removal of two unregistered vehicles, as well as accumulation of garbage/debris in the rear of the property. UNIT initially spoke with the

tenant to resolve and established a deadline, but it was not met. As a result, our department sent an order.

- **38 Oakland Avenue:** Issued order for the removal of excessive wood pile, which is not on the correct property, the removal of unregistered/inoperable vehicles and large accumulation of junk and rubbish.
- **17 Aspen Way:** Issued order for the routine care and upkeep of this home. The grass is high and hasn't been maintained in a couple of months. UNIT originally left a tag, however, it went unanswered.
- **3 Moss Avenue:** This property has deteriorated whereas sections of the siding are either rotting away, or in need for repair and paint. Additionally, there is some old furniture and rubbish in the rear of the property. The structure really stands out in a negative way and we hope that with the issuance of the order, some positive action will be taken.
- **241 White Street:** Issued order to resolve the continuing issue of overflowing dumpster at this property. It is a combination of commercial and residential use. Additionally, the order provides recommendations of where the dumpsters can be relocated.
- **44 Miry Brook Road:** Issued order for the repair and/or replacement of broken fence surrounding the border of the property. UNIT spoke with the property owner and repairs will be made shortly.
- **6 Spruce Street:** Issued order for the following problems at this property: the removal or re-registration of two unregistered vehicles, clean up of garbage/rubbish around the exterior of the property, required routine care of the property, most notably the cutting of the grass, as it is over 2' high/

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