



CITY OF DANBURY
DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE
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Livable Neighborhoods 2008

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“Building a Better Danbury”
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Honorable Mayor & Common Council Members:

The month of June has been a productive one for the UNIT thus far. On 6/5, the UNIT conducted its first course of A.C.T.I.O.N. (Active Commitment Towards Improving Our Neighborhoods). The goal of which is to enhance the quality of life for the residents within Danbury, and improve their neighborhoods. The UNIT inspected the following neighborhoods:

- Farview Ave.
- Starr Ave.
- Mountainville Rd.
- Franklin St.
- Limited section of Main St.
- Smith St.
- Clifton Place
- Knapps Lane
- Cowperthwaite St.

The inspection proved worthwhile as 24 violations were identified. The majority of the findings were properties with excessive debris around their home. In each case, the UNIT partnered with the Health Department to send notices to the homeowners, imposing a deadline to quickly address these issues. As of June 24th, 14 of the violations have since been remedied by the homeowners. The UNIT will continue to follow up and re-inspect the remaining properties. Other violations noted were residents parking in their front yards, or over the curbs. For the vehicle owners that were not present for the UNIT to speak to, a tag was left behind on the vehicles alerting the owners to move them within 24 hours. Upon various and random re-inspections, the cars had been removed and were no longer parking in non-designated areas.

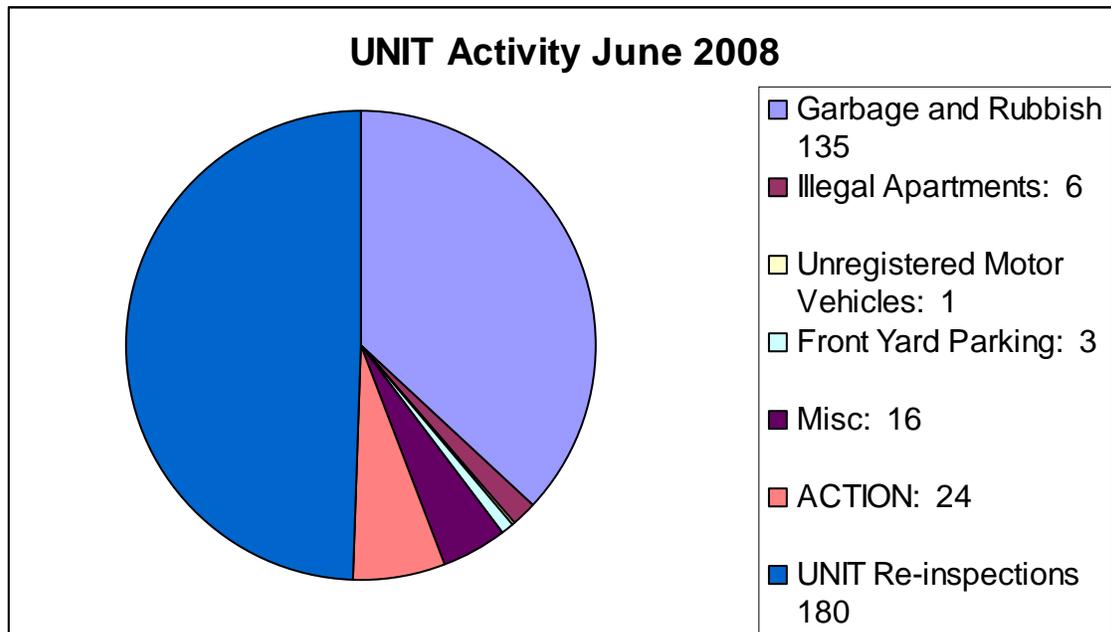
A press release was issued during the week of 6/23/08 informing the community of the UNIT's intent to actively enforce the ordinance Sec 19-78, which prohibits the parking or storing of motor vehicles on front lawns. The UNIT's objective is to actively educate the community of this ordinance, as we patrol the neighborhoods. As a parking violation is

noted, the UNIT attempts to speak to the vehicle owner, cites the ordinance violation and asks for the car to be moved. If the owner is not present, the UNIT places a notice on the windshield of the vehicle. The notice states the violation and provides the vehicle owner twenty four hours to move the vehicle in order to avoid getting a costly ticket.

With the start of the summer, the UNIT has received several calls from residents complaining about neighbors not maintaining their property and mowing their lawns. The UNIT investigates each complaint and in most cases, the homes have been abandoned and are currently going through foreclosure. Foreclosure proceedings tend to be lengthy, so the resolution often does not come quickly. In each case, however, the UNIT makes it a practice to call each resident back and explain the situation.

The UNIT continues to focus on enhancing the reporting, tracking and closing out of non-compliance issues. In the near future, the Common Council and the Mayor's Office can look forward to receiving improved reports of UNIT activity and accomplishments.

Below is a graph illustrating UNIT activity over the past month; this graph will change according to the types of calls that the inspectors are called to and help with. Miscellaneous may include such calls as, but not limited to, enforcement of shopping cart ordinance, assisting animal control, and looking into drainage or septic problems.



311 Report June 2008

During the month of June, the 311 Call Center received 550 inquiries from residents mostly within Danbury. On May 27th, 77 calls were taken mostly in response to the bomb threats at Danbury High and King St Intermediate School. With information provided by the Mayor's Office, Fire Department, Police Department, Emergency Management, and the Board of Education, the 311 Call Center was able to keep all residents up to date with all the closings and information regarding the evacuation of certain areas. Residents still mainly use 311 for general information for Danbury; with many questions directed towards our Parks and Recreation programs. Residents were eager to find out when the sprayscrapes opened this year, when the fireworks would be, and what the rates were for entering the Town Park for both a Danbury and non-Danbury resident. New residents utilize 311 to find out about local policies and practices – mainly the recycling truck and where they can take their garbage as well as where they can vote and who their Common Council representatives are. The summer months bring about numerous calls in regards to overgrown grass and sightline issues as well as trees that have become a problem or a danger to the public; with the help and cooperation of the other City of Danbury Departments the 311 Call Center is fully capable of handling each one of these issues and maintain the highest quality service for anyone who may call.

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