



## CITY OF DANBURY OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE

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Livable Neighborhoods 2014  
*“Building a Better Danbury”*

**October 2014**

October 27, 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>	September 29 – October 27, 2014
<b>Number of Quality of Life Issues</b>	78
<b>Year to Date</b>	833

The top issues addressed by the UNIT were:

- Garbage/Debris and Blighted property (28)
- Exterior Blight Order/Notice of Violation (13)
- Unregistered/abandoned vehicles (8)
- Miscellaneous (7)
- Illegal Apartments/Overcrowding, Unpermitted Construction (7)
- Front Lawn Parking (6)

Continuing our department’s momentum from a busy September, October was complete with dozens of follow up inspections and the closing out of several properties where an Exterior Blight Order had been issued.

As proof that our department takes a proactive approach towards maintaining and improving the community, 41% of our caseload this past month has been the direct result of ACTION (Active Commitment Toward Improving Our Neighborhood). Additionally, as part of the continual effort against graffiti in our community, the UNIT has issued six (6) notices to property owners to remove the unwanted tags and vandalism from their buildings. This included citing MetroNorth and the structures at certain railroads crossing as well.

## **Taylor Street:**

In an effort to curb sidewalk and front lawn parking on a small stretch of Taylor Street, our department sent out letters to all homeowners detailing the ordinance and highlighting that no vehicles shall be left on the sidewalk or front lawn. Each of these homes have adequate sized driveways. Going forward, tickets will be issued.

## **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: (13)

- **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.
- **8 Summit Street:** Issued order for the cleanup of garbage/litter and wood rubbish around the property. Additionally, the removal of unregistered vehicles and equipment. Also, the repair of the garage door..
- **16 Crown Street:** Issued order for the removal and/or re-registration of 2 motor vehicles and one flat bed trailer. Trailer is becoming buried by overgrown brush/vines. Must be removed, or cleaned up. Property must be mowed and routinely maintained. Rear porch must be cleared of rubbish.
- **81 South Street:** Issued order for the cleanup and removal of garbage/old furniture around the property. Maintain property and clear overgrowth in front lawn area. Clear indoor furniture from the front porch.
- **83 South Street:** Issued order for property to be cleaned up. Garbage and litter all around property, furniture, tools, metal, garbage near dumpster. Removal/stacking of large pile of wood logs. Clear the front porch on upper and lower levels of indoor furniture and refrigerator. Repair/replace/remove broken fence in front of property.
- **13 Crown Street:** Issued order for this property to be cleaned up of rubbish around property, including litter in rear and washing machine driveway. Removal/re-registration of 2 vehicles. Also, elimination of front yard parking. Front yard is dirt patches with large tire ruts. Owner must come up with a way to prevent this and repair yard.
- **9 Crown Street:** Issued order to property owner for the removal/re-registration of vehicle parked in bark yard. Also, to cleanup garbage/rubbish in rear of property.

## **Notice of Violation letters:**

- **11 Crown Street:** Upon speaking with the homeowner at home to discuss the various violations on his property, UNIT sent violation notice to recap all that needs to be done. Unregistered vehicles must be removed or registered. Junk, metal, rubbish must be removed from property.

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 (5) 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.

- **11 Wildman Street**
- **14-16 Wildman Street**
- **MetroNorth road crossings:**
  - **Shelter Rock Road**
  - **Great Pasture/South Street**
  - **Chestnut Street/East Liberty Ave**

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

The month of October saw the 311 Call Center receive approximately 482 calls, with requests for phone numbers being the most-requested item at 161 inquiries. Calls from residents seeking information on the Fall Leaf Pickup Program, beginning October 27, brought 32 calls while residents seeking information on where they can dispose of household garbage brought 23 calls. Requests for information pertaining to the upcoming elections totaled 17 inquiries and another 15 calls were placed regarding the recycling truck. Residents also reported 15 potholes during the past month which were quickly responded to by the Highway Department. As the autumn progresses, residents are reminded that it is a violation to blow or rake their leaves into the road and offenses will be treated as such. If a violation is witnessed, residents should report it to 311 to ensure that inspectors can respond appropriately. The placement of leaves and yard debris onto the city roadways cause catch basins to clog, which leads to severe road problems in the future, and residents must adhere to the guidelines set forth to ensure safe travel for all residents.

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