



CITY OF DANBURY
OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE

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Livable Neighborhoods 2015
“Building a Better Danbury”

September 2015

September 28, 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.

Time Period	August 24 – September 28, 2015
Number of Quality of Life Issues	107
Year to Date - 2015	921

The top issues addressed by the UNIT were:

- Garbage/Debris and Blighted property (34)
- Miscellaneous (18)
- Unregistered Vehicles (13)
- Overcrowding/Illegal Apartments and Construction (10)
- Abandoned vehicles/parking violations (10)
- Front lawn parking (8)
- Exterior Blight order/Notice of Violation (3)

The past few weeks of September continue to be productive as our department responds to resident complaints in an efficient timeframe, as well as follow up and close out older requests ensuring resolution to those issues. Additionally, with the help of the inmates from FCI, the UNIT cleaned up an assortment of litter in two parks, exits ramps, and removed graffiti from various locations all over the city. Last week, the UNIT also did a sign sweep around town and collected over 100 lawn signs that have been placed on city/state property. Not only are these signs not permitted to be kept in these locations, but their appearance detracts from the area and they are never removed, thus eventually becoming garbage/litter.

HOMELESS OUTREACH:

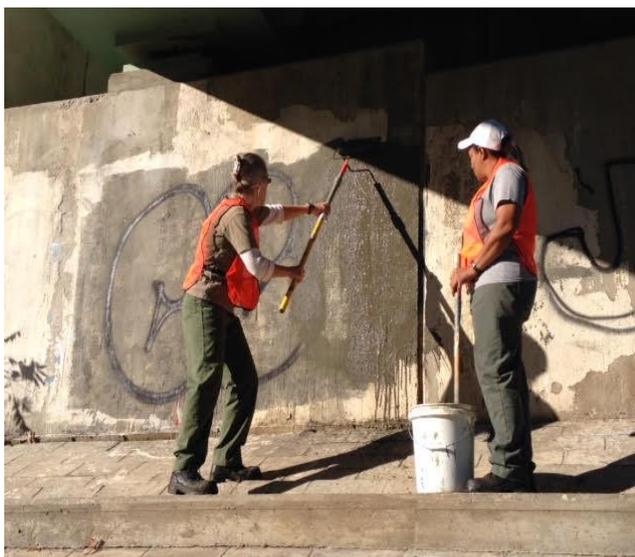
Our department continually finds itself in situations where cleaning up an issue of blight may actually be a secondary issue as it relates to being able to coordinate social service assistance to our residents. In response to a couple of issues over the last month, the UNIT assisted with getting a homeless individual off the street by helping to obtain housing for him and, additionally, currently assisting a property owner whose house is in distress seek resources that are potentially available to him, whether it be financial or counseling, or both.

The UNIT noted an area off of White Street where it was found that an individual was living in the woods. We had moved this person around before and he had returned to this area without the consent of the property owner. Personal belongings, clothes and garbage were scattered all over the area. While taking the time to speak to him further and learn of his struggles with homelessness, coupled with his psychiatric disability, our department coordinated a meeting with his social worker and the result of this was an expedited availability of housing that he was able to obtain approximately a month sooner than it may have been available. Currently, he remains at this location and we will check in with him from time to time.

The other case involves a property owner on Cedar Crest Drive, where his house is rapidly deteriorating, he has unregistered vehicles in his driveway that are literally sinking into the ground and despite many attempts by the UNIT to have him address these issues, he hasn't done a thing. Deadlines and the threat of fines did not appear to motivate the resident into complying with our requests, not out of spite, but more because he appeared to be "stuck" and incapable of making adequate decisions to mitigate his problems. He is a gentleman that needs help and amidst his personal struggles, he does not know how to ask for it. On our most recent visit to his house, we shared with him that social services may have services that can assist him, and that there are volunteer groups that can help work on the house. Initially he was hesitant, but after some thought he accepted that he could benefit with at least speaking with someone. Our department immediately made an appointment for him to meet with Denise Chance at the Welfare Office and see what happens from there. Currently, this case is ongoing and we hope to see some progress, not only on his property, but especially with him and his personal life.

FCI COMMUNITY SERVICE:

September saw the cleanup of litter from each of the exit ramps in town, Beaver Street Park, as well as the removal of graffiti from various locations around Danbury. Most of the locations are on/under bridges and also the East and West Lake Reservoir. The City is fortunate to have the assistance that we receive from the inmates of FCI. Many positives cleanups have occurred. Please see pictures below:



EXTERIOR AND STRUCTURAL BLIGHT CITATIONS/NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS:

Orders written by UNIT This period: 3
(YTD): 61 (Includes Notice of Violations)

1 Precision Road : Commercial location on the corner of Kenosia and Precision where the building has been emptied and the property was not being maintained. Grass was over 4' high. Property is in foreclosure. UNIT sent an order to the bank. Within three weeks, the property was cut and is now being routinely maintained.

34 Franklin Street: While responding to a nearby complaint, UNIT noted a pile of construction material and old furniture left outside in the front of the property. The inside appeared empty. The UNIT sent an order to the property owner who was unaware of the unsightly mess and everything was cleaned up within two weeks.

12 Moss Avenue: In a response to a complaint regarding a neighbors property being used as an automobile repair business, further inspection revealed rubbish and car parts all around the rear exterior of the property and four unregistered/inoperable vehicles. The order requires for all of the items to be cleaned up and removed, and also calls for the end of auto repair activity in this residential location.

If we can be of any assistance to you or residents in your ward please contact us at 203-796-8026.

Sincerely,

Shawn Stillman
 Director of Neighborhood Assistance