

Memo

Neighborhood Code Enforcement :

(June 2019)

The HCNA plays a vital role in enhancing our area of the City of Cleveland. The preservation and upkeep of our downtown neighborhood along with quality of life is a shared responsibility between it's residents and the City. Since its inception, HCNA has worked closely with the City in the areas of planning, preservation, urban design, and last, but certainly not least-**code enforcement**

HCNA's goal of developing an attitude of mutual benefit to all will ensure that the common good is protected and public services can be carried out in an orderly and efficient manner.

Currently, the **City of Cleveland** has primarily a complaint based code enforcement system which relies on the following:

- * Citizens' diligence in identifying and reporting code violations and issues with the appropriate supporting information-complete street address, photos and dates, etc.
- * Case opened and investigated by City.
- * If violation found, then property owner given notice of violation warning letter from City and grace period to bring into compliance.
- * If compliance not accomplished, municipal citation and/or 2nd warning letter; then environmental court, if possible and/or city abatement.

Specifically, the "**Rooming House and Parking Overlay Ordinances**" were fruits of HCNA efforts with the City. Designed to maintain the integrity of R-1 zones allowing no more than four "unrelated" individuals residing in a home and making it unlawful to park in the yards and other areas other than driveways. However, there are many more ordinances and situations that apply to our neighborhood in order to ensure the common good of all.

For example, who do I call when.....

1.) We have a storm water drainage issue on our street, do we call **Public Works or Development & Engineering?**



2.) There is a concern among neighbors about the tree in our back alley that needs some attention near the power line. Do we call **Cleveland Utilities or Forestry/Landscape Division?**



3.) The home on the corner has recently become a rental home (maybe college students) with at least six cars residing there, sometimes parking in the yard or in a lane of the street! Do I report a rooming house violation or parking overlay violation? Can our **Code enforcement officer** handle both issues? Or maybe I try to contact the **owner/landlord**? Oh wait, there could possibly be a **property management** company involved, as well? Contact Lee University Community relations? Or should I just begin with the **Police Department** for street hazard?



4.) Recently, there has been a dog roaming the street. It growls when you try to approach to look for owner's tag. Does the City of Cleveland have a leash law? Has the dog been abandoned? It's 7:30pm. Who do I call? **Police Department** or **Animal Control**?



5.) **Help!** The house next door is quickly deteriorating and there is trash and debris attracting rats and vermin. Grass overgrown and weeds and vines everywhere. Not sure if anyone is living there or if so, do they need some assistance? What can the **Code Enforcement Officer** do in this situation?



6.) Can a homeowner have five cars parked on their property, including the yard, when there is only designated driveway space for two? And what's up with the living room sofa on the front porch? **Code Enforcement Officer** or **Public Works**?



Members of your **HCNA Board** have recently met with the **Melinda Carroll, Assistant City Manager** to discuss ways of making it easier and streamlined for all involved when issues do arise. Melinda has graciously offered her contact information as an additional resource to our Code Enforcement Officer because it isn't always a simple regulatory issue.

Melinda Carroll
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Please kindly copy HCNA President (rufus.triplett@gmail.com) with any code violation reports to City so that we can keep accurate neighborhood records or offer assistance in some instances. Thank you for doing your part in the preservation and upkeep of our valuable neighborhood!!!

