



# Code Enforcement LUEC Presentation



**Presentation by:**

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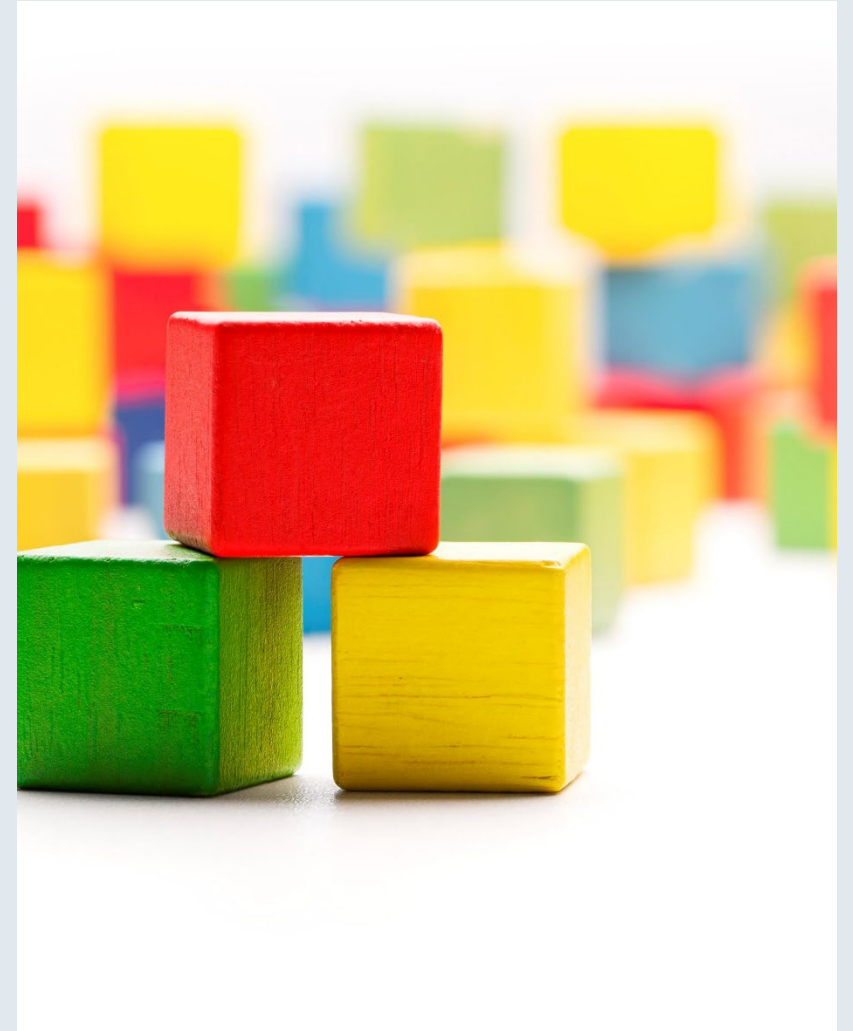


“People don’t buy **what** you do, they buy **why** you do it.”  
- Simon Sinek

# The Mission

Promote the health, safety, welfare and livability of the community through the enforcement of the Olympia Municipal Code.

Working together to make a Difference

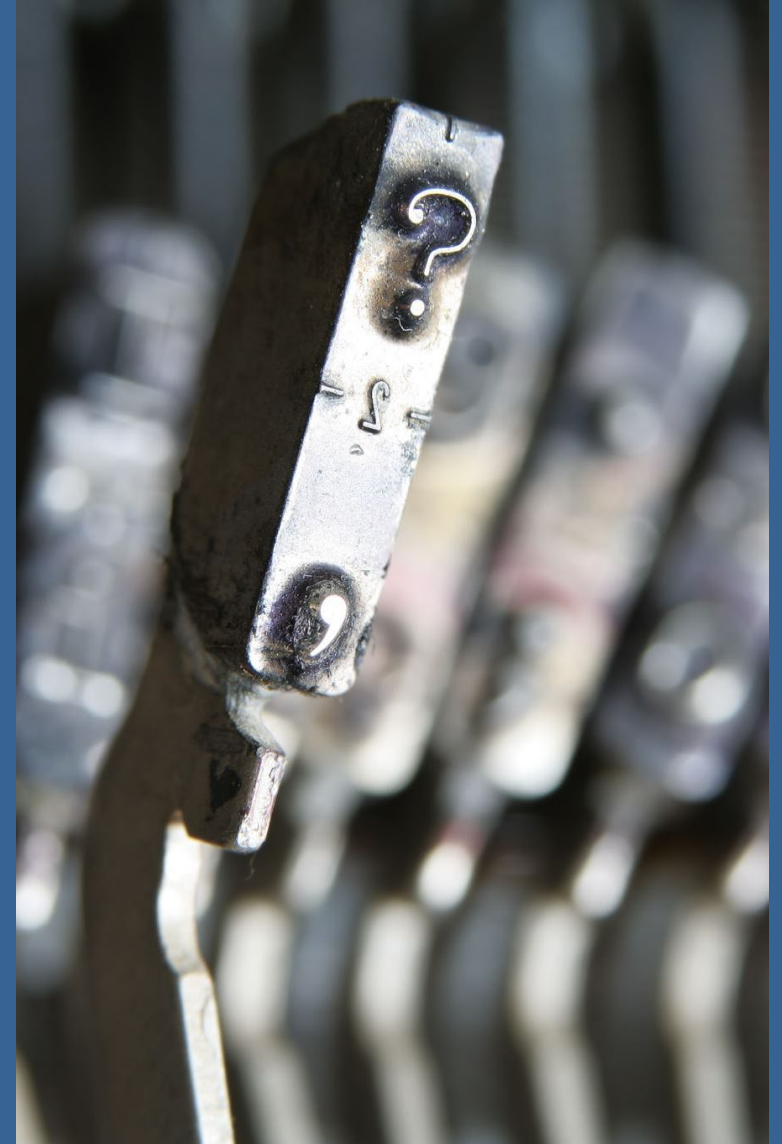


# The Values

Effective code enforcement is:

- **Firm** - persistent, resilient, timely, and professional
- **Fair** - open, honest, objective, impartial, and balanced
- **Informative** - knowledgeable, thorough, and accurate
- **Educational** - explain the importance, the “why,” of building and other regulatory codes
- **Flexible** - recognize the unique aspects of every case while constantly working to achieve compliance.

Compassion, Integrity & Effectiveness





# The Vision

The Code Enforcement Division works in a spirit of partnership to proactively find solutions to problems affecting the livability, health, safety, and welfare of the community.

**For a Vibrant, Healthy, Beautiful Capitol City**

# Statistics for 2023

- 449 requests for code enforcement review/action
  - 113 total cases opened from those requests
  - 115 total cases closed (including some from prior years)
  - 80+ abandoned vehicle cases closed in support of parking services
  - 2 new employees!
-

# Complaint Intake

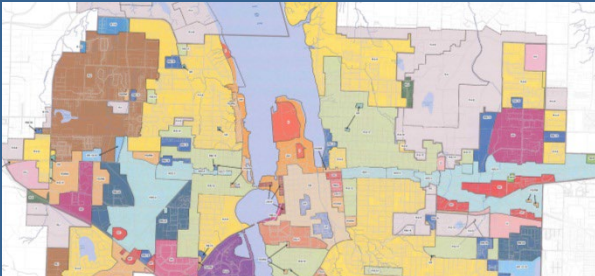


**Scan me!**

- Can be anonymous
- OlyConnects (<https://olympiawa.qscend.com/311>)
- Email/phone/mail
- Office visits
- Referral from another department
  
- Code Enforcement is complaint based
- Our current metric shows approximately 72-hours between complaint intake, investigation, and determination



# Codes Typically Enforced



Zoning



Nuisances



Signs



Homeless Encampments



Dangerous Buildings



Trash, Garbage & Debris



Overgrown Vegetation



Inoperable Vehicles



Non-Permitted Uses

# Priority Cases

Other than complaints...

- Exigent circumstances (natural disaster, structural cave-in, etc.)
- Public health, welfare, and life-safety
- Impacts to public utilities and services

Each case is of great importance; however, due to imminent danger and/or the quantity of people impacted, some cases move up on our list.



# Homeless Response

Inspections of existing city-sanctioned tiny home villages

City now provides outreach services on private property as a first-step prior to trespass engagement from the private property owner and OPD

Work closely with homeless response and other key departments to determine “hot spots” and significant community impacts from houselessness

# Inspections from the Right-of-Way

- Legal
- Generally non-intrusive
- Accessible
- Efficient
- Fair
- Effective



# What is burden of proof?

For code enforcement, it looks like:

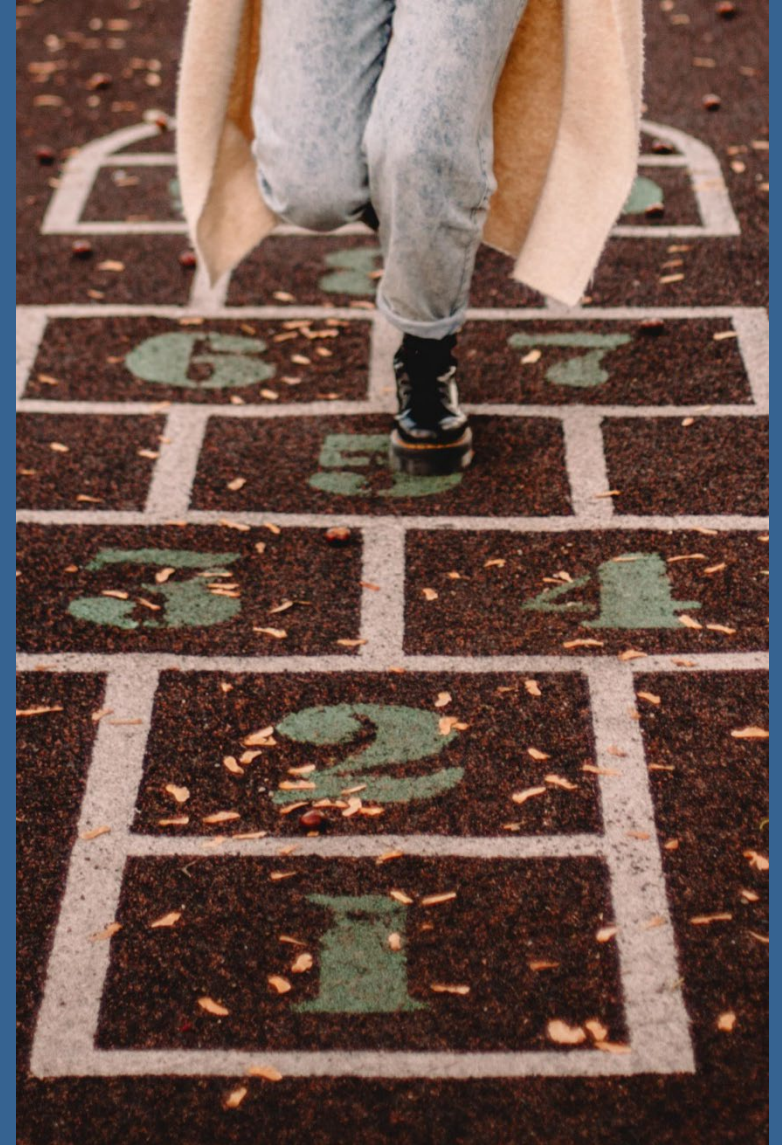
Preponderance of evidence

- *More likely than not*
- *Fifty/fifty* rules in favor of the defendant



# Discernible Progress

- Visible corrective actions
- Compliance with timelines
- Communication with code enforcement
- Documentation of changes
- Verification via follow-up inspections
- Collaboration with experts
- Demonstrated effort to resolve
- Community feedback
- Compliance with legal requirements
- Documentation of due diligence





# Voluntary Compliance

- Olympia keeps a high rate of voluntary compliance
- We do this with outreach, resources, and compassion
- Fines and other legal action are a time consuming and costly means to an end, not a carte blanche solution

# Code Enforcement Internal Process

- Keep a safety mindset
- Commit to asking questions when unsure
- Revisit problem case types frequently
- Work with court services to develop policy and procedure for handling cases







Jun 15, 2023 10:29 AM  
722 Fir Street Northeast



Jun 15, 2023 10:30:11 AM  
722 Fir Street Northeast



21/08/2023 10:22

May 15, 2024 at 3:03:10 PM  
1948 Giles Ave NW  
Olympia WA 98502  
United States



Nov 1, 2023 at 2:23:03 PM  
1907 Scammell Ave NW  
Olympia WA 98502  
United States



May 20, 2024 at  
953-1199 Division  
Olympia WA 985  
United States



May 21, 2024 at 10:33:48 AM  
611 Division St NW  
Olympia WA 98502  
United States





# Graffiti and Alternatives to Enforcement

- Report it!
- Community partnerships and resources
- Help from probation services (for residential properties)
- Keep it clean and keep it neighborly

