



2017 Code Enforcement Program Overview

Working in partnership with OPD, OFD, Public Works, and the citizens of Olympia to promote and maintain a safe and desirable living and working environment.



The Code Enforcement Division of the Community Planning & Development Department helps maintain or improve the quality of life in our community by enforcing laws and codes targeted at solving specific problems within the community.



Code Enforcement

Mission - Vision - Values

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

Vision:

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

For a Vibrant, Healthy, Beautiful Capital City

Values:

Effective code enforcement is:

Firm - persistent, resilient, vigorous and timely

Fair - open, honest, objective, impartial, unbiased, and balanced

Factual - knowledgeable, thorough and accurate; and,

Flexible - recognize the unique aspects of every case while constantly working to achieve compliance.

Compassion, Integrity & Effectiveness

The Code Enforcement program regularly enforces many types of regulations relating to building, land use, health, safety, and the environment:

- Trash and debris
- Overgrown vegetation
- Building maintenance
- Home occupations
- Signs
- Illegal Encampments

- Inoperable vehicles on private property
- Number or type of animals
- Noise related to a permitted land use (not bands or loud parties)
- Construction without permits
- Health hazards
- Critical areas
- Planning requirements
- Emergency response and evaluation of structures

The City's Code Enforcement Team has 35 years of combined experience.



Code Enforcement Staff Have:

- Experience
- Training
- Tools
- Strong People and Communication Skills
- Understanding of what it takes to work with a diverse cross-section of citizens
- The ability to handle challenging circumstances and conditions



2017 Code Enforcement Program Staffing

- Building Official
- 1 FTE - Lead Code Enforcement Officer (Downtown, Northeast, Southeast, Administrative and Supervisory)
- 1 FTE - Code Enforcement Officer (Westside)
- Building Inspector cross-training to do ad hoc Code Enforcement relating to signs and some vegetation issues, as time and work load permits. Approximately .20 FTE
- Office support staff at .25 FTE. (Support is minimal. Officers do all their own data entry/processing, and almost all their own correspondence.



Code Enforcement Duties

- Receive and investigate complaints related to a wide variety of ordinances and regulations.
- Provide advice related to enforcement questions.
- Investigate property maintenance and sub-standard housing concerns.
- Issue Notices of Violation.



- Issue Civil Infractions
- Testify in Municipal and Superior Courts.
- Investigate construction work performed without permits.
- Investigate and abate illegal encampments.

- Marijuana business enforcement/customer service.
- Graffiti abatement
- Trash and debris abatement
- Signage enforcement
- Inoperable vehicles and WSP Junk Vehicle Affidavits
- Emergency Response

Code Enforcement Case Data

(November 2016 through November 2017)

Cases Opened: 358

Total Case Actions: 3,118

(Case actions can include case specific phone calls, emails, letters, staff contacts)

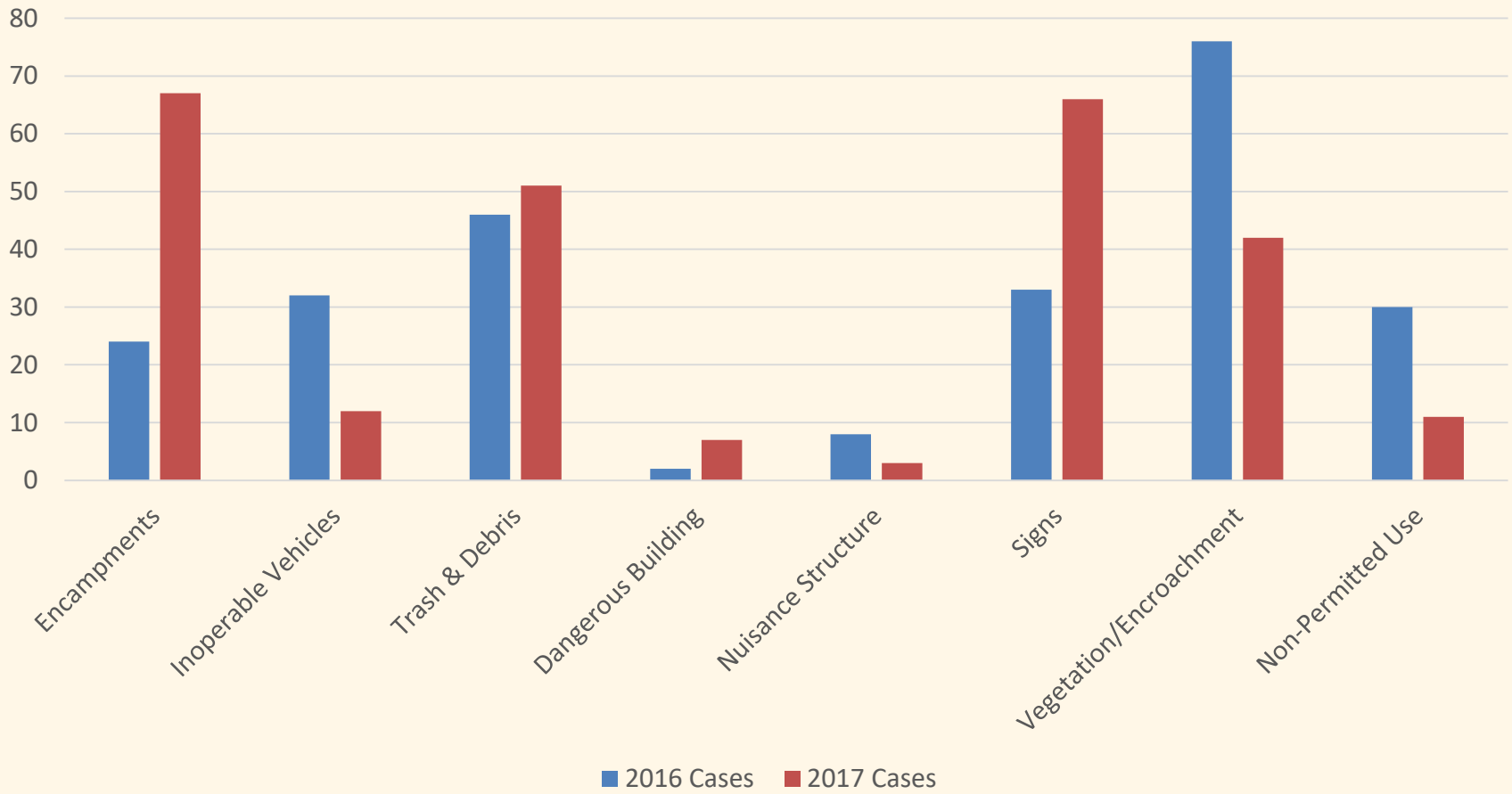
Total Inspections: 1,181

Total phone calls: 5,365

2017 Cases by Type

• Encampments	67
• Inoperable Vehicle	12
• Trash and Debris	51
• Dangerous Building	7
• Nuisance Structure	3
• Signs	66
• Vegetation/Encroachment	42
• Non-Permitted Use	11

2016 & 2017 Case Comparisons





Illegal Encampments

- Several changes were made in 2017 to how Code Enforcement handles illegal encampments.
- Due to safety and liability concerns, the Probation Work Crew is no longer used for clean up of encampments on public property.

- Code Enforcement officers must take an Olympia Police Officer with them whenever they go into an illegal encampment.
- Environmental companies have been contracted and are now used for all encampment clean ups.

- During clean up phase, Code Enforcement officers are on the alert for any valuable abandoned personal property. If such items are found, Code Enforcement officers photograph and inventory them, bag them, and store them with OPD's evidence technician. The property can be reclaimed within 60 days, per State law.

Olympia Woodland Trail



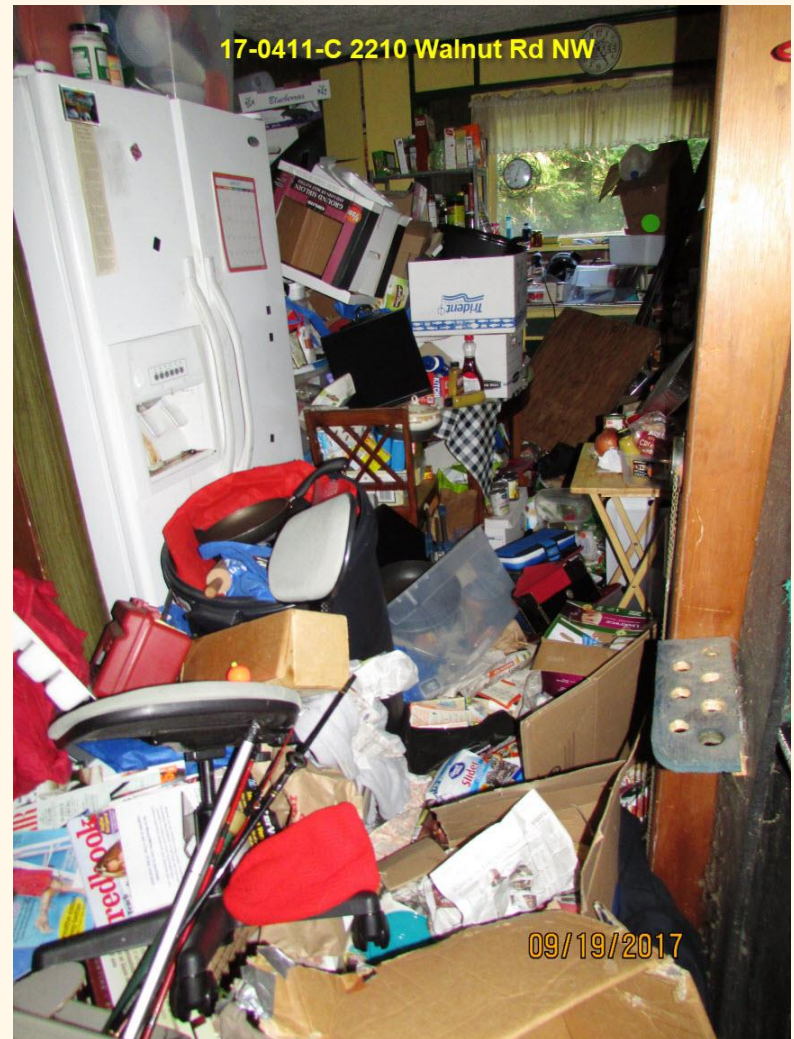


- In 2017, over 1,000 cubic yards of trash and debris were removed from illegal encampments throughout the City, at a cost of \$99,835.00.

Substandard Housing, Trash and Debris









Challenges/Opportunities

Code Enforcement Program

- Continued work with Planning on revised sign regulations consistent with SCOTUS and 9th Circuit decisions.
- Vacant Property Registration Program – The Legal Department is looking into the legal aspects of Code Enforcement developing and implementing this type of program.

Challenges/Opportunities

Code Enforcement Program

- Illegal encampments – Even with outsourcing clean-up services, Code Enforcement still issues notices and coordinates clean-up activities on City owned property.
- Current and Future Annexations – Increases in areas and population lead to increased calls for service. In some cases years of neglect in unincorporated areas require considerable work

Challenges/Opportunities

Code Enforcement Program

- Rental Inspection Program – This type of program would require significant staff time and resources to develop, implement, and monitor, but could head off many common types of violations prior to tenants moving in.

Help is on the way!

- Successful passage of the Public Safety levy means that CP&D can hire a much needed third Code Enforcement officer.
- The recruitment for this position began on December 15, 2017.

How the position will be utilized

- Separate the downtown CE duties and realign the three areas of the city based on needs and resource allocation.
- Develop and implement a rental inspection program.
- Continue development and implementation of a vacant properties registration and monitoring program.
- Enhance data mapping of encampments.
- Improve response times for internal and external customers.
- Create more open communication with neighborhood groups and property owners through outreach.

Thank You

