



Diane N. Tradd  
*Assistant City Manager/DPD Director*

**MEMORANDUM**

R. Eric Slagle  
*Director of Development Services*

TO: Kevin Murphy, City Manager  
Diane Tradd, Acting DPD Director

Shaun Shanahan  
*Building Commissioner*

FROM: R. Eric Slagle, Director of Development Services

RE: **MOTION OF 09/08/2015 BY COUNCILOR MERCIER - REQ. CITY MGR. HAVE PROPER DEPARTMENT INCREASE ENFORCEMENT OF ANY APPLICABLE CODES ON CONSTANT UNRULY NEIGHBORS WHO ARE DISRUPTING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.**

This memorandum addresses the request from Councilor Mercier regarding enforcement for unruly neighbors or problem properties in the City. I will describe the various departments who have jurisdiction over these issues, and the steps we have taken and are taking to address the problem.

Commonly, complaints regarding unruly neighbors are directed to the Lowell Police Department (LPD). The LPD has jurisdiction over any type of disorderly conduct, as well as noise complaints. The LPD has been working with Development Services and the City's Municipal Hearing Officer to institute a 21D Non-Criminal Disposition ticketing program which will give the LPD a more effective tool to use in enforcement of infractions which constitute a nuisance to neighborhood residents, but may not rise to the level of criminal prosecution.

The LPD, along with the Parking Enforcement Officers, also have jurisdiction over any parking violations which occur on the public streets or sidewalks. If there is a vehicle storage or parking violation, or unregistered vehicle, on private property, that complaint is directed to Development Services, where our Board Enforcement Agent performs inspections and issues citations for such violations.

Development Services also responds to complaints regarding minimum maintenance for both interior and exterior issues involving the Sanitary Code and Building Code violations. We have worked diligently with both the LPD and the Lowell Fire Department (LFD) to use an interdepartmental team approach to deal with problem properties and/or individuals. By leveraging the tools available to Development Services enforcement, we have assisted the LPD in targeting high-incident properties, and have been very successful in turning those properties around.

Often, the problems reported by residents involve trash or debris, either dumped on their own property, or on another property in the neighborhood. For any trash or recycling issues specifically involving City-issued trash or recycling barrels, the appropriate contact would be Gunther Wellenstein, Recycling Coordinator/Solid Waste Manager. All other issues with trash or illegal dumping would go to Development Services, where our Sanitary Code Enforcement Officers would handle the complaints. We have taken proactive steps with downtown businesses and property owners to curb the trash issues in the downtown alleys, and are working to curb the illegal dumping issues that are cropping up around donation dumpsters. Additionally, we have deployed hidden cameras at frequent illegal dumping sites, and are prosecuting perpetrators in court following investigations of such violations.