



Out of the Box Solution - District 5

The on-going problem of illegal street vending can be wearisome to a community. Nuevo had an illegal vending problem at two of its most popular cross streets creating a corner of chaos. Food was being sold in direct conflict with Health & Safety Codes, flower vendors were dodging in and out of traffic and the refuse left behind after the sales was littering the property. Nuevo Road and Menifee Road would often resemble a swap meet while the vendors set up for business. All of this vending was done against the will of the property owner. District Five staff issued citations and fines to curtail the activity, but it was obvious that an “out of the box” solution was necessary to bring about a more suitable answer to the problem.

Supervisor B. Black and District Five staff studied parcel maps to determine where the road right of way and utility easements existed. They worked with the local gas and water companies who took measurements and surveyed the area; ultimately pinpointing where barriers could be installed without interference to utility lines and equipment. The property owner erected barriers along the property line and one access gate for the gas company. In addition, the property owner also posted signage that cited the prohibition against road side vending. The community of Nuevo is now safer since the illegal vending has ceased. District Five Code Enforcement staff deserves a big “salute” for solving a complex problem.



Church Becomes Marijuana Dispensary - District 2

Code Enforcement received a complaint of a Medical Marijuana Dispensary (MMD) operating at a property in the community of Home Gardens. Upon arrival, staff found that the MMD was operating at a location that was once a church and near the Home Gardens Academy, a school that serves grades K-8. The school was less than 600 feet away from the dispensary.

Contact was made with a security guard who verified that a marijuana dispensary was operating at the site. As with most dispensaries, the lobby was set up with security cameras, sign in sheets, and marijuana paraphernalia. The other rooms of the building were secured with no immediate access; however, there was strong odor of marijuana permeating throughout. Permission to inspect was asked for but denied by the security guard. A consensual inspection was conducted later with both the property owner and the marijuana dispensary operator. Staff explained the County’s outright ban against dispensaries and the direct conflict with the Health & Safety Code, but it must not have sunken in because the business continued to operate illegally after the Notices of Violation were issued. Code Enforcement personnel put together a Task Force comprised of County of Riverside Sheriff Deputies, State of CA Employment Development Department - Underground Economy Section, State of CA Department of Industrial Relations - Division of Labor Standards Enforcement Bureau, and County District Attorney Investigations Bureau and re-inspected the site. The MMD was closed soon after.

One Morning in Perris



City of Perris Code Enforcement Officers responded to a complaint of a small homeless camp set up in a vacant lot behind a local business. Coincidentally, the business was the victim of ongoing vandalism that occurred afterhours. Code officers conducted research regarding the property owner of both parcels and made contact with a person in charge. Staff obtained signatures for a “602 No Trespass” letter for both the vacant lot and the business. On an early Friday morning, Code Enforcement Officers made contact with three males and one female who utilized a blue tarp as a makeshift tent. Staff explained that they were trespassing. Three of the individuals contacted were cooperative and began to gather their belongings; however, the fourth person was not. He yelled profanities as he gathered his belongings while becoming more agitated and aggressive. Officers contacted Perris Police Department to assist in the matter for officer safety and to ensure their departure. The Officers cleaned up the remaining items left behind and informed the person in charge of both properties that the problem had been remedied.

Reaching Out with Idyllwild Rotary Club - District 3



Officer Ortiz accepts Club Squirrel

Supervising Code Enforcement Officer Mary Ortiz attended the Idyllwild Rotary Club meeting on a bright and early Wednesday morning. The meeting was held at the American Legion Post #800 in the mountain town east of Hemet nestled in the San Bernardino National Forest. As guest speaker, Supervising Officer Ortiz shared breakfast with approximately 25 Rotary Club members before providing her presentation and overview of the Code Enforcement Department’s various responsibilities. Topics included county codes enforced, compliance tools, administrative penalties, civil remedies and criminal enforcement. The presentation also included information regarding the Goldspotted Oak Borer beetle, a continuing threat to area trees, and educational outreach material regarding maintaining properties in preparation for heavy rain events throughout the year. In turn, the Rotaries expressed concerns of: parking regulations, marijuana dispensaries, marijuana cultivation, land use / businesses without Planning Department approval, construction without required permits and methods of submitting complaints. The audience provided positive feedback following the presentation and Supervising Officer Ortiz accepted an Idyllwild Rotary Club Squirrel from incoming Rotary Club President, Mark Kassouf.





Graffiti Removed by Teamwork - District 1

Code Enforcement received several complaints from the community in regards to graffiti on a certain block wall located on Markham Street in the community of Mead Valley. Officer Gregorio met with Shaddy who is an active member of the Mead Valley Municipal Advisory Council and the point of contact for the property owners. Code Enforcement staff worked hand in hand with Joe Contaoi, Riverside County Waste Resources and their Graffiti Abatement program who were able to provide free paint to the owners. Two 5-gallon cans of paint were given to Shaddy and the graffiti-laden block wall was painted that very same day. Special thanks to Joe Contaoi – Waste Resources, Shaddy and his team for painting the wall and Officer Gregorio for organizing everything to get the graffiti removed.



Donations or Dumping? - District 3

Officer Wapner received a complaint in West Hemet where items that did not fit into the donation bin were left at the location to pile up. Good items exposed to the elements, especially rain, become nothing more than junk. Junk items left outside the bin become trash and the dumping of trash breeds more dumping of trash. Officer Wapner responded to the complaint quickly, knowing that similar situations had deteriorated rapidly. She documented the violation, began the process of identifying and notifying all of the interested parties. The property owner was responsive and informed Officer Wapner that the donation bin had been left at the location without their knowledge or consent. Officer Wapner and the owner worked together to contact the entity responsible for the donation bin and asked that it be removed. Officer Wapner’s communication skills provided a high level of customer service resulting in the junk, trash, debris and donation bin removal from the property in less than 30 days.



Beware of donation bin fraud. Solicitors may not be what they promote themselves to be. Verify the donation bin’s purpose and legitimacy. It has been reported that fraudulent people are seeking items to resale for personal profit.

Desert Hot Springs – District 4

Several neighbors complained about a lot where people continually dump trash and debris. Code Officer Rusty Hannah attempted to notify the property owners of the violation. Since the parcel was an unsecured, vacant lot the officer was able to expedite the abatement of accumulated rubbish under Riverside County Ord. 541.5.



CACEO Basic Academy Course

Education and training are the foundation of any profession and as such, the County of Riverside Code Enforcement Department was fortunate to host the California Association of Code Enforcement Officer's Basic Academy Course. The week long course was held in the City of Temecula this August. Twenty-eight attendees came from as far south as the City of Escondido and as far north as the City of Merced. Many cities and counties in between were represented, including our very own attendee, Code Enforcement Technician Carol Lucero. There were also a large group of individuals that were looking to complete the certificated program in hopes of making themselves eligible for employment, as the State of California moves towards standardized training requirements. The Basic Academy gives valuable insight to those looking to become officers, certifies the new that are ready to engage as officers and offer veteran officers fresh techniques or tools to solve or look at problems in new ways. The positive and always energetic Ed Nicholls was the instructor for most of the Academy. Amanda Pope, Silver & Wright LLP, Attorneys at Law presented the topic on 4th Amendment, Search and Seizure. Everyone enjoyed the teaching styles, personal experience stories, and the positive attitude. The work groups were set up amongst five tables and the real day to day code enforcement scenarios made it easy to comprehend. The attendees networked, made valuable connections and are looking forward to attending the Intermediate Academy Course.

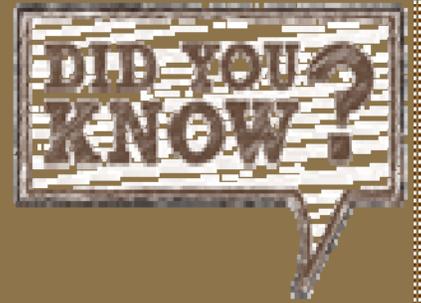


The designation of Certified Code Enforcement Officer (CCEO) can be obtained in two ways:

- 1) by passing the exams for the Basic, Intermediate and Advanced levels;
- or 2) by passing the Academy modules for Basic, Intermediate and Advanced levels AND submitting a fee to the CACEO office, per level.

A combination of exam and Academy classes is also acceptable.

The Basic and Intermediate levels may be obtained individually, however all three levels are required in order to achieve the designation.



Local Code Enforcement Offices:

District 1 Office 17650 Cajalco Road, Perris, 951-776-3233

District 2 Office 4080 Lemon Street, 9th Floor, Riverside, 951-955-5650

District 3 Office 37600 Sky Canyon Drive, Suite G #507, Murrieta, 951-696-1606

District 4 Office 77588 El Duna Court, Palm Desert, 760-393-3344

District 5 Office 581 South Grand Avenue, San Jacinto, 951-791-3900

City of Perris Office 137 North D Street, Perris, 951-385-4131

Administration 4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor, Riverside, 951-955-2004

To verify which district your community is a part of,
please visit our website: www.rctlma.org/ce

