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THE POSTING

Abandoned and Distressed Home Ordinance Also Saves Lives *District 1*

Mission Statement:

"To enhance public safety and the quality of life in partnership through fair enforcement of laws and codes."

California Health & Safety Code Section

17998(c) states, "The lack of code enforcement on a single dwelling unit can lead to the deterioration of an entire neighborhood as the substandard or abandoned unit becomes a magnet for crime, vandalism, fires, and other activities that rapidly infect the surrounding homes and neighborhood."

951-955-2004

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Riverside County Code Enforcement Officer Terrence Wiggins arrived at a home to conduct a routine check on a foreclosed/distressed home and to ensure that the property was secure. While checking the home, Officer Wiggins discovered that the property's gate had been removed from its hinges and the air conditioning unit was missing. Upon further inspection, he also found that there was a pool in the backyard, filled with green water. This quickly changed the conditions of the inspection on the property from a routine check to a priority-one case. The immediate threat of a child wandering onto the property and falling in the pool became a real possibility.

Officer Wiggins, with the aide of Senior Officer Jose Cruz, placed the gate back onto its hinges and temporarily secured it. Once the contractors arrived, the pool was drained and secured.



Preventing West Nile Virus

When dealing with West Nile virus, prevention is your best bet. Fighting mosquito bites reduces your risk of getting this disease, along with others that mosquitoes can carry.

Drain Standing Water

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water.

Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by getting rid of items that hold water.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours

Apply Insect Repellent Containing DEET

(Look for: *N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide*) to exposed skin when you go outdoors.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites

When possible, wear long-sleeves, long pants and socks.

Keep Our Desert Clean *District 4*

Earlier this year, a Sky Valley resident became a victim of illegal dumping on his property. Area neighbors claimed that the illegal activity occurs during the night time hours. Due to the lack of lighting in their rural area, the local residents were fearful of confronting the violators.

Senior Officer Hector Herrera responded to the complaints by sending an advisory notice to the property owner, pertaining to the county ordinance violation of accumulated rubbish.

The property owner responded to the notice and requested additional time to clear his property of the accumulated rubbish due to an illness in the family. Code Enforcement granted the extension. As the extension deadline drew near, Senior Officer Herrera stopped by the property and made contact with the property owner, who stated that over 2,000 pounds of rubbish had been removed from the site. The owner extended his gratitude to Senior Officer Herrera for working with him and understanding his situation.



Voluntary Compliance Creates Safer Neighborhood *District 1*

Officer Jacob Dietrich received a report regarding a mobile home in the Meadowbrook area in Supervisorial District One. The property was being used by local transients and was a breeding ground for rodents that were spreading to the neighboring properties. During his inspection, Officer Dietrich found that the mobile home was severely dilapidated, unmaintained, and vandalized. Officer Dietrich posted the mobile home substandard and issued a Notice of Violation.

Once Officer Dietrich located the rightful property owner and notified them of the violations. The owner demolished the mobile home much to the delight of the area residents. Through his diligence, Officer Dietrich was able to remove a neighborhood blight, which was not only attracting vagrants but was a breeding area for rodents, both of which can potentially spread infectious diseases.



Meadowbrook residents feel safer now that this mobile home has been removed



All In The Family *District 1*

A property owner in Riverside County's Supervisorial District One was able to bring her property into compliance within 30 days with a little help from her family.

The matriarch of the family is disabled and many possessions had piled up over time on her property in violation of the county's excessive rubbish ordinance.

She was extremely happy and so proud of her family for taking care of the violation so quickly.

Reche Canyon Foreclosure Brought Back to Life *District 5*

Officer Lanee Padilla was contacted by Reche Canyon community members to investigate several code violations at a property. The foreclosed home was the neighborhood eyesore, littered with debris, accumulated rubbish, unpermitted barn addition, and substandard mobile home.

While Officer Padilla was on the property conducting an inspection, she observed an unfenced pool filled with water. The pool was deemed a "Priority-1" and subsequently drained by the County of Riverside via an authorized contractor. Days later the pool a fence was erected around the pool by the Agent of the bank-owned property. After a year-long battle with several lending institutions, the property was purchased and all violations were voluntarily removed from the property by the new owners.



Home Safe *District 1*

The Riverside County Code Enforcement Department received a report of an unpermitted and substandard mobile home. Officer Jacob Dietrich contacted the property owner and upon his inspection, discovered that the mobile home was installed without building permits and was occupied.

The fact that the mobile home was unpermitted made it an unsafe and unhealthy place to live. It contained unpermitted electrical connections, which could be a fire hazard, as well as an unpermitted connection to the septic system which was not large enough to support a second mobile home.

Officer Dietrich issued a Notice of Violation for the unpermitted mobile home and gave the owner the opportunity to obtain the proper permits. The officer worked with the owner and the tenants of the unpermitted mobile home while they found a new residence to relocate to. Within the two months of the original Notice of Violation being issued, the owner demolished and removed the unpermitted mobile home creating a safer, healthier environment for his family.



Community Clean-up Assists with Compliance *District 5*

Riverside County Code Enforcement Officer Lori Lyon received a complaint of code violations (excessive rubbish and outside storage) at a property located in the unincorporated area of Homeland. Officer Lyon drove to the property and met with the tenant. The officer discussed the code violations with the tenant and instructed her on how to bring the property into compliance. The tenant was willing to comply but did not have money to pay for the landfill fees. Officer Lyon informed the resident of an upcoming community cleanup event in approximately two months and asked the tenant that if she promised to participate in the cleanup, the follow-up inspection would be held after the event. The tenant readily agreed.

Over the following two months, the tenant was making steady progress in clearing the excessive rubbish and outside storage from the property by means of the weekly trash collection service; however, full compliance had not yet been met. During the community cleanup, the tenant was able to obtain assistance with the removal of the remaining rubbish and outside storage and disposed it at the community event.

Subsequently, Officer Lyon returned to the property to conduct a follow-up inspection and discovered that complete compliance was reached. The officer congratulated the tenant for successfully cleaning the area and took photographs of the property. The resident was extremely happy and so proud of her property that tears of joy were shed.

Dumping on Mountain Road in Romoland – Work Release Cleanup

District 5

One early morning, Code Enforcement Officer Edward Torres responded to a report of illegal dumping in the roadway of Mountain Road in the Romoland area. Officer Torres located a dumpsite and found other rubbish scattered in the vicinity.

Under the direction of Officer Torres, the dumpsite was cleaned up by a work release crew (also known as "NAT": Nuisance Abatement Team). Two truckloads of rubbish were removed including material and packaging from a home remodel, a couch, two love seats and other items. A few days later, the Nuisance Abatement Team and Officer Torres located numerous tires scattered throughout the Romoland area and disposed of them appropriately.



Wiped Clean District 4



The Riverside County District Four community of North Shore has the benefits of beautiful vistas provided by the Salton Sea and the mountains to the south. Officer Adam Hermanson conducted a follow-up inspection dealing with a newer home, which became a target of unsightly graffiti.

This home has one of the better views of the sea, as it is located much closer than most of the neighborhood homes. Nonetheless, the gang-related graffiti/tagging tarnished the appeal of this home and the surrounding properties.

It was refreshing for Officer Hermanson to see that only a written notice to the owner was all that was required to eliminate the unwanted markings. All of the graffiti had been painted over, restoring this home back to its original condition. The Code Enforcement Department thanks the property owner for taking prompt action to correct this issue of blight.

WHERE'S CODE ENFORCEMENT?

District 1 Perris Office 951-490-4000

227 North D Street, Suite B, Perris, CA 92570

District 1 Cajalco Office 951-776-3233

17650 Cajalco Road, Perris, CA 92570

District 2 Office 951-955-5650

4080 Lemon Street, 2nd Floor, Riverside, CA 92501

District 3 French Valley Office 951.696-1606

37600 Sky Canyon Drive, Suite G #507, Murrieta, CA 92563

District 4 Palm Desert Office 760-393-3344

38686 El Cerrito Road, Suite 200, Palm Desert, CA 92211

District 5 San Jacinto Office 951-791-3900

581 South Grand Avenue, San Jacinto, CA 92582

Code Enforcement Administration 951-955-2004

4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor, Riverside, CA 92501

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To verify which district your community is a part of please go to our website:

www.rctlma.org/ce