

# Sanitation Listening Session Notes

1/13/16

## City Agency Representatives

Valentina Ukwuoma, DPW, Solid Waste

Norris Turnipseed, Housing Code Enforcement, commercial properties

Shirley Edmond, Housing Code Enforcement

Amy Helbig, Housing Code Enforcement Legal

Thomas Waugh, Housing Code Enforcement, Special Investigation Unit (SIU)

## Household Trash

- Ongoing, consistent resident education and outreach on recycling and trash collection is needed in areas with high resident turnover
  - Possibly addressed with Clean Corps program?
  - Druid Heights CDC had a good outreach/education program on trash but with high tenant turnover it needs to be ongoing and constant
- Consider twice weekly trash collection
  - DPW pointed out that they do twice weekly collection already, one general trash and one recycling and the focus should be on increasing the amount of recycling
- Consider large free dumpsters placed at the curb for large household trash items for residents who don't have transportation to the city collection centers
- New municipal trash can program will provide a 96 gallon trash can per building
  - Landlords of multi-family dwellings should be providing private trash collection
- Druid Heights has noticed a decrease in the number of dumped trash bags with inspection stickers, indicating that enforcement has been decreasing

## Commercial Trash

- Modern Junk & Salvage (1423 Fremont Ave) removed part of the fence around the vacant lots adjacent to their business and continues to dump on the site. Also on a daily basis they block the sidewalk and a portion of the street with salvage materials to conduct their business operations.
- Inspectors can issue a violation notice (30 days to get into compliance) or a citation (on the spot fine that starts at \$500)
- Some Pennsylvania Ave merchants are illegally using the Health Department dumpster at the corner of their parking lot on Pennsylvania and Cumberland
  - Waugh explained that businesses can be charged with an illegal use of services if they place their trash in the dumpster
  - If they place the trash next to the dumpster, then it's considered illegal dumping

- Look into securing the dumpster

## Corner Trash Cans

- DPW cleans corner cans on Pennsylvania Ave on Saturday so it's cleaner for Sunday churchgoers
- Need trash cans at bus stops
  - DPW picks them up but they are often overflowing
  - Consider higher-capacity solar-powered trash cans (like the Big Bellys used in the downtown area)
- Trash cans at athletic fields create trash on Saturdays when they are heavily used, but they aren't picked up until later in the week
  - Consider a Monday collection schedule for trash cans located in parks or play areas
  - Consider higher-capacity solar-powered trash cans

## Vacant Lots

- Residents complained that the process to clean vacant lots takes too long
  - Is there a way to streamline or speed up the process? Or better communicate the status of lots?
- In order to properly mow large vacant lots that community has adopted, they need a riding mower
  - Can the City invest in two riding mowers that can be lent to communities on an as-needed basis?

## Street Cleaning

- Consider getting community service volunteers to regularly clean the Penn North intersection area
- Druid Heights CDC has two employees who clean the street but could use City support (bags and push brooms)
  - Theoretically Community Pitch In program should help, but Druid Heights was told by Kane St (?) that they didn't provide help anymore
  - More comprehensive City support should be considered through the Green Network Plan and strategy, as well as the Growing Green Initiative

## Miscellaneous

- Private trash collectors sometimes pick up between 2 and 4 am, causing noise and sleep disruption
  - Work with Patricia Vauls in the Health Department on noise violation enforcement
- Drug activity has shifted away from the Penn North intersection beginning in January
- Residents and community leaders want to see an emphasis on partnership and mutual accountability