

Tucson Residents for Responsive Government

Code Enforcement Administrator Interview Panel Questions - October 2015

Background

Tucson Residents for Responsive Government (TRRG) has taken up City of Tucson Code Enforcement as a special project because in part the program directly affects so many residents in an ongoing manner and because reduced resources made available to Code Enforcement need to be used in the most efficient and effective means possible. Code enforcement has consistently been the number one concern of Tucson neighborhoods for multiple decades.

Specifically, we expect the new CE Administrator to be fully on board with City of Tucson Policy G7 as established in Plan Tucson:

"Develop and maintain strong partnerships with regional and local nongovernmental organizations, including educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and neighborhood and citizen groups." Policy G7 - Plan Tucson Chap. 3, P. 3.46

To TRRG, this means that the new administrator will develop and maintain strong partnerships with code enforcement stakeholders, wherever they may be within the City.

In order to bring this about, TRRG is requesting that both the CE Administrator hiring process and subsequent CE program planning efforts offer opportunities for public engagement and meaningful participation, per:

"Offer opportunities for productive public engagement in City policy, program, and project initiatives from the beginning of and throughout the planning and decision-making process." Policy G2 - Plan Tucson Chap. 3, P. 3.46

TRRG wants to assess candidates' attitudes and likely approaches toward working with the public in a cooperative manner to maximize the CE Division's effectiveness.

Questions Suggested for the Code Enforcement Administrator Hiring Process

1. There are many problems associated with the length of time it takes to get some properties into compliance. What experience do you have with assessing work processes and identifying opportunities for performance or cost improvements?
2. How would you handle an unresponsive out of town person who owns several trashy and run-down rentals in Tucson that have received repeated complaints?
3. Like residents who volunteer for the police department, there are many Tucson residents who would like to volunteer their time to assist in code enforcement processes. Would you be willing to use free resources? How would you potentially use these people?
4. What performance statistics would you use to help manage the division? Give examples of how they would be used.
5. Some women, minority group, immigrant and poor members of our community have unique problems that come to light when code regulations are enforced. Can you think of some of these unique situations and what you would recommend for addressing these problems?