

Code Enforcement Responsibilities—Reassignment to Departments

Tucson Residents for Responsive Government—TRRG-CE Committee

January 2017

At the present time, when City of Tucson (COT) elected officials, staff, and residents speak of Code Enforcement, they probably are referring to Code Enforcement Division (CE). This administrative unit, which consolidated inspectors from various departments in 2006, was housed in the Department of Neighborhood Resources (DNR). When DNR was dissolved into Housing and Community Development, CE was part of that merger. A few years later, COT removed it to be part of the Planning and Development Services Department. In July 2016, it was moved to Environmental Services (ES).

At the present time, CE has responsibilities for the enforcement for all or some portion of the following:

- Chapter 3 Signs
- Chapter 16 Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance (NPO)
- Chapter 23B Unified Development Code (UDC)
- Chapter 25 Street and Sidewalks
- Chapter 26 Floodplain
- Litter Tax permit inspections of haulers' trucks
- Clean Cities corridor projects managed by the Litter Tax Committee
- Non-payment of Environmental fees in ES service area not served by Tucson Water

(Taken from a Code Enforcement Overview paper prepared for the Environmental Service Advisory Committee, May 12, 2016 by Michael Wyneken, Interim CE Director.)

The topics on CE's "to-do" list are drawn from numerous COT departments. Since the Division's location in ES, it is clear that some aspects of Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance enforcement definitely benefit from that ES partnership. It is also clear that enforcement issues of the Unified Development Code (which will include Signs shortly) are not related to the ES mission. TRRG-CE believes that expecting inspectors to be cross trained and be effective in all aspects of City Code enforcement is unrealistic. Consolidation of Code Enforcement might have been a good idea in 2006, but a decade later, TRRG-CE believes that it contributes to the dysfunctionality of effective enforcement.

TRRG-CE proposes:

- **ES continue to explore means to consolidate its mission with that of NPO**
- **PDSD be given the responsibility of UDC code enforcement**
- **Police role in enforcement of NPO be clarified**
- **Identification of the most relevant departments to handle the other topics listed above be pursued**