

The BOSTWO/PV/EDC  
Sent by: Brenda J  
Bailey/PV/EDC

05/19/2008 02:41 PM

To Cynthia C Johnson/PV/EDC@TCP

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Code Enforcement Unit staffing

CJ-

This is related to Item #52.

Brenda

----- Forwarded by Brenda J Bailey/PV/EDC on 05/19/2008 02:42 PM -----



James J Wassner/PV/EDC

05/16/2008 12:04 PM

To The BOSONE/PV/EDC@TCP, The  
BOSTWO/PV/EDC@TCP, The BOSTHREE/PV/EDC@TCP,  
The BOSFOUR/PV/EDC@TCP, The  
BOSFIVE/SLT/EDC@TCP

cc David A Storer/PV/EDC@TCP, Larry S  
Lohman/PV/EDC@TCP

Subject Code Enforcement Unit staffing

Board Members,

The email in italics below was sent to you in February when during budget talks we first discussed the possibility of eliminating the Code Enforcement Unit. The issues below still stand true. I have recently been advised that an item will come before you next Tuesday advocating reducing the Code Enforcement Unit staff down to myself and a Development Technician. This would place us back where we were 5 years ago, except that we now open an average of 40 cases per month instead of only 20.

I propose we keep myself and two Development Technicians in the Unit, as they do the bulk of the important work by answering contacts from the public from both complainants and property owners, updating case files in our computer system, and sending the many letters we are required to send during the course of a Code Enforcement case. Though our ability to visit sites would be drastically reduced, we would try and keep up with responding to the public, opening cases and notifying property owners of violations at a reduced but possibly acceptable level. Cases are prioritized by their danger to the public and we will always address the most dangerous.

Again, I do not envy your job of attempting to balance the budget in these tough times.

Jim Wassner  
Operations Supervisor

Development Services  
Code Enforcement Unit  
(530) 621-6539  
James J Wassner/PV/EDC

(2/19/08)

*I recently saw the Code Enforcement Unit mentioned in newspaper articles as a possible place to cut funds in these times of tough budget decisions. Construction without a permit and trailer occupancy*

*without a permit comprise 75% of our case load. Many of your constituents may feel that these are not important issues, but many of these cases are more than they seem at first glance.*

*Last week I testified before the Grand Jury regarding the case of Calvin Hartwick, a 9 month old boy who drowned in a 5 gallon bucket that was being used to catch water from a leaking roof. Calvin, his 3 year old sister, and his parents lived in an unpermitted structure that lacked most of the basic requirements for a dwelling, in addition to the lack of a building permit. We do not know how many horrible accidents have been averted by Code Enforcement's involvement preventing the use of unsafe wood stoves or heaters, unsafe electrical wiring, gas piping, or unsafe construction. We were too late for Calvin, as we did not find out about his living conditions until called in by the Sheriff's Office just after the accident. ( Update, the Grand Jury has recently decided to indict Calvin's parents in his death.)*

*Last Friday I was at a home in Georgetown with both the Sheriff's Office and an APS worker in a case that is all too familiar. People living in a trailer on the property and in the elder's home have allegedly been "borrowing" money from the older gentleman to the point where he will now probably lose his home to foreclosure. Cases of trailer occupancy without permit often involve much more sinister issues than just a family who is down on their luck, looking for affordable housing.*

*The Code Enforcement Unit has recently received additional caseload regarding grading without permit and erosion control issues that are required to be enforced under the County's SWIMP permit with the CA State Water Quality Control Board. We look forward to additional cases being generated regarding noise issues, oak tree removal, and other issues once the General Plan is adopted into ordinance. The Zoning ordinance is now being updated to meet the General Plan requirements, which will undoubtedly increase our work load as well. This is in addition to recent proactive issues such as vacant buildings, Ranch Marketing issues and sign issues, in addition to our current case backlog.*

*I do not envy your job of balancing the budget in these tough times. I look forward to discussing the importance of Code Enforcement to the County's health, welfare, and quality of life before important budget decisions are made.*