

Code Enforcement & Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Legal Support Report 2023/2024

October 8, 2024

Background

- Goal: to provide information and transparency to the community regarding the role and function of Code Enforcement & LASD in enforcing the City's Municipal Code (DMC).
- Code Enforcement data and achievements – 2023 & YTD 2024



Code Enforcement

- Division of the Public Safety Department
- Unsworn civil servants
- Not police or peace officers
- Wide variety of backgrounds
- Extremely wide range of duties
- Enforce the DMC and certain State laws
- Primary goal is compliance, not punishment



Code Enforcement Mission

1. Ensure a healthy and safe community
2. Prevention is safer, cheaper and more sustainable than enforcement

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

- Benjamin Franklin



Examples of Code Enforcement Issues

- Open alcoholic container
- Public intoxication
- Park curfew
- Trespassing
- Storage on public property
- Urination/defecation in public
- Noise
- Illegal signs
- Inoperable vehicles
- Animal control
- Unsafe or dilapidated property conditions
- Illegal dumping
- Unpermitted land use/violates zoning code
- Abandoned houses/buildings
- Illegal fireworks
- Substandard/blighted buildings
- Illegal vending
- Unpermitted business operations
- Weed abatement
- Dead/overgrown yards
- Lack of a business license
- Other public nuisance conditions threatening the health, safety, or welfare of the community



Code Enforcement Data

Last 12 months:

- 620 complaints received from the community about DMC violations
- 556 cases resolved
- Code Enforcement investigates these complaints & works towards compliance
- Code Enforcement Officers – 3
- Less than 1% of cases need referral to legal



LASD

- LASD also enforces the DMC
- Issues criminal citations for violations
- Quality of life, health & safety-type violations



City Prosecutor's Office

- Assist Code Enforcement Division and LASD
 - Compliance with DMC
- Administrative enforcement, abatements, appeals, prosecute citations, civil enforcement, receiverships, Drug Abatement Act cases, etc.
- Represent the City in prosecuting staff-issued criminal citations that meet legal standards
 - Flat rate
- Goals: public health & safety, long term compliance with DMC



City Prosecutor's Office

- Approach: compliance, not punitive → fit the solution to the specific issue
- Communicate with non-responsive violators
- Compliance meetings
- Civil enforcement
- Administrative legal requirements
- Criminal:
 - Ordering to housing
 - AA/mental health treatment
 - Anger management
 - Stay away orders
 - Family assistance programs
 - Fines/jail, etc.
 - Other requirements and tracking compliance



Examples of LASD Criminal Citations

- Public urination/defecation
- Public nudity
- Obstructing public space/sidewalk
- Disorderly conduct
- Littering
- Shopping cart theft
- Violations at City facilities
- Drinking in public
- Open alcoholic container in prohibited public place
- Trespassing
- Encroachment/storage on public property
- Parking violations
- Park curfew



Criminal Citation Case Data – 2023 & 2024 (YTD)

- 202 cases processed (includes some pending cases from prior year)
- 80 successfully resolved (to date)
- Cases ordered to Housing/AA/rehabilitation program: 56
- Stay away orders: 2
- Resolved with other probation terms: 4
- Total days of incarceration ordered: 204
- Some resolved in interests of justice
- Some reduced to infraction or warning
- Suspended sentence
- Resolved for time served
- Work with PD, DA, Judges to resolve violations
- FTAs and bench warrants



Examples of Other Cases We Help With

- Substandard housing
- Uninhabitable properties
- Blighted buildings
- Lack of property maintenance
- Unpermitted construction
- Drug/crime dens
- Illegal business operations
- Administrative case appeals to Court
- Other DMC violations





Example Code Enforcement Case
(Substandard property conditions)
BEFORE



Example Code Enforcement Case
(Substandard property conditions)
BEFORE



**Example Code
Enforcement Case
AFTER**

Example Code Enforcement Case

AFTER





Example Code Enforcement Case
(Substandard property conditions)
BEFORE



**Example Code
Enforcement Case
AFTER**



**Example Code
Enforcement Case
AFTER**

Code Compliance: In Conclusion

- Good, effective, efficient and fair code enforcement process helps City protect and improve quality of life, saves lives and health, and saves taxpayer dollars by ensuring compliance with DMC.
- Homeowners, business owners, and the community at large live peacefully, safely, and healthy by keeping their properties in compliance.
- We help staff enforce laws the City Council adopts.
- Enforcing the City's goals and priorities, as set by the City Council.



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