

Neighborhoods Safety, Security, and Stability Plan

Goal

Promote safety, security, and stability of Vandalia neighborhoods, in cooperation with residents, through the coordinated efforts and teamwork of property maintenance inspectors and the city's public safety forces

Focus 2006

- Abandoned, inoperable, and/or unlicensed cars parked on city streets or private property
- Illegally parked boats, campers, recreational vehicles, etc.
- Trash in yards (front, side and back)

Encourage Voluntary Compliance

- Personal contact
- Progressive enforcement
 - Verbal warning (whenever possible and sufficient to achieve sustained voluntary compliance)
 - Written warning (second violation)
 - Citation to Municipal Court (third violation)
 - Impoundment/remediation
- Reasonableness, fairness, and consistency
- Prompt and persistent follow-up

Areas of Primary Responsibility

- VPD officers have primary responsibility for addressing any ordinance violations that occur in the public right-of-way: the sidewalk, tree lawn, and public streets
- The Fire Division will be the lead agency for addressing fire safety and reporting property maintenance violations discovered in hotels, motels, and apartment buildings
- Housing and property maintenance inspectors will handle code violations that occur from the rear of the sidewalk or public right-of-way, including homes and businesses
- Housing and property maintenance inspectors, firefighters and EMS personnel, and police officers shall serve as eyes and ears, referring any observed or suspected violations beyond their area of responsibility to the city division having primary responsibility. All shall work cooperatively

Actions

- **Housing and Property Maintenance**
 - Train police and fire personnel to recognize and report housing and property maintenance violations
 - Purchase laptop computers for field reporting from inspectors' vehicles to save time
 - Share information. Establish access to the Franklin Information Systems (BDS) software for designated police and fire personnel
 - Propose changes to Vandalia's codified ordinances in order to improve enforcement results; e.g. towing of abandoned or inoperable vehicles from private property after 5-day notice
 - Hire a part-time housing and property maintenance inspector (July/August through October, 2006 and March-October 2007)
 - Provide resources for the new part-time inspector; e.g. training, vehicle, computer/laptop, and office space.

- **Fire Division**

- VFD will focus on target hazards:
 - Multiple-family residential dwellings
 - Commercial occupancies
 - Hotels and motels
- Follow standard operating procedures for identification, reporting, and enforcement
- Utilize the Life Safety Checklist, with computer entry for tracking
- Document through notice of violation and citation forms
- Follow-up within 72-hours; 24 to 48 hour response time for life-threatening violations
- Violations outside of immediate danger threats will be assigned a response time frame of 7, 14, or 30 days, depending upon the magnitude of the violation.

- **Police Division**

- Increased visibility in neighborhoods. Officers to double the number of residential traffic details and neighborhood patrols, remaining particularly alert for focus violations
- Police to devote one patrol position exclusively to neighborhood issues effective July 1
- Police records section has created an Excel spreadsheet to log fire safety, housing and property maintenance referrals
- Police Division has been granted access to BDS, the software used by housing and property maintenance inspector to track complaints by address. Will be used by VPD to coordinate efforts

Coordinated Reporting System

- Each department will use its own computer software to document, track, and report neighborhood issues
- Police and fire personnel will use the existing Eyes & Ears form to refer housing and property maintenance concerns to Engineering and Inspection
- The housing and property maintenance inspectors will use email to refer complaints to police or fire.

Timely Follow-Up

- Police officers, fire officials, and housing and property maintenance inspectors will strive for contact at the earliest opportunity after a violation is reported
- Follow-up within 72 hours. Resolution ASAP, but court referral within not more than 30 days if no compliance

Public Education

- As many forums as possible
- Involve housing and property maintenance inspectors, fire safety officials, and police neighborhoods and crime prevention officers
- Neighborhood Watch groups
- Property managers
- Real estate brokers
- Chamber of Commerce

Media Blitz

- Coordinate through Rich Hopkins
- Use all available opportunities:
 - At the Crossroads (city newsletter)
 - Focus Vandalia (video)
 - By the Way (video)
 - Sentinel (Neighborhood Watch newsletter)
 - City pamphlets
 - City website
 - Vandalia Drummer News
 - Dayton Daily News – Neighbors Section
 - Time Warner cable channel 10
 - Chamber of Commerce newsletter

Administrative Coordination and Reporting

- Departments to prepare monthly progress reports to the city manager beginning in July. First report to be delivered by August 15, 2006
- City manager, service director, police and fire chiefs to meet at least once each month to review progress