



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE**
c/o Community & Economic Development Office
City Hall, Room 32 • 149 Church Street • Burlington, VT 05401
802-865-7144 VOX • 802-865-7024 FAX • www.burlingtonvt.gov/cedo

Councilor Adam Roof, Chair, Ward 8

Councilor Sara Moore, Ward 3

Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6

Thursday, June 15, 2017

5:30 – 6:30 PM

City Hall Conference Room 12 (CR 12)

Proposed Draft Agenda

1. Review Agenda (5 minutes)
2. Public Forum (5 minutes)
3. Approval of Minutes – 5/15 (5 minutes)
4. Code Enforcement and policies related to Neighborhood Quality of Life, Q&A
Presenter- Bill Ward- Director, Code Enforcement (35 minutes)
5. Plans for July Meeting (10 minutes)



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Attendance: Chair Adam Roof, Councilors and Committee Members Sara Moore and Karen Paul, Councilor Richard Deane, CEDO Assistant Director Gillian Nanton, Director of Code Enforcement William Ward, CEDO Staff Ian Jakus, Joe Speidel (UVM), Sandy Wynne, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Barbara Wynroth

Thursday June 15, 2017
5:30 – 6:30 PM
City Hall Conference Room 12 (CR 12)
Proposed Draft Agenda

Chairman Roof called meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

1. Review Agenda

Councilor Moore made a motion to approve the agenda as is, seconded by Chair Roof.

2. Public Forum

No comments at this time, forum reopened after presentation.

3. Approval of Minutes – [5/15](#)

Councilor Moore made a motion to approve the minutes. Chairman Roof seconded.

4. Bill Ward, Director of Code Enforcement

Mr. Ward noted that the committee will discuss the 'four unrelated' ordinance specifically at the next CDNR meeting but wanted to focus broadly on how Code Enforcement affects quality of life issues today. The presentation can be found posted on the CDNR Committee website, but the key points from the presentation are as follows:

- Noise complaints - have decreased as there has been more attention on mitigating them, especially in student neighborhoods.
- Trash - illegal dumping is being reported through SeeClickFix, more than half of which are reported by code enforcement staff. Code Enforcement also worked with UVM to prepare students for move out day.
- Lawn Parking – because restrictions are related to the zoning ordinance, and driveways are not always paved, violations are difficult to identify. Additionally some areas of the city do not have restrictions on lawn parking.
 - Notices of violation are a tool where the property owner is warned and they must comply rather than the tenant.
- Graffiti - Mayor Weinberger wanted Code Enforcement to be more involved in regulating graffiti, and they have been addressing this.
 - If graffiti is on public property it is addressed quickly. When on private property there is no ordinance to compel someone to clean it.
- Needles and syringes - needles getting retrieved from drop boxes is an issue due to budget cuts to non-profits such as Howard Center. Needles on the ground should be reported on SeeClickFix.
 - Councilor Moore asked if there is training to be able to pick up needles? Mr. Ward responded that if using SeeClickFix there is a link to the Vermont Dept. of Health explaining how to pick up needles and dispose them.
 - Councilor Deane asked if there is education in elementary school to instruct kids not to pick up these needles. Mr. Ward said he did not know and would follow up.
- Recycling - Generally rental properties have had disorder in recycling, with boxes not broken down, and bins causing a mess.
 - A new ordinance requires covered recycling totes for multi-family units that will be phased in throughout 2018.

- Inspections - Have instituted a 1 to 5 year certificate of compliance - good landlords are rewarded with longer periods between inspections.
 - average number of days to complete housing inspections by year has decreased

5. Public Forum

- Barbara Wynroth commented that the bus stop on College St emits exhaust from buses into her apartment and that she contacted VTrans. Mr. Ward responded that she should contact CCTA and board of health
- Jonathan Chapple-Sokol asked if noise complaints are being reduced citywide? Mr. Ward responded that yes it has generally been reduced. Jonathan followed up, asking who addresses vehicle noise? Mr. Ward explained that the best way to address this issue is to track the days/time and that way the police department can assess it.
- Joe Speidel asked what would help to make the system better? Mr. Ward responded:
 - For landlords to be more responsible. They are not following basic tenants of good property management. They're not doing the maintenance required. He cited property owner Gene Richards for having a great model of enforcing the use of dumpsters.
 - Requiring people to clean up any trash should be in their lease and enforced by the landlord.
 - Accurate and timely reporting is helpful because they can identify problem properties.
 - Often issues cannot be easily addressed just through changing ordinances.
- Chair Roof asked if there is something that could hold the worst landlords accountable. Mr. Ward responded that other places have a specific timeline for removal of trash, such as the next day by 4 o'clock and that this helps simplify enforcement.
- Sandy Wynne asked if there will be a separate presentation to the four unrelated?

- Mr. Ward responded they would discuss at the next meeting
- Sandy Wynne stated as owner occupied properties increase in the neighborhood noise goes down, that there is a need for a healthier balance. Neighborhoods are in danger of tipping the wrong way. Additionally she stated the trash is worse this year than ever before, and she has been using SeeClickFix.
- Councilor Moore asked what other ordinance changes are you looking for. Mr. Ward responded that energy efficiency requirements and graffiti removal enforcement are two places that could use changes.
- Councilor Paul stated that 8 years ago, Code Enforcement was much more of a concern. She used to contact landlords directly and they are usually responsive. She stated that she would like to consider the possibility of raising the fine of noise violations but not sure that would actually increase deterrence. There is a need to continually reeducate the tenants and noted that enforcement of the 'four unrelated' ordinance is not just a concern in student neighborhoods.
- Mr. Ward suggested there should possibly be an ordinance against being on the roof for a group of people, but not necessarily a single person.
- Chair Roof asked if the penalty for trash dumping that code enforcement can issue could be increased, given that anything over \$100 up to the \$500 max penalty for trash dumping must come from a judge. He added the following comments:
 - Having a strict timeline for trash pickup would be helpful
 - Can we learn more about the lack of lawn parking restrictions in the South End?
 - There should be a way to compel private property owners to deal with graffiti. Mr. Ward stated that he will meet with BBA Kelly Devine to see if they can come up with some solutions.
 - Chair Roof was not aware of the issues surrounding picking up needles, interested in more training for removing needles
 - Regarding Councilor Deane's question about education for elementary school - Chair Roof said he would take ownership of that.
 - As neighborhoods identify priorities, such as noise, they were better addressed. Can we identify what those priorities are for each neighborhood? Mr. Ward stressed that managing priorities is

critical, that each priority needs to be continually managed in a sustainable way.

- Chair Roof made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Councilor Moore at 6:45 PM.

6. Plans for July Meeting (10 minutes) July 20th Thursday - one hour and a half 5:30 – 7:00 PM



Code Enforcement Quality of Life

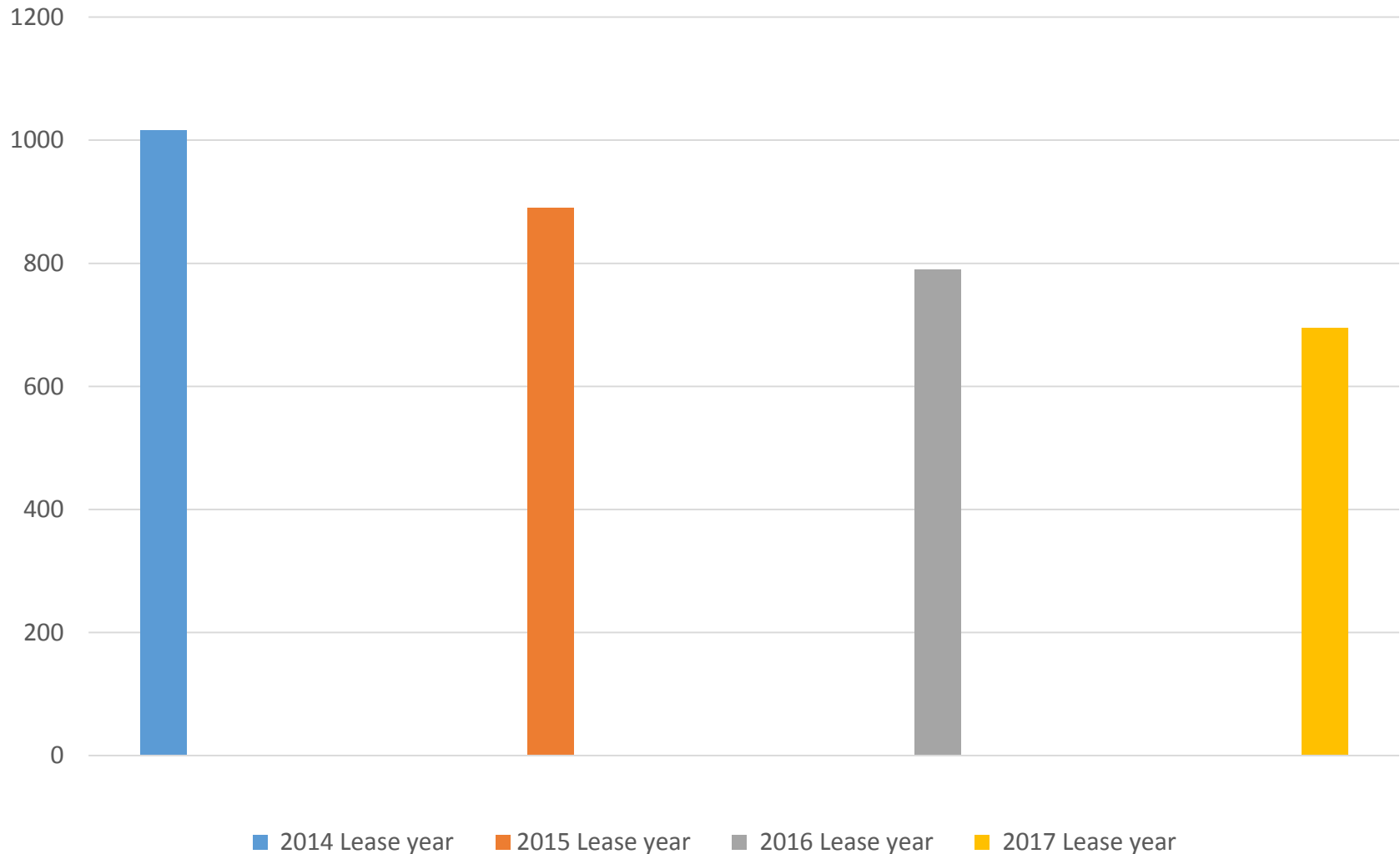
June 15, 2017

Update on key quality of life issues

- Noise
- Trash
- Lawn Parking
- Fines and Fees
- Graffiti
- Syringes
- Greenbelt restoration
- Recycling changes
- Certificate Of Compliance changes

Annual noise complaints in target area*

* (Ward 1 and parts of Wards 2 and 8)



City Wide noise complaints

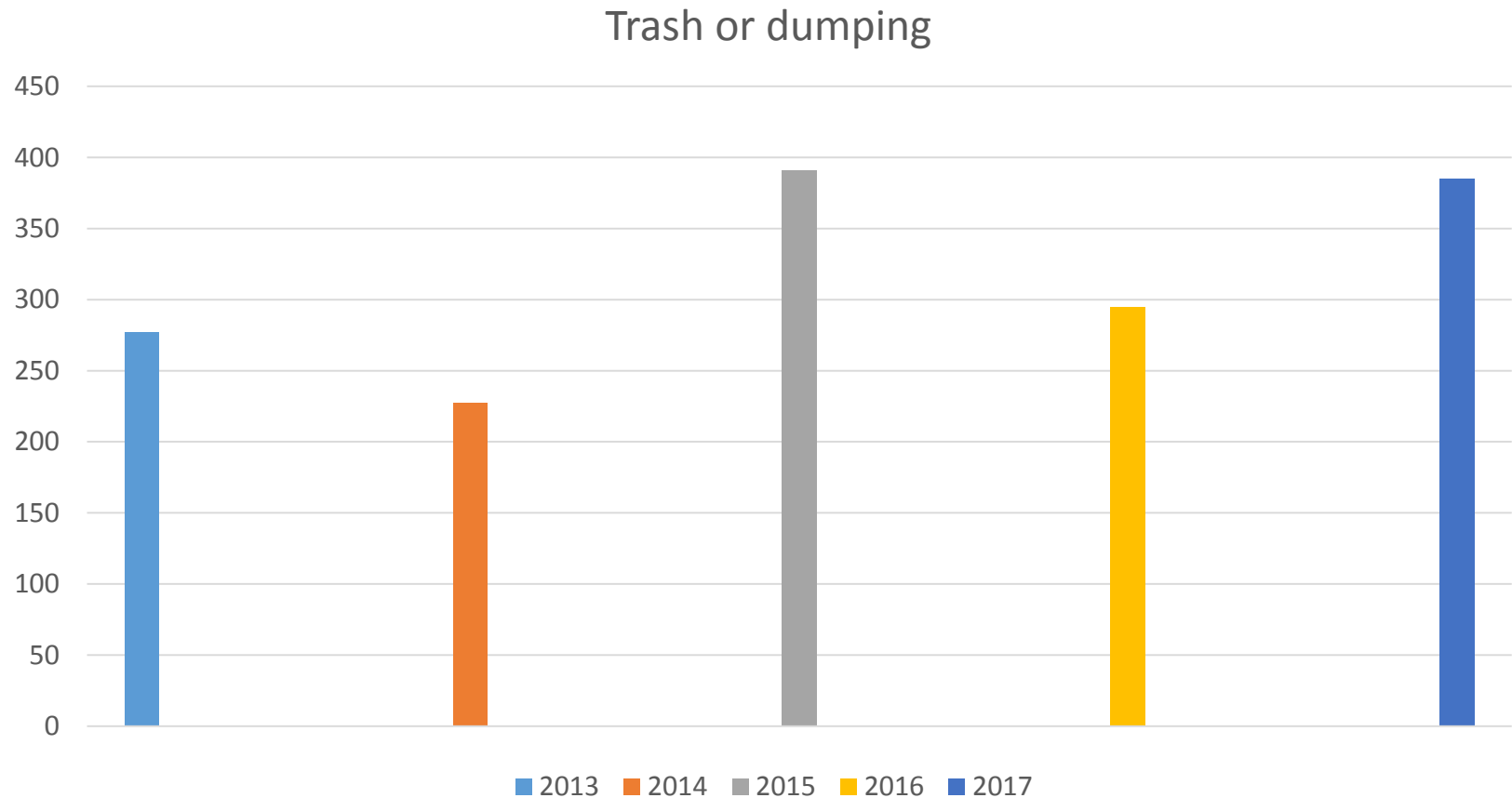
During 2016-17 calls for service decreased

- 11% since 2015-16
 - 16% since 2014-15
 - 16% since 2013-14
 - 26% since 2012-13
-
- 20% from the 4-yr average

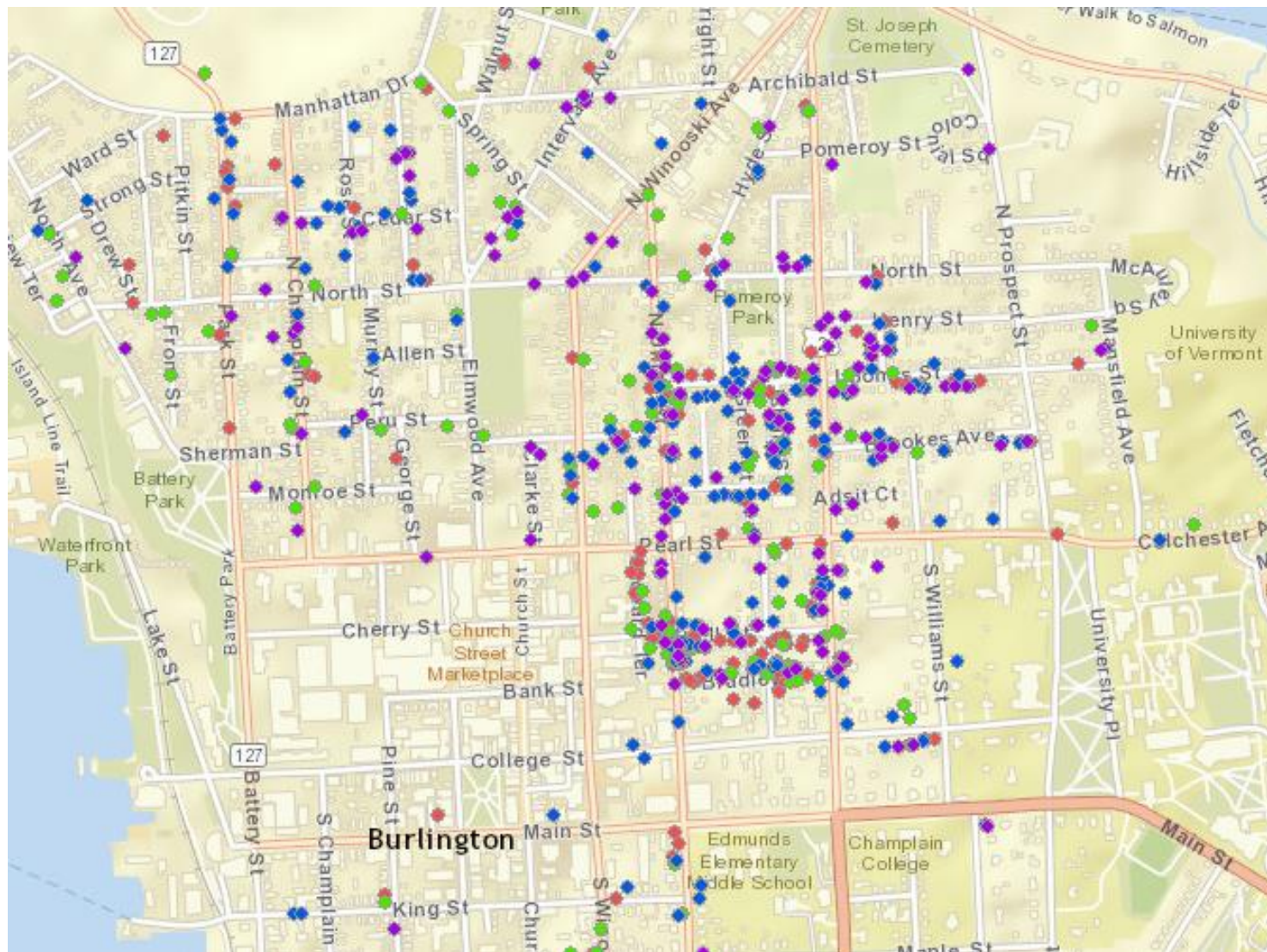
Trash complaints



SeeClickFix trash reports between April 1 and June 15 -five year tracking



Trash or Illegal Dumping Requests in May



- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016

Lawn Parking

- 103 Reports on SeeClickFix for lawn parking in the last 12 months
- 175 tickets issued for lawn parking in the last 12 months



2017 NOVs for expanded parking



41 S. Willard Street



220 Pine Street



43 Starr Farm Road

Fines and Fees

- **Zoning fines are set by a judge** Not issued by Code Enforcement —
 - ✓ Up to \$200 a day penalty plus staff time
- **Most recent Burlington Case with an Environmental Court judgment was for \$11,000 issued in April, 2017**

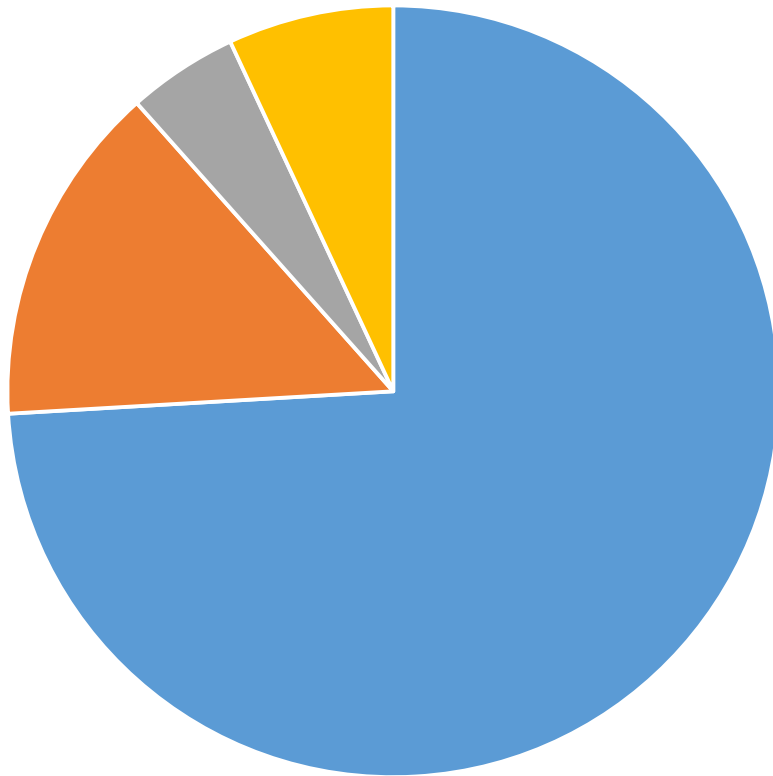
Other Budgeted fines/Fees for FY17 - \$15,000

Collected fines/fees year to date -\$14,160

216 reports of graffiti in 2017

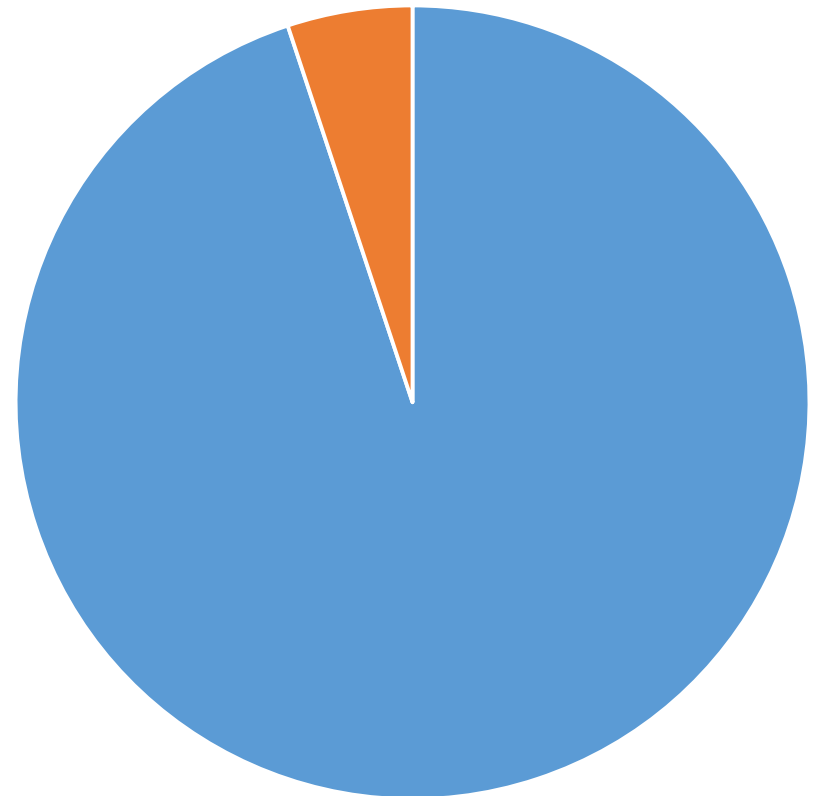
(75 reports during the same 6 months of 2016)

Who initiated Graffiti reports



■ Code Enforcement ■ Citizens
■ Police Department ■ Anonymous Reports

Closed vs Open



■ Closed ■ Open

Found Needles/Syringes



July 2016-June 2017 - 77 reports
July 2015 to June 2016 -59 reports



Greenbelt Restoration by DPW

- As DPW works to restore sidewalks according to the capital improvement plan greenbelts are being restored



Curb cut widths are approved by DPW permit but were not always closely regulated for compliance

Recycling



Overflowing and windblown recycling is a persistent problem

Recycling

2017 ordinance requires
covered recycling totes



- ✓ 8 or more rental units – September 1, 2017
- ✓ 6 or more rental units – March 1, 2018
- ✓ 2 or more rental units – September 1, 2018

1 to 5 year Certificate of Compliance Scale

Ordinance passed in 2014 to start in January 2015

Completion of 3 year cycle scheduled for December 31, 2017

5 – means no deficiencies were found

4- indicates 5 or fewer deficiencies corrected

3- indicates 10 or fewer deficiencies corrected

2- indicates 10 or fewer deficiencies corrected later than 30 days.

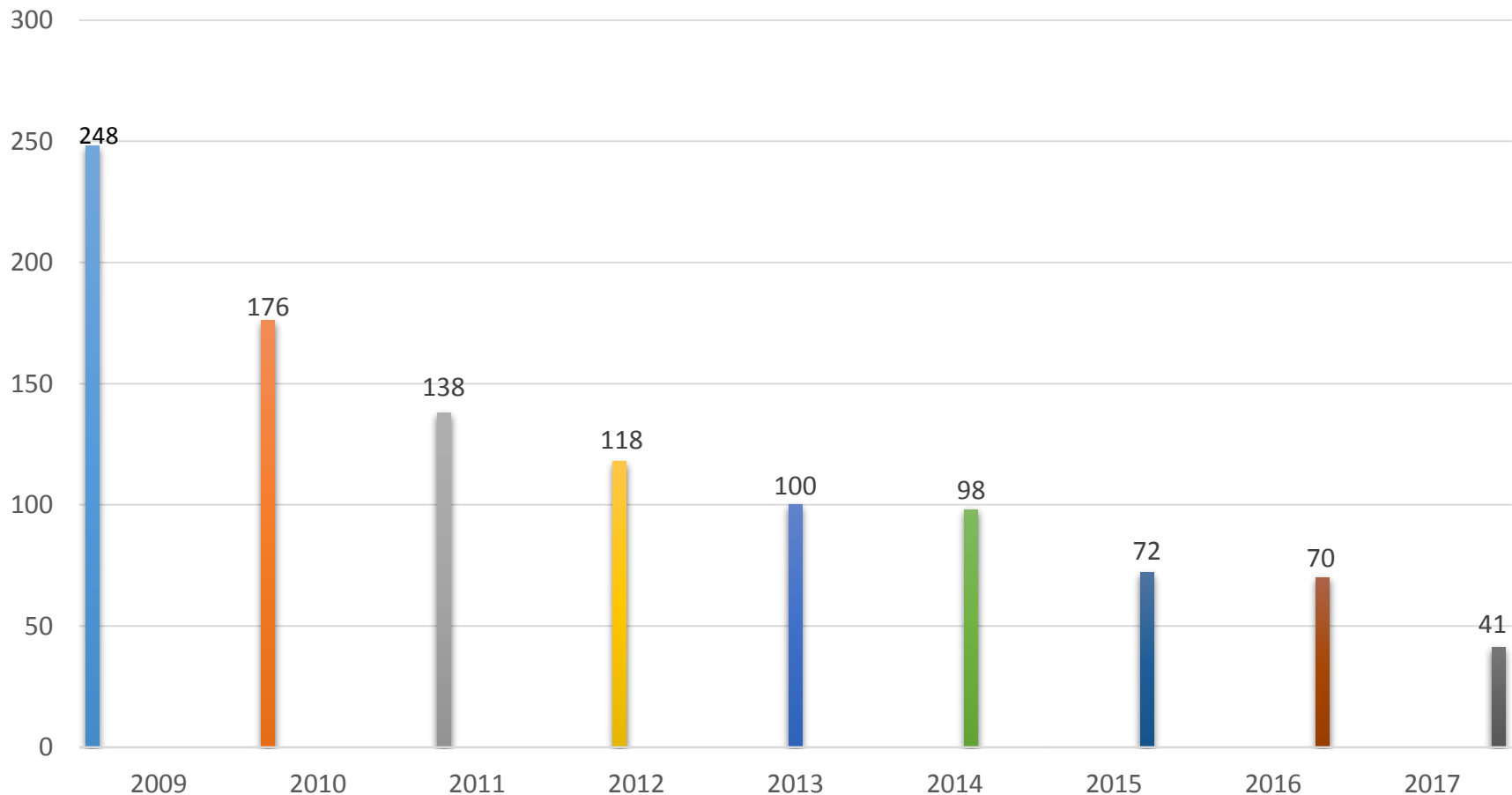
1- Indicates more than 10 deficiencies corrected

We are in the 3rd year of a 3 year inspection cycle

- By this time next year all rental units in the city will have a rating of 1 to 5
- At that time a higher minimum housing standard will be set after public input in the fall and winter of 2017/2018

Standard – A typical Minimum housing inspection should be completed within 45 days.

Average number of days to complete housing inspections by year



Questions?