



Dear District 4 Resident:

I hope you had a great holiday season. As we begin 2009, I continue to strive to make District 4 the best in the city.

While you may see me working with our mayor on large projects on behalf of the entire city, we have not lost sight of our mission to improve District 4 “One Block at a Time.”

To bring the development that District 4 deserves, we must continue to work together and clean up our neighborhoods. From clean-up days to increased code enforcement, our efforts are making a difference.

All over the District, I have been working to clean up crime trouble spots and remove blight from neighborhoods. In October, we celebrated the demolition of the motels on Lancaster Road that are next to our District.

As promised, I have worked to create the Convenience Store Crime Ordinance, requiring stores to be more visible from the outside by reducing window-covering signs and allowing police to enforce loitering laws outside of stores. I have also been proactive in talking to store-owners throughout our District, and many have removed unneeded signs ahead of the compliance date. This ordinance will prevent crime at these venues and reduce blight.

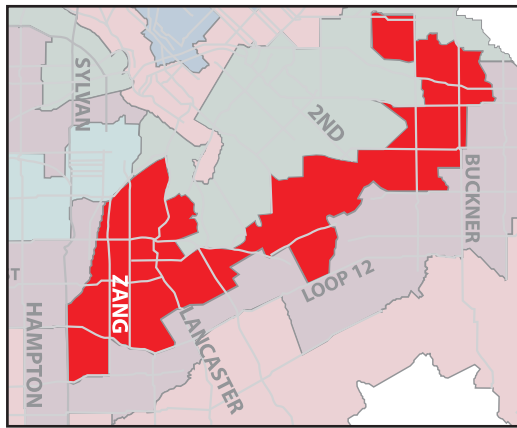
We are currently drafting a new multifamily crime ordinance, which will increase safety within apartment complexes throughout the District and our city.

As we move forward, we must continue to work together to improve our District. More than ever, I need your help.

Together, we can make District 4 the best in the city.

**Best Regards,
Dwaine Caraway
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
District 4**

DISTRICT 4



Libraries:
Paul Lawrence Dunbar Lancaster-Kiest,
2008 E. Kiest Blvd.
214-670-1952
Skyline, 6006 Everglade Road
214-670-0938

Recreation Centers:
Beckley-Saner, 114 W. Hobson Ave.
214-670-7595
Umphress, 7616 Umphress Road
214-670-0956

Police Divisions:
South Central: Sgt. Melissa Gregg
214-671-4532
Southeast: Sgt. Sheila Zimmerman
214-671-0147

Are you helping to build a Greener Dallas?



Take the first step and make a commitment to recycle by joining the City’s “Too Good To Throw Away” program. In District 4, each household participating in the program is recycling an average of 5 pounds per household per month! That’s a really good start — but the City’s goal is to increase that amount to 30 pounds for each household each month. Want to help? Call 311 to get a Big Blue recycling cart delivered to your home.



Mission: possible

Code department focuses on relationships, solutions in District 4

District 4 South Central Division



Division Manager
Steven Williams
469-441-5900
Neighborhood Code Representatives
Opal White • 214-994-0566
Sherri Steele • 214-693-0888

District 4 Southeast Division



Division Manager
Phyllis Sparks-Goode
972-693-3438
Neighborhood Code Representatives
Paul Johnson Jr. • 469-233-7196
Norris Booth • 214-694-4470
Eddie Jackson • 214-659-3985

“Anytime we educate our citizens so that they can comply with an ordinance, we consider it a success.”
– Paul Johnson Jr., Southeast Division NCR

With a newly reorganized department and the addition of 20 neighborhood representatives, Dallas Code Compliance is starting to get tougher on code violations.

But that doesn’t mean it’s getting tough on citizens. Rather, the new neighborhood representatives are putting a face on the department by acting as liaisons between citizens and Code.

The City recently decentralized and reorganized its Code Compliance districts so that neighborhood representatives can respond more quickly to resident requests. The goal of these changes is to allow Code employees to get to know a specific area: the people and businesses, the compliant properties and the troubled areas.

Steven Williams is interim manager for the South Central Division, which includes part of District 4. Substandard housing is his primary concern.

“That’s huge in the South Central Division,” he says. “The City Manager’s office has asked the City Attorney’s office to bring that issue to the forefront. What they’re doing is to have a municipal court that is in place to do just that. They’re asking for 30 substandard cases per month from each district to put on the docket.”

Phyllis Sparks-Goode is manager of the Southeast Division, which covers the eastern part of District 4. Like Mr. Williams, she sees substandard housing as a primary concern.

“Most of the houses were built in the 1940s and are starting to show signs of wear,” she says. “Also, there’s a problem with open and vacant houses that are abandoned or have probate issues because they often invite criminal elements trespassing on the properties.”

One of her favorite success stories is last year’s weeklong Joppa Jubilee Clean-up.

“We dedicated a staff for a whole week and went to an area that consists of 17 streets and cleaned up the whole area,” she says. “We assisted property owners in cleaning up their backyards and we painted structures. We had over 15 tons of debris removed. We’re really proud of that project.”

The department is taking a holistic approach, working together with other City departments including Police, Streets, Sanitation and Building Inspection. This is crucial, as noncompliant properties frequently have other problems outside the scope of Code, such as crime, structural failure or street damage. Managers and neighborhood representatives are making a habit of attending meetings of crime-watch groups and homeowners associations.

“At crime-watch and homeowners association meetings, we try and provide information as to the types of violations that do occur in the area and how to resolve or remedy them,” Ms. Sparks-Goode says.

The department also sees a need for a more citizen-friendly approach, with an emphasis on education and the occasional helping hand. Because homeowners and business owners often do not know every ordinance that applies to their properties, a neighborhood representative will inform a noncompliant citizen of a violation, offer solutions and, if necessary, suggest resources he or she can call for help.

Mr. Williams believes interaction with citizens can be more helpful than writing citations.

“Our mandate is to take a friendlier approach as it relates to Code,” he says. “We’re asking the officers to just knock on

The new neighborhood representatives are putting a face on the department by acting as liaisons between citizens and Code.

the door of a home where they see that the grass is a little tall. When they do that, they may discover that the homeowner’s been ill, or something of that nature. Now, as opposed to writing a citation, we’re going to use other resources to bring them into compliance.”

It’s been a year since the City of Dallas launched www.GreenDallas.net as part of its commitment to environmental responsibility. This comprehensive site is dedicated solely to environmental issues.

Dallas is well on its way to becoming one of the greenest cities in the nation. But such an effort requires the involvement of government and residents alike in District 4.

Here are five simple ways to build a greener Dallas:

1. RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE

Dallas offers single-stream recycling — that means no sorting. It all goes in the same Big Blue container. If you don’t have yours already, then call 311 and order your recycle roll-cart today.

2. GREEN YOUR GROCERIES

Have you noticed the latest fashion accessory? It’s the reusable bag. Next time you’re asked “Paper or plastic?” just say “Neither.” Many stores now offer their own cloth reusable bags.

3. SAVE A TREE

By paying your bills online, you’ll not only save a tree, but also

time and postage. Of course, you can always make the world a little greener by planting a tree.

4. MAKE EVERY DROP COUNT

Although 70 percent of Earth’s surface is covered in water, we need to conserve all that we can. Run your dishwasher and washing machine only when you’ve got a full load; water your lawn in the evening (less water will evaporate); take shorter showers; and turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth.

5. CLEAN THE AIR BY GREENING YOUR RIDE

Did you know you can help clean the air by doing routine maintenance on your vehicle? Inflate your tires — you’ll get better gas mileage and spew fewer emissions from your tailpipe. Fuel up in the evening — the gas fumes won’t bake in the Texas sun all day and cause smog/ozone. Consider carpooling, riding DART, biking to work or telecommuting.

District 4 looks



Community champions

The Lone Ranger had Tonto. Batman had Robin. But who can help you fight chronic crime and complex code cases?

Contact a Community Prosecutor. They work in partnership with residents, law enforcement and Code Compliance staff to develop long-term, community-based solutions to quality-of-life issues such as code and noise violations, prostitution, alcohol offenses and transient crimes. In addition to three national awards from the Department of Justice, the Community Prosecution program continues to be recognized for its ability to use creative and applicable

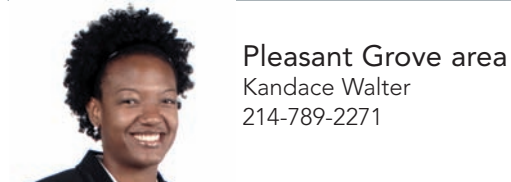
strategies to gain voluntary compliance with code violators, and its use of neighborhood partnerships to enact positive change in the community. Last year, the Community Prosecution team worked approximately 660 active egregious code cases, to gain compliance.

Community Prosecutors:

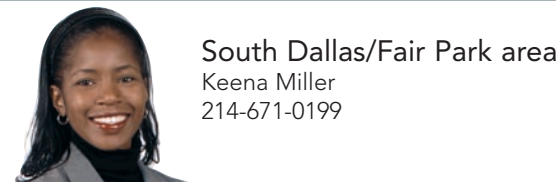
- Listen to community members’ public safety concerns and take those concerns to the courthouse;
- Participate in neighborhood meetings that address crime and quality of life issues;
- Serve as a prosecutorial resource to law enforcement, City departments and community members; and
- Develop and implement innovative strategies to educate the public about the criminal justice system and to prevent crimes.

How can community members get involved with problem-solving efforts? Each targeted neighborhood has an A.C.T.I.O.N. team (for “All Coming Together In Our Neighborhood”) that meets once a month. Contact a Community Prosecutor to learn about A.C.T.I.O.N. meeting times and locations.

District 4 Community Prosecutors



Pleasant Grove area
Kandace Walter
214-789-2271



South Dallas/Fair Park area
Keena Miller
214-671-0199