

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 24, 2015

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life & Environment Committee: Dwaine R. Caraway (Chair)  
Sandy Greyson (Vice Chair), Adam Medrano, Rick Callahan, Carolyn R. Davis, Lee M. Kleinman

SUBJECT Illegal Dumping & Litter Enforcement

On Monday, April 27, 2015, the Quality of Life & Environment committee will be briefed on Illegal Dumping & Litter Enforcement. The briefing is attached for your review.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joey Zapata".

Joey Zapata  
Assistant City Manager

## Attachment

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager  
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary  
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge  
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager

Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer  
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer  
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council



City of Dallas

# Illegal Dumping & Litter Enforcement

Quality of Life & Environment  
Committee

April 27, 2015



# Purpose

- Provide an overview of illegal dumping and enforcement
- Identify internal and external partners and their roles in combatting illegal dumping
- Discuss current challenges
- Provide next steps to addressing illegal dumping

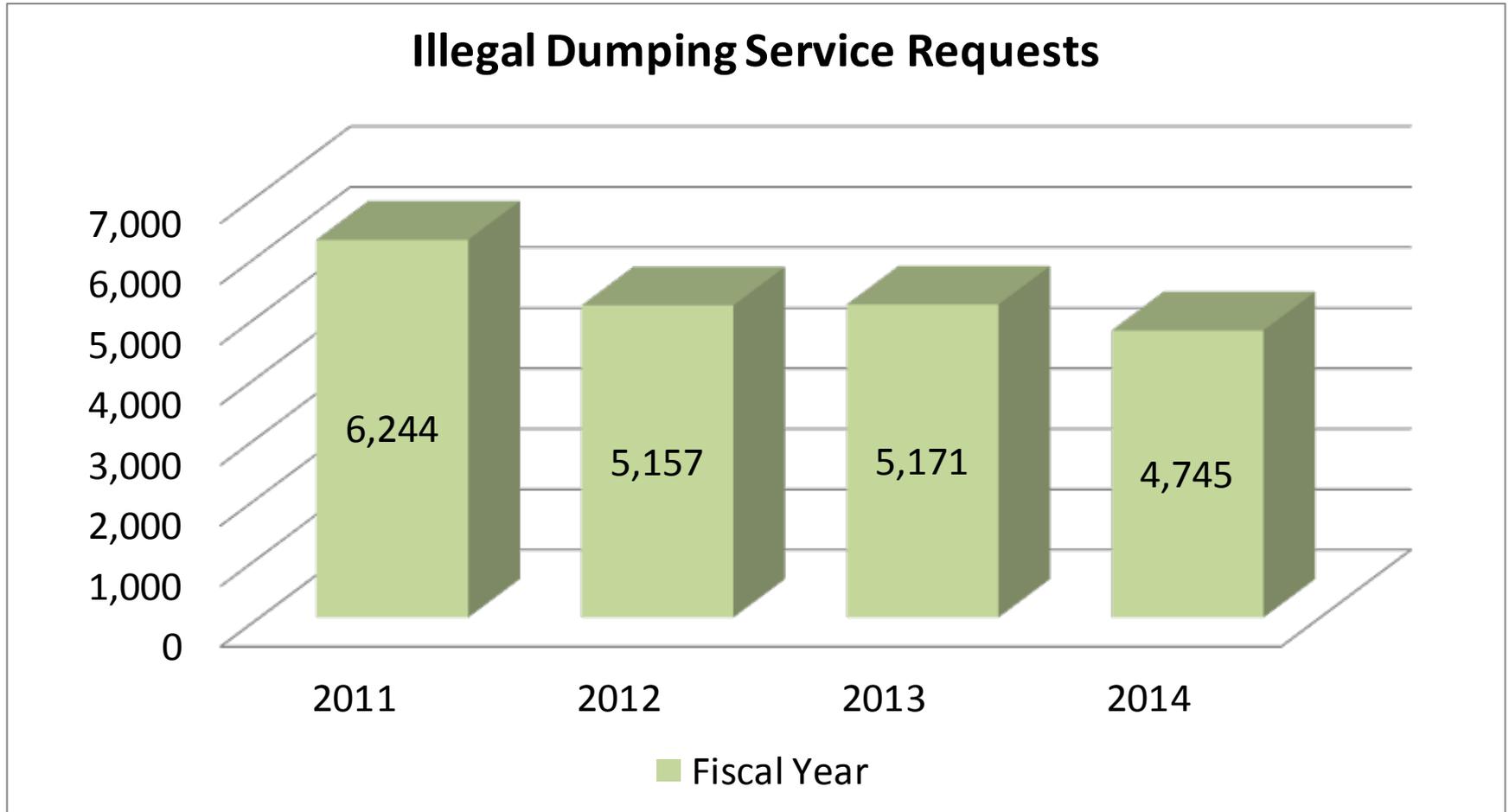
# What is Illegal Dumping?

- (a) A person commits an offense if the person disposes or allows or permits the disposal of litter or other solid waste at a place that is not an approved solid waste site, including a place on or within 300 feet of a public highway, on a right-of-way, on other public or private property, or into inland or coastal water of the state.
- (b) A person commits an offense if the person receives litter or other solid waste for disposal at a place that is not an approved solid waste site, regardless of whether the litter or other solid waste or the land on which the litter or other solid waste is disposed is owned or controlled by the person.
- (c) A person commits an offense if the person transports litter or other solid waste to a place that is not an approved solid waste site for disposal at the site.

# Penalties

<b>Penalties under the Texas Litter Abatement Act /Health &amp; Safety Code, Chapter 365 – Illegal Dumping</b>		
<b>Class C Misdemeanor</b>	<b>5 lbs. or less, or a volume of 5 gallons or less</b>	<b>Fine up to \$500</b>
<b>Class B Misdemeanor</b>	<b>More than 5 lbs. but less than 500 lbs., or a volume of more than 5 gallons but less than 100 cubic feet</b>	<b>Fine up to \$2000 and/or 180 Days in Jail</b>
<b>Class A Misdemeanor</b>	<b>500 lbs. or more, but less than 1000 lbs., or a volume of 100 cubic feet or more, but less than 200 cubic feet</b>	<b>Fine up to \$4,000 and/or Up to 1 year in jail</b>
<b>State Jail Felony</b>	<b>1000 lbs. or more, has a volume of 200 cu. feet or more;  or  Dumping for economic purposes and weighing 200 lbs. or more, has a volume of 200 cubic feet or more;  or  Dumping a closed barrel or drum</b>	<b>Fine up to \$10,000 and/or 180 days to 2 years in jail</b>

# Illegal Dumping Service Request Trend



# Internal/External Partners

## **Code Compliance Services**

- Inspect, initiate illegal dumping case, weigh, transport and dispose of material

## **Dallas Marshal's Office**

- Conduct criminal investigations of illegal dumping and arrest violators
- Monitor chronic dumpsites, file criminal cases, and patrol the Trinity River Corridor

## **Dallas Police Department**

- Respond to dumping in progress calls (911 calls)

## **Dallas Fire-Rescue**

- Respond to Hazmat issues

## **Trinity Watershed Management**

- Conduct hazardous waste sample collections

## **Environmental Protection Agency/Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**

- Refer cases to Marshal's Office for criminal investigation

## **Citizens**

- Report issues

# Recent Arrests

## Commercial Tire Dumping

On October 24, 2014, a Deputy Marshal patrolling the 2300 block of Gooch St. personally observed three suspects dumping more than 200 tires onto a vacant lot

All three suspects were arrested and charged with commercial illegal dumping. The tires were generated from a tire shop in Terrell, Texas. The suspects stated that they went to the McCommas Landfill, but decided the price of disposal was too high



# Recent Arrests

## Illegal Dumping at City Facility

On March 22, 2015 around 4 P.M., Deputy Marshals assigned to the Environmental Crimes Unit observed a suspect dumping into the recycling bin at 3800 Bronze Way

The suspect stated that he dumped at this location as the McCommas Landfill and the Southwest Transfer Station are closed on Sunday



# Recent Arrests

## Commercial dumping captured on camera

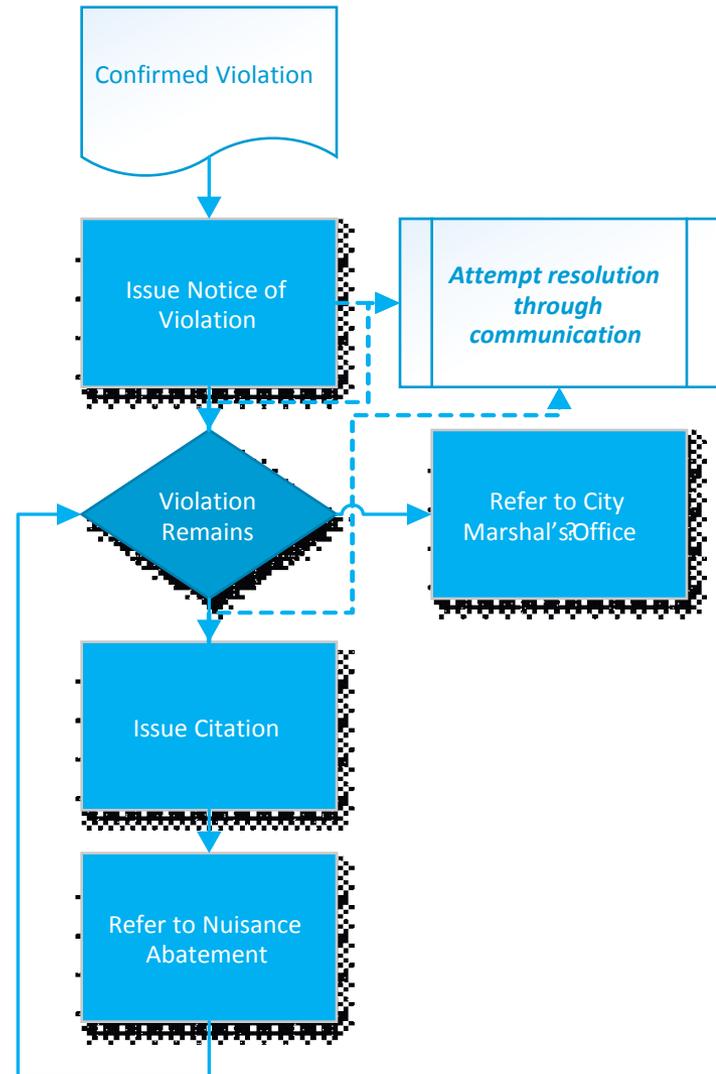
On April 10, 2015, a suspect vehicle was photographed driving off the roadway at 4500 Kolloch Street. Subsequent photograph shows the load dumped on the roadside

The suspect was later identified by a Marshal's Office Investigator and the investigation revealed that the suspect was paid \$16.00 by a business to properly dispose of the debris. The suspect was later arrested on a felony warrant for commercial illegal dumping and the bond was set at \$15,000



# Steps to Obtain Compliance

- Community Code - typical steps to obtain compliance:
  - Gather traceable evidence
  - Issue Notice of Violation
  - Re-inspect and if not abated issue Citation
  - Refer to Nuisance Abatement for removal
  - Refer to City Marshal's Office for further criminal action



# Enforcement Update

- Currently utilizing existing Code Compliance staff in each district
  - Inspectors
  - Supervisors
  - Neighborhood Code Representatives
- City Marshal's Office has 13 officers dedicated to combat illegal dumping
  - 2 sergeants
  - 11 deputies

# Current Tools

## Signs

125 signs currently in place citywide

## Next Steps

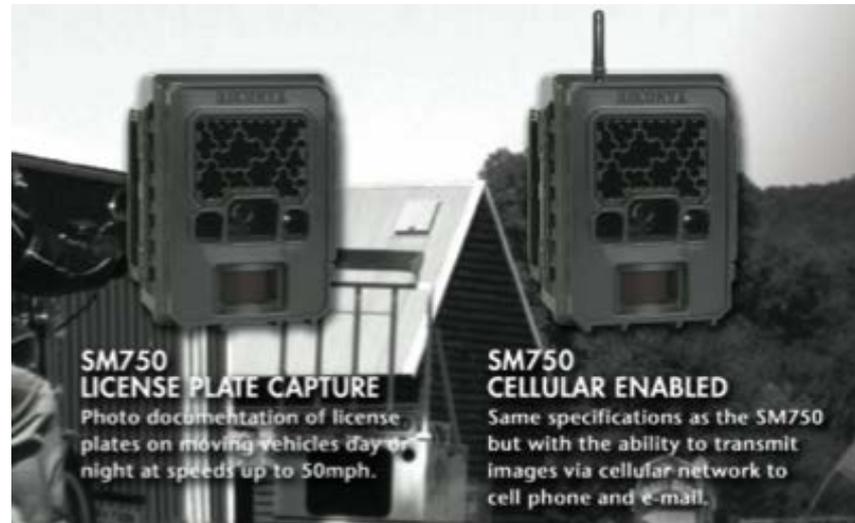
Continue to place illegal dump signs in hot spot locations



# Current Tools

## Cameras

Two recently purchased and installed cameras are in use



## Next Steps

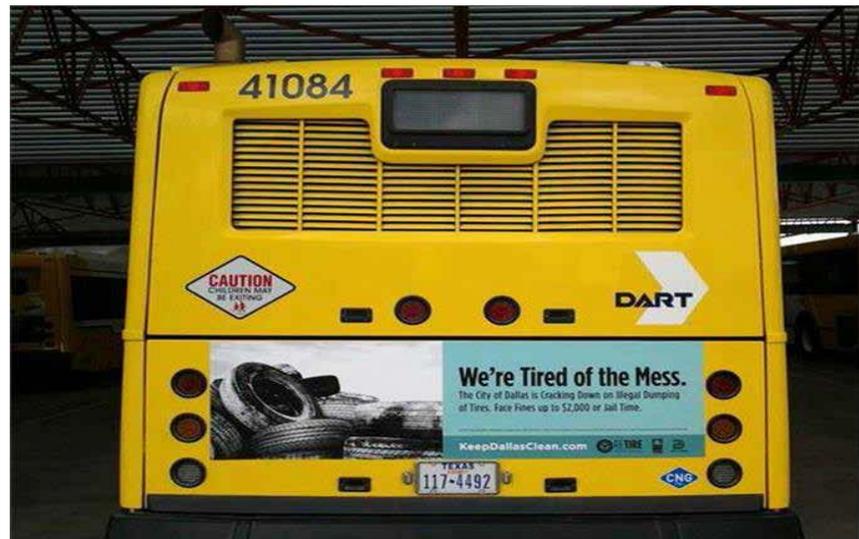
Budget enhancement bid requested to purchase 19 additional high technology cameras



# Current Tools

## Public Awareness Campaign

- Code Compliance Services was awarded a grant in 2014 for \$125,000 from the North Central Texas Council of Governments to facilitate public awareness and educational opportunities to reduce illegal dumping of scrap tires
  - Initiated a Stop Illegal Dumping public awareness campaign, “Re-Tire”
  - Focus on educating the public of properly disposing of scrap tires and penalties associated with illegally dumping scrap tires
- Re – Tire project highlights
  - 25 DART bus wraps
  - 25 displays on DART trains
  - Creation of Re-Tire activity book
  - Community outreach projects
    - Dallas Horse Park grand opening
    - Cedar Crest Bridge opening
    - Earth Day Texas
    - Brookhaven College Earth Day Festival
    - Scrap Tire Clean - up



# Next Steps

- Continue implementing innovative technology and focus efforts to increase identification and arrest of offenders
- Increase awareness of illegal dumping and the impact by partnering with the media and using social media
- Enhance community outreach, education and seek assistance in reporting and photographing dumping offenses