

Greetings!

Dallas is growing and so is District 8.

As we begin this new year, we have many positive things to be thankful for in District 8: our driving economic forces — the Inland Port and Dallas Executive Airport; two colleges — the University of North Texas at Dallas and Paul Quinn College; new police and fire stations; redevelopment projects and ample land awaiting future development. Still, District 8 has its challenges. Often, these challenges are interconnected. A lack of jobs means lower neighborhood income, which limits the type of available housing, and schools often don't have the neighborhood resource base to support enrichment activities.

Despite these challenges, there is good news. The solutions are right in our backyards. For instance, the University of North Texas at Dallas is now offering degrees in Logistics and Supply Chain Management. These degrees can be put to work right here in District 8 in one of the many logistics jobs through the Inland Port. Who better to work here than those who already live here? University and community leaders want to ensure that area residents have learning opportunities to better qualify them for those jobs. Starting salaries of logistics professionals are believed to be more than \$48,000.

I am happy to say that our residents are working together to take back our neighborhoods. We had a very successful National Night Out this past fall. Neighbors met neighbors; residents met their police beat officers and were able to put names with faces; most important, a sense of community could be felt. It's that sense of a strong community that is essential to the quality of life we all want to enjoy.

It's an honor to represent you and to work for what's important: greater economic development, safer and cleaner neighborhoods, more affordable housing, new retail opportunities and vibrant schools — all of which are vital to building a sense of community.

**Best regards,
Tennell Atkins
District 8**

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 8 Community Prosecutors

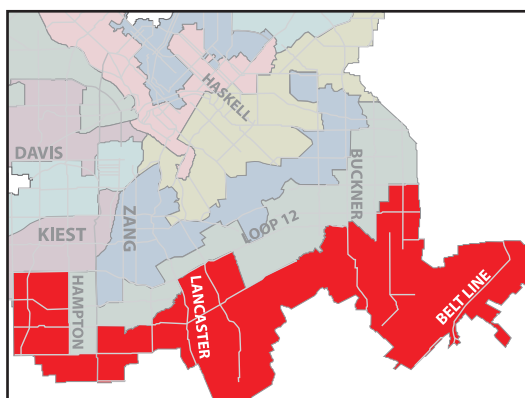


Pleasant Grove area
Kandace Walter
214-789-2271



South Oak Cliff area
Mitzi Willis
214-671-4585

DISTRICT 8



Libraries:

- Highland Hills, 3624 Simpson Stewart Road
214-670-0987
- Kleberg-Rylie, 1301 Edd Road
214-670-8471

Recreation Centers:

- Fireside, 8601 Fireside Drive
214-670-0959
- Kleberg-Rylie, 1515 Edd Road
214-670-8648
- Singing Hills, 1909 Crouch Road
214-670-7550
- Tommie M. Allen, 7071 Bonnieview Road
214-670-0986

Police Divisions:

- South Central: Sgt. Melissa Gregg
214-671-4532
- Southeast: Sgt. Sheila Zimmerman
214-671-0147
- Southwest: Sgt. Sharise Hadnot
214-670-6792

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 8, each household participating in the program is recycling an average of 6 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 8

District 8 South Central Division



Division Manager
Steven Williams
469-441-5900

Neighborhood Code Representatives
Opal White • 214-994-0566
Sherri Steele • 214-693-0888

District 8 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

District 8 Southwest Division



Division Manager
Paul Ramon
214-415-8969

Neighborhood Code Representatives
Travella King • 972-998-4608
Janet Huerta • 214-597-0704
Harry Christle • 214-864-6995

“We’re problem solvers. We love knowing that we’ve helped people.”
— Opal White, South Central 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.

Phyllis Sparks-Goode is manager of the Southeast Division, which covers the eastern part of District 8, and Steven Williams is the interim manager for the South Central Division, which includes most of the western part of District 8. Both consider standard housing a primary concern.

“The City Manager's office asked the City Attorney's office to bring that issue to the forefront,” Mr. Williams says. “What they're doing is to have a municipal court that is in place to do just that. They're asking for 30 standard cases per month from each district to put on the docket.”

The department is taking a holistic approach, working together with other City departments, including the Police, Streets, Sanitation and Building Inspection departments. This is crucial, as noncompliant properties frequently have other problems outside the scope of the department, 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.

Code 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 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.”

This common-sense approach is not only more citizen-focused, but will also help resolve problems in a way that citations will not, says Southwest Division manager Paul Ramon, whose area includes the western tip of District 8.

“If someone is elderly, disabled, has money issues and can't resolve the problems, our Code reps step in and try to find resources to help them alleviate the problems without taking compliance action against them,” Mr. Ramon says. “Because really, you're not helping the situation [by fining them], you're just creating another burden.”

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

“It's bringing to light some of the things we seem to have forgotten,” he adds. “We need to be able to go out and help each other. Not just enforce, but try to provide solutions.”

District 8 looks



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 8. 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.