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The Heat Is On ~ District 4

Riverside County Code Enforcement Officers in the East County Regional Office were feeling hot, hot, hot this past month. The substandard structure pictured right, located in the unincorporated area of Thermal was abated by the County of Riverside due to extensive fire damage. Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) F. Mendez conducted the initial inspection and found the unit was in need of repair. He posted the dwelling substandard and provided mailed Notices of Violation and Notices of Defects to all of the interested parties. The notices directed the property owner and/or interested parties to obtain the required building permit from Riverside County Building & Safety to rehabilitate or demolish the structure. Initial conversations with the property owner indicated they would demolish the structure. However, as time passed, it was evident that compliance was not being met. Initial measures by the property owner to keep the unit secured also waned. During follow-up inspections, staff found the perimeter fence was knocked down and plywood boards were removed from a door and window allowing access into the unit. Staff processed the case for a Public Nuisance Abatement Hearing before an Administrative Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer ruled in favor of the County of Riverside and issued a Notice of Decision (NOD), which included Findings of Fact, Conclusions and an Order to Abate Public Nuisance to all of the interested parties. The NOD is a ninety day order to comply. CEO B. Hannah submitted a purchase order for a job walk and through that process, an approved contractor was awarded the abatement. With a seizure warrant in hand, the Code Enforcement Dept. made entry onto the property and supervised as the contractor demolished the substandard structure in 110 degree weather. The abatement action brought the case to a successful resolution. Hot stuff!



The Posting

Code Enforcement Newsletter

A Simple Thank You ~ Department

The Code Enforcement Department is honored to have received the proclamation that the County of Riverside's Board of Supervisors bestowed upon us on October 2, 2018. Staff are very grateful for their thoughtfulness, which recognizes the code enforcement profession by annually designating the second week in October as Code Enforcement Officer Appreciation Week. The proclamation coincides with California Assembly Resolution # 283 that was



recently passed by state legislature. Code Enforcement has unique, challenging and demanding roles that are not often recognized. The Code Enforcement Dept. thanks you for your support.

Hanker For A Hunk O' ~ District 1

The County of Riverside Code Enforcement Department conducted a random “after hours” patrol for illegal roadside vending along Cajalco Road in the unincorporated community of Mead Valley. The Department’s efforts were found to be successful. Multiple vendors were discovered selling their cuisine along the roadside. The pictures used in this article are knowingly dark. The lighting in both photos that is focused on the violators is actually coming from the Code Enforcement vehicle. The essence captured in pictures, in addition to illegally selling food, is that it is extremely dangerous to the public when illegal vendors set-up shop along the unlit roadside at night. For those of you who are unfamiliar with Cajalco Road, the road can be described as a two-lane rural road. As with most rural roads, they usually do not have street lights or much of a shoulder on either side or a center median for turning which can lead to traffic stopping unexpectedly. Illegal roadside vending compounds traffic problems, whether day or night and creates unnecessary road hazards. So when your ten gallon hat is feeling five gallons flat, just drive a little a further to a lawful food establishment. There you know the food is safely prepared, taxes are paid (roads can be maintained or improved, as needed) and you can safely ingress into and egress out of an approved parking lot that is designed for the appropriate volume of traffic. Be part of the solution when you need something to eat by taking your business to legal establishments that are safe for all!



Three Is A Magic Number ~ District 2



Three days ONLY, that’s it! I can see the wild pitch man named Fred standing over me, spiraling around and around and around. He is speaking really fast about three, three, three. Is he insane, on drugs or is he trying to tell me something? I wake in a startle. Was it a bad dream or am I having flashbacks of a weekend blowout special at a now defunct home electronics superstore? As I regain focus, staring at the monitor in front of me, hands draped across the keyboard, I see the true meaning of “Three.” Reality sets back in. Ah, the message. Three days or the equivalent of 72 hours is the amount of time a vehicle may be parked on a County of Riverside maintained road. Staff successfully addressed a 72 hr. parking complaint in the unincorporated area of Home Gardens.

Elementary, My Dear Watson ~ District 5

Riverside County Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) L. Diaz expedited her investigation into an allegation of accumulated rubbish that could be dangerous to children. The debris was reported to be near an elementary school located in the unincorporated area of Desert Hot Springs. CEO Diaz verified the rubbish was located on a vacant parcel, roughly 500 yards from the school. But here is the where the mystery begins. There was debris scattered about; tires here, cardboard over there. However, some items, a discarded patio umbrella, a wrecked canopy and dead tree branches inserted into the ground in two rows, parallel to one another was encircled by native rocks. Curious. Was this the work of some homeless person trying to erect a shelter, but who later abandoned their plans? Or a shadowy secret group’s nefarious meeting location for all things weird... or simply, kids trying to build a clubhouse like Spanky and his gang? Hmm, only Sherlock Holmes using the science of deduction would be able to solve this mystery from the evidence provided. None of that really mattered to Code Enforcement. We see a violation and aim to fix it. CEO Diaz went about here task to get the area abated as quickly as possible. Notices of Violations were posted and then mailed to the property owners. The notices went unanswered. Staff then worked to have an approved contractor abate the violation. Elementary.



On My Honor, To Do My Duty ~ Tire Grant



Riverside County Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) R. Diaz is not leading the Boy Scout Oath, but instead, is asking students at a local elementary school to join him in a pledge to be “future good neighbors.” Outreach, education and participating in the community are examples of the different ways in which Code Enforcement is dedicated to making positive changes in your communities. CEO Diaz is a role model and utilizes opportunities such as this to share this message and encourage community participation. Outreach, education and community participation are integral to safeguarding neighborhoods and minimizing blight and vandalism.

Conjunction Junction ~ District 2

County of Riverside Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) J. Morris and CEO trainee J. Oh investigated allegations of an occupied motor home, wrecked / abandoned vehicle and accumulated rubbish in the unincorporated community of Highgrove. Come to find out, the reporting party did not provide accurate location information. However, our officers are accustomed to deciphering misinformation and sorting through wrong addresses and/or directions to find reported locations and violations. This scenario made for a perfect opportunity to put CEO Oh’s skills to the test. Working with Field Training CEO Morris, he located the violations in question. Research revealed that the motor home and dismantled vehicle were actually located on railroad property. Officers often have to connect things together. In this instance, staff connected the report of violation with the proper authority. Railroads have their own laws and enforcement, especially when it comes to rail safety. Southern Pacific took action without haste and the violations were removed almost immediately. Officer Oh demonstrated good problem solving skills by hooking up things and making ‘em run right. Public service is our function!

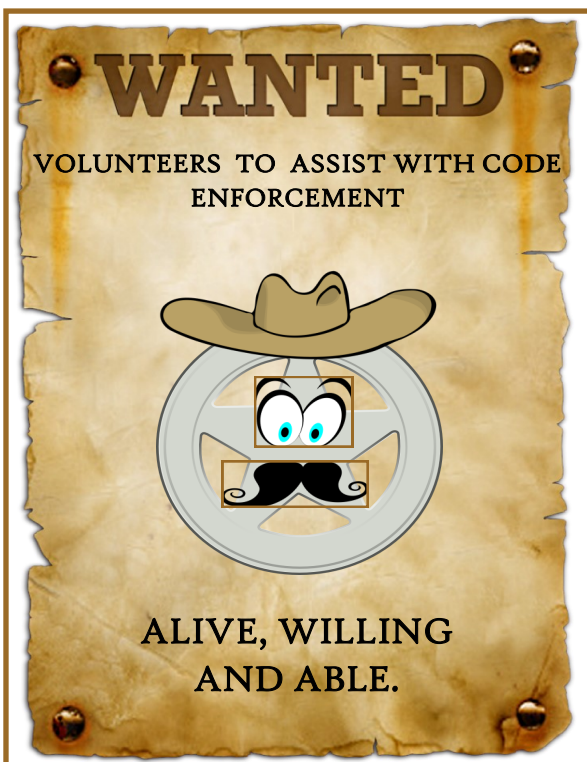


Now Accepting Applications ~ Administration

The County of Riverside Code Enforcement Department is accepting applications for its volunteer program. Qualified applicants will go through an interview process to determine the best suited candidates. The screening process includes, but is not limited to, a background investigation, a physical and drug testing. Volunteers may be assigned to Administration for support or to a regional field office to assist Code Enforcement personnel. The volunteer may perform limited Code Enforcement functions. Duties may include:

- ◆ Clerical or administrative duties.
- ◆ Identify and report locations of graffiti.
- ◆ Identify and report locations of illegal dumping.
- ◆ Identify and maintain a log regarding excessive yard sales.
- ◆ Investigate abandoned / distressed residential properties
- ◆ Receive and process complaints.
- ◆ Assist field staff with inspections and/or roadside vending.

Apply online at www.rctlma.org/ce





Everyday People ~ District 3

Riverside County, District 3 Board of Supervisor Chuck Washington, his staff, Code Enforcement, Waste Resources and the Economic Development Agency, as well as representatives from a fortune 500 corporation, a faith based group and other assorted volunteers came together on Oct. 6, 2018 for a common goal in the unincorporated community of Valle Vista. The goal was to go above and beyond the typical annual community cleanup. Instead of setting out dumpsters and having the residents drive their unwanted items to a drop-off, the County of Riverside coordinated with the Waste Management Inc. (WMI) and Valle Vista Assembly of God (VVAG) to tackle a couple of severely blighted areas. There was, in fact, a standard drop-off location for everyone in the immediate area to participate. In addition, WMI strategically placed a couple of roll-off containers so volunteers and staff could dispose of items that would otherwise not have been picked up. VVAG volunteers, community volunteers and County staff provided the muscle and spirit to get down and dirty. The target areas were on B, D & E Streets as well as the north and south alleys of Marine Drive. And so on and so on and scooby dooby doo. We're everyday people.



My Hero, Zero ~ District 3

Yeah zero, it's a wonderful thing. Especially when it comes to a follow-up inspection and the excessive outside storage that you previously identified, was reduced to zero, nil, nada upon your return. Oh how I love those scenarios when you know you've done your job well and it makes you feel all warm and fuzzy inside! County of Riverside Sr. Code Enforcement Officer B. Bealer was singing this tune when he returned for the re-inspection of a property in the unincorporated community of French Valley and found voluntary compliance had been met. The property owner heeded his advice and responded appropriately to the Notice of Violation by removing all of the excessive outside storage before the compliance date. The amount of outside storage allowed was determined to be zero based on the zoning and lot size of the parcel. What's so wonderful about zero you ask? Nothing, really!



“Making your community cleaner, one property at a time!” - Cody the Badge

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Please call if you need to schedule an appointment with an officer.

The County of Riverside Code Enforcement provides services to unincorporated communities. To verify which district your community is a part of, please visit our website: www.rctlma.org/ce



Cody the Badge