

Greetings!

Like you, I am proud to live in one of the oldest, most significant areas of Dallas. The character of our community is evident not only in the historic homes and beautiful trees, but most of all in the people.

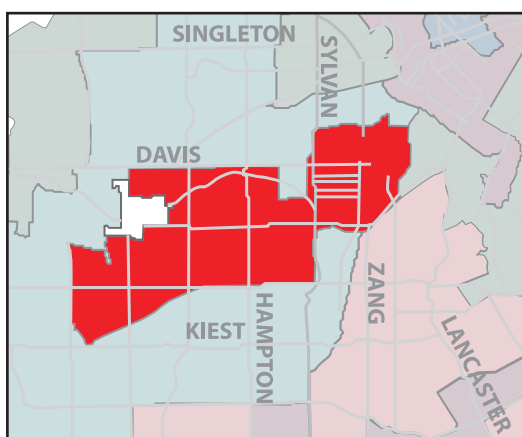
Though Oak Cliff's past is important, our future is just as exciting. The Trinity River Corridor Project could rewrite our history. And the transformation is already taking place. Wetlands have been constructed and design experts have been engaged to develop lakes, parks, athletic fields and more. But most important, the project addresses crucial flood-control issues that will protect District 1 and the entire city. The Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge is under construction and the Trinity River Audubon Center is open.

Crime is down in District 1, thanks to several key initiatives including a random gunfire pilot program, surveillance cameras on Jefferson Boulevard and a bait-car program. I am also proud of the success of several projects that continue to improve our quality of life: the new animal ordinance; garage sale ordinance; once-a-week residential recycling pilot program; Pride in Your Neighborhood Program in Beverly Hills; park upgrades at Lake Cliff, Kidd Springs and Oak Cliff Founders parks; and the work of our Illegal Dump Team, just to name a few.

It's truly an exciting time to live in District 1 and I encourage you to keep working together as a community. You are the eyes and ears of our community — so call 311 to report litter, high weeds and graffiti or to access City services. Help to make sure crime keeps going down — join your neighborhood crime-watch group or start a neighborhood association. Together we can make District 1 even better.

**Saludos. Best regards,
Dr. Elba Garcia
Mayor Pro Tem
District 1**

DISTRICT 1



Library:

North Oak Cliff, 302 W. 10th St.
214-670-7555

Recreation Centers:

Kidd Springs, 711 W. Canty St.
214-670-7535

Martin Weiss, 1111 Martindell Ave.
214-670-1919

Police Divisions:

Southwest: Sgt. Sharise Hadnot
214-670-6792

South Central: Sgt. Melissa Gregg
214-671-4532



Mission: possible

Code department focuses on relationships, solutions in District 1

District 1 South Central Division



Division Manager
Steven Williams
469-441-5900

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

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

District 1 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

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.

Paul Ramon is manager for the Southwest Division, which oversees the southern section of District 1. He believes the new approach and increased staffing will help the City more effectively address code issues.

“The way we’re going to be effective now as a new department is really the staffing,” Mr. Ramon says. “The reorganization means there’s a smaller area for each officer to cover. A smaller area for an officer to cover means that officer will be more effective and more visible in the field.”

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.

“We’ve built a lot of good partnerships with our Code reps, and have been pretty successful in our area,” Mr. Ramon says. “There are a lot more challenges ahead of us, but it will get better.”

He compared the new approach to extinguishing a fire, pointing out that enforcing code without addressing other issues is like sending a single firefighter to battle the flames.

“If you send one firefighter to a house on fire, you may succeed,” he adds. “But if you send a brigade, which Code did with the Streets and Sanitation departments as well as police, you’re really more effective.”

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.

“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.

This common-sense approach is not only more citizen-focused, but will also help resolve problems in a way that citations will not, Mr. Ramon says.

“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.”

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

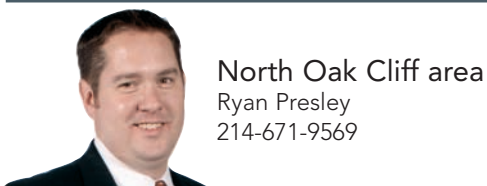
strategies to gain voluntary compliance with code violators, and its use of neighborhood partnerships to enact positive change in the community. Last year, the Community Prosecution team worked approximately 660 active egregious code cases, to gain compliance.

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 1 Community Prosecutors



North Oak Cliff area
Ryan Presley
214-671-9569



West Oak Cliff area
Whitney (Blake) Sanderlin
214-671-0281

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 1, each household participating in the program is recycling an average of 7 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.



Taking pride, making strides

Most residents want the same thing: a clean, safe neighborhood. But some lack the resources or the know-how to solve neighborhood problems.

That’s why the City recently introduced the Pride in Your Neighborhood program in seven communities — Arcadia Park, Arlington Park, Beverly Hills, Cedar Oaks, Dixon Circle, Fordham Road and Singing Hills.

A joint venture of Sanitation Services and the non-profit Keep Dallas Beautiful, the program is intended to provide residents tools to combat crime and blight.

Those tools could be as simple as shovels and rakes for collecting trash and debris, paint and brushes for covering graffiti, or training and education to form crime-watch programs, neighborhood advisory boards and community action plans.

Since the program began, pilot neighborhoods have sponsored clean-up events, beautification projects, leadership workshops and environmental programs for youths (as many as 50 high school students can earn up to \$200 for community service). To give the program a little more financial muscle, the City is even offering \$1,000 home-improvement incentives to approximately 34 to 40 homeowners per neighborhood (when matching funds are secured).

Ultimately, everyone wins. Safe, clean neighborhoods increase property values and improve the quality of life for every resident.