

Dear District 5 Constituents:

Once again, I am delighted to report to you about the activities and successes of the District during the past year. As a District, we continue to be on the move!

Clean, graffiti-free neighborhoods remains a top District priority. Our May 2008 "Trash Attack and Graffiti Wipeout" — like our earlier "Trash Attack" — brought together City employees and neighborhood volunteers to remove litter, debris and graffiti in neighborhoods around the Singing Hills and Pleasant Oaks recreation centers. The high level of community participation in this initiative highlights the pride that District 5 residents take in our neighborhoods.

In August 2008, more than 2,500 residents participated in our first annual "Grove Fest." Jointly sponsored by the City of Dallas, Pleasant Grove Mission Possible, Inc., Carnival Supermarket, Minyard Food Stores and Sack 'n Save, this awesome event highlighted Pleasant Grove businesses and City of Dallas services. Special thanks are due to Dr. Shirley King of Pleasant Grove Weed and Seed, Mr. Keith McKeague of Mission Possible, and Mr. Steven Williams and Ms. Glenda Aguirre of the City of Dallas for making this Pleasant Grove extravaganza truly "PLEASANT."

Additionally, in Pleasant Grove, Eastfield College broke ground on a new campus that will open in September 2009. This beautiful and technologically advanced facility will bring much-needed educational resources to an historically underserved segment of our District.

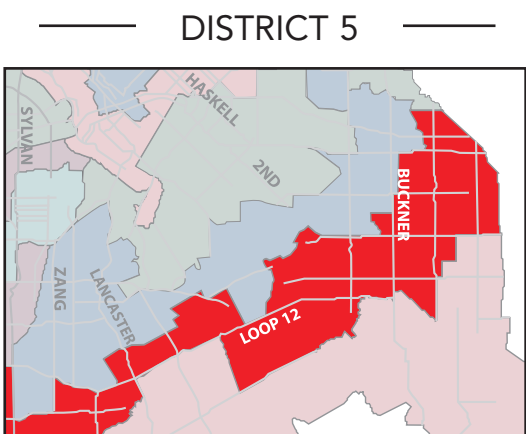
In the Oak Cliff sector of the District, we were able to provide the financial resources to purchase the building on Westmoreland that had been slated to open as an adult video store. Teaming District 5 finances and District 8 activism enabled us to prevent what could have become a blight on our area. Instead, the building is a City-owned facility that will house a Code Compliance office.

While I am proud to report our successes, I look forward to working with you, and for you, on our continuing challenges. These include:

- (1) High-quality retail development;
- (2) Enhanced code compliance; and
- (3) Continued crime reduction.

Please continue to partner with me as we work for the betterment of our District. I continue to believe that "together we can make a difference."

Grace and peace...
Vonciel Jones Hill, District 5



Libraries:
 Pleasant Grove, 1125 S. Buckner Blvd.
 214-670-0965
 Polk Wisdom, 7151 Library Lane
 214-670-1947

Recreation Centers:
 Cummings, 2976 Cummings St.
 214-670-6876
 Fruitdale, 4408 Vandervoort Drive
 214-670-7600

Janie C. Turner, 6424 Elam Road
 214-670-8277
 Pleasant Oaks, 8701 Greenmound Ave.
 214-670-0945
 Thurgood Marshall, 5150 Mark Trail Way
 214-670-1928

Police Divisions:
 Southeast: Sgt. Sheila Zimmerman
 214-671-6792
 South Central: Sgt. Melissa Gregg
 214-671-4532
 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 5, 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 5

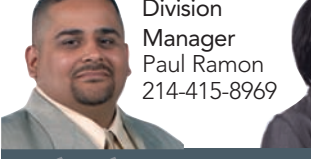

District 5 South Central Division

 Division Manager Steven Williams 469-441-5900	 Neighborhood Code Representatives Opal White • 214-994-0566 Sherri Steele • 214-693-0888
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District 5 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
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District 5 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
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“One of our big successes is attending career days at elementary schools to teach kids about Code Compliance and what we do.”
— Travella King, Southwest Division NCR

With a newly reorganized department and the addition of 20 neighborhood representatives, Dallas Code Compliance is getting tougher on code violations. This new focus does not mean, however, it is 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 may respond more quickly to residents' 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 5. 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 5. Like Mr. Williams, she sees substandard housing as a chief 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 Ms. Sparks-Goode's 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 team approach is crucial since noncompliant properties frequently have other problems outside the scope of Code, including crime, structural failure and 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. Frequently, homeowners and business owners 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.

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

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.”

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 5 Community Prosecutor



Pleasant Grove area
Kandace Walter
214-789-2271

“I am working with various community leaders and organizations to bring the pleasant back to the grove!”
— Kandace Walter



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 or paint and brushes for covering graffiti. Or they could be 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.