



Melinda Bolling  
Acting Director

# Community Partners Meeting



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Thursday  
December 6, 2018

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**Introducing  
DPIE Acting Director  
Melinda Bolling**

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# ***Sidewalk Snow and Ice Removal Inspection Program***



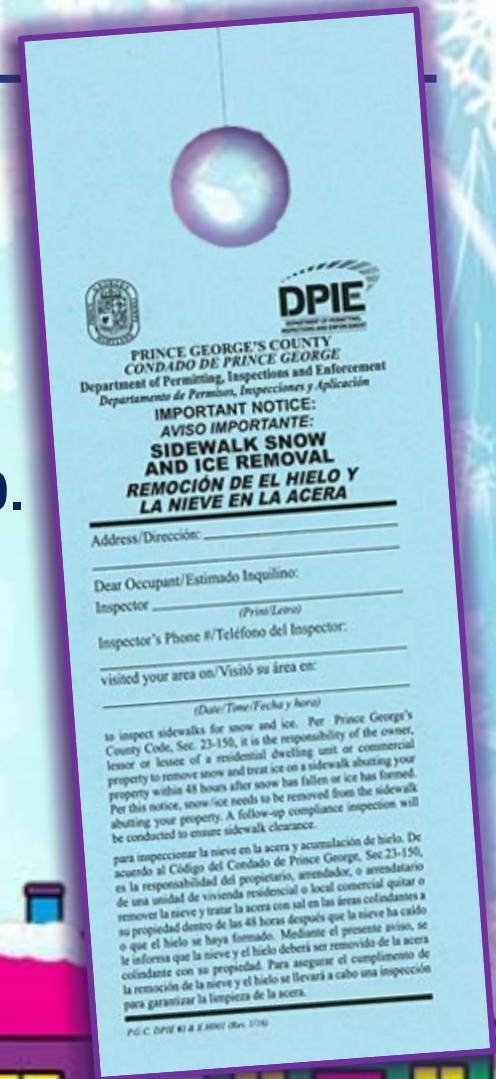
# Sidewalk Snow & Ice Removal Inspection Program

- I. **Purpose:** To ensure the removal of snow and ice from paved sidewalks along County maintained roads per requirements in Section 23-150 of the County Code's Road Ordinance.
- II. **Applicability:** Owners, tenants and managers of commercial and residential properties abutting paved sidewalks.
- III. **Requirement:** Remove accumulated snow and ice from paved sidewalks within 48 hours after snow has fallen or ice has accumulated as a result of inclement weather.



# Actions Taken

- **Notice of Violation:** Those not clearing the sidewalk abutting their properties within 24 hours will receive an “Important Notice” as a reminder.
- **Citation:** Those not clearing their sidewalks within 24 hours of being issued an “Important Notice” can be issued a citation for a fine of \$100.
  - After the issuance of the first notice, a **Fine of \$100 per day** will be assessed until the snow/ice is cleared.
  - If sidewalks are not cleared in a timely manner, the County can hire a contractor to do the work. **The contractor’s costs will be added to the fine.**



# Sidewalk Snow & Ice Removal Inspection Program

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- **Please be prepared:** If you are unable to clear your own sidewalks, **plan ahead** and have someone ready to assist with your snow removal needs.
- **Please be a good neighbor:** Making sure that sidewalks are cleared of snow and ice is an important safety consideration, especially for young children, students who walk to school, seniors and pedestrians who have ambulatory disabilities.



If you have questions, please call:

**301.883.6168**



# ***Nuisance Abatement Board***



# Neighborhood or Public Nuisance Examples

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- If there are **2 or more** occurrences of disorderly acts that disturb the public peace within a 1-year period on the same property, you are considered a Public Nuisance. Examples include:
  - Gatherings for which admission/entry fees, cover charges, ticket sales, food or beverage sales or adult entertainment charges (prostitution, human trafficking) result in personal profit to the homeowner or organizer





# Neighborhood or Public Nuisance Examples, *continued*

- Gatherings for the purpose of illegally administering, manufacturing or distributing a controlled dangerous substance or paraphernalia
- Illegal criminal gang activity
- Activities that endanger the health/life/safety of citizens
- Activities that obstruct the quiet enjoyment and reasonable use of property and are reported to police, the fire department or other County agencies with the authority to cite for non-compliance activity per the County Code



# Complaint Procedure

- Complaints can only be referred to the Nuisance Abatement Board from the local, state or County agency to which the nuisance was reported.
- This complaint filing procedure is dictated by the County bill that created the Nuisance Abatement Board.
- The Nuisance Abatement Board hears complaints referred by an agency that registered and investigated the allegations that activity in a dwelling generated a public nuisance.



# Hearings

- If the Board determines a public nuisance existed, a civil and monetary fine for each civil violation can be assessed:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Violation Cease Order
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Violation \$ 500
  - Subsequent Violations \$1,000
- The police department is authorized to issue a criminal citation in lieu of a civil citation.



- Parties aggrieved by a decision of the Board, with regard to the issuance of an order, may file an appeal with the Circuit Court for Prince George's County.



# Accomplishments

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- Maintained a consistent schedule for Board meetings.
- Processed 18 cases from January to November. Two cases were resubmitted for reoccurring issue.
- Collected \$1,100.00 in fines.
- Assisted 5 municipalities in resolving neighborhood and public nuisances (College Park (2), Mt. Rainier, Bladensburg, Morningside and Riverdale).
- Reviewed and approved hearing officers for the Administrative Hearing Unit.
- Appellate for Administrative Hearing Unit.
- One party appealed the Board's decision to Circuit Court. The decision was upheld.



# ***Administrative Hearing Process***



# Administrative Hearing Process

## Mission:

An efficient and effective process where violations of property standards are abated and enforced *faster!*



# Responsibilities

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- **Notify citizens of hearings.**
- **Adjudicate civil matters.**
- **Issue summonses, notices, default judgments for non-compliance, records of hearings and final dispositions.**



# County Code Violations

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- Sanitation: Open storage of trash, tall grass, unlicensed vehicles
  - Exterior flaking paint
  - Operating a business in a residential area
  - Gutters/downspouts in disrepair
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- Commercial vehicles on residential property
  - Operating a rental property without a rental license





# Complaint Procedure

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- Initial complaints should be reported to:



- Upon receiving a complaint, an inspector will investigate the matter and issue violation notices and/or citations to the property owner in order to seek compliance.
- Only citations go through the Administrative Hearing Process.
- A respondent can request a hearing before a hearing officer within 30 days of the issuance of the citation.



# Hearings

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- Hearings are held at the request of the respondent who was issued a citation.
- Hearings are held to provide the opportunity for the parties to present testimony and evidence.
- Upon completion of the hearing, the hearing officer reviews the evidence, determines the findings and issues a written decision within 5 days.



# Hearings, *continued*

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- If the hearing officer holds the respondent liable, a civil and monetary fine for each citation can be assessed; the respondent is ordered to abate the violation.
- Parties aggrieved by a decision of the hearing officer may request reconsideration by the hearing unit administrator.
- The decision by the hearing unit administrator can be appealed to the Nuisance Abatement Board.
- The Nuisance Abatement Board decision can be appealed to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County.



# Stats

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- **The Enforcement Division has issued 243 citations since August.**
- **46% of citations issued have been paid.**
- **For the processed citations, 23% requested hearings.**
- **100% of the hearings requested were held within 30 days.**
- **Additional inspectors will be issuing citations in January.**

# ***Enforcement in the Community***



# Enforcement in the Community

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**Do you need a helping hand  
with Code Enforcement in  
your community?**

**Get to know your area  
Code Enforcement Officers!  
Chances are, you can meet  
them at your next association  
meeting or public event.**





For information, contact DPIE  
PIO Avis Thomas-Lester  
(301) 636-2053  
[athomaslester@co.pg.md.us](mailto:athomaslester@co.pg.md.us)

**HAPPY**

*Holidays*