

For the Month of
April 2008



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Code Enforcement Activity Report

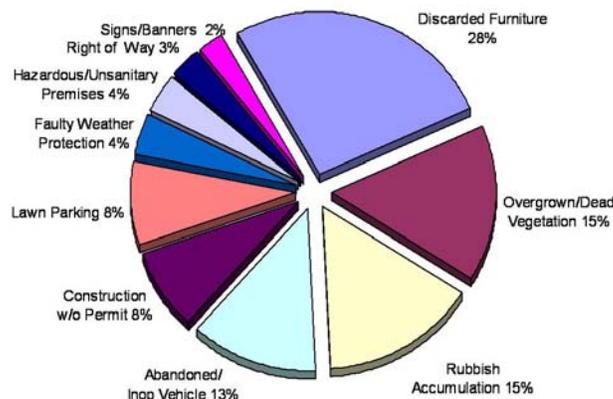
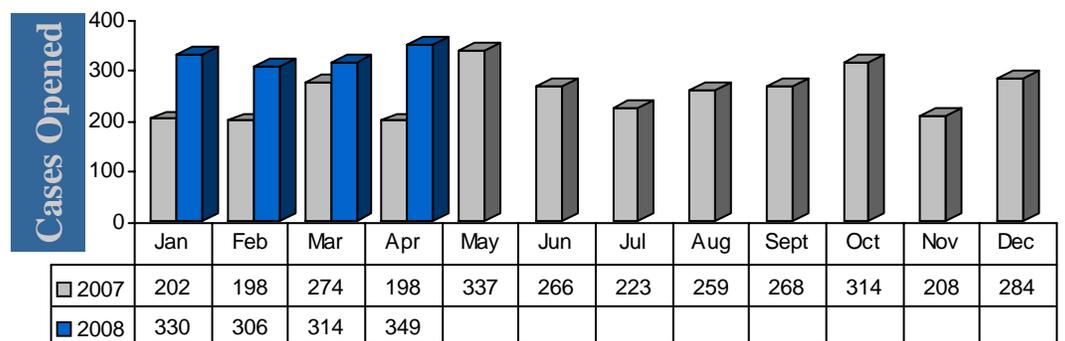
Overview of April Code Enforcement Activity

In April 2008, the Code Enforcement/ Neighborhood Preservation Division opened 351 new cases, conducted 704 inspections, and successfully resolved 393 cases.

Other achievements included:

- Received/returned over 930 phone calls
- Initiated 231 proactive cases
- Responded to 74% of all complaints in 1 day or less
- Inspected 79.5% of all complaints within 48 hours
- Averaged 1.88 days from initial call to first inspection
- Observed 362 violations and abated 352 violations
- Issued 61 notices of violation and 5 civil citations
- On average, gained compliance within 31.14 days from the date of the initial complaint
- Completed 36 on-site visits with property owners or responsible parties to educate them on code enforcement violations and resources available to bring their properties into compliance.
- Provided Code Enforcement information and educational materials at the Oak View Cinco De Mayo Festival

Twelve Month Code Enforcement Case History



- #### Top Ten Violations by Type
- Discarded Furniture 28%
 - Rubbish Accumulation 15%
 - Abandoned/Inop Vehicles 13%
 - Lawn Parking 8%
 - Overgrown/Dead Vegetation 15%
 - Obstructing PROW 3%
 - Signs/Banners 2%
 - Construction w/o Permit 8%
 - Faulty Weather Protection 4%
 - Hazardous/Unsanitary Property 4%



Code Enforcement

Maintaining Your Homes & Neighborhoods

Illegal Garage Conversions: A Dangerous Addition

Illegal garage conversions are a danger to those inhabiting them and the surrounding neighborhood. The recent tragedy of three children who died in a non-permitted garage conversion brought this issue to national attention. An illegal/non-permitted garage conversion occurs when a property owner alters or modifies their garage for living purposes without obtaining the proper approvals or permits from the City. When a garage is illegally converted into living quarters, serious health and safety issues are created. Improperly installed electrical wiring may cause fires, improper venting of water heaters may cause asphyxiation resulting in possible death, and plumbing installed not according to the Building

Code may lead to other health hazards. Other health and safety issues associated with illegal garage conversions may include not having the proper amount of emergency exits or windows, not having fire resistant construction materials, and insufficient fire prevention systems or smoke alarms. Illegal Garage conversions affect the quality of life in our neighborhood. Improper and illegal occupancy of a converted garage increases the demand for City services such as refuse collection. More vehicles taking up parking spaces increase the density of our neighborhoods and decrease the quality of life for all residents. A garage is meant to store your vehicles and personal items, and not to serve as

living quarters. An illegal garage conversion may cost someone his or her life, and this is why we take this code violation so seriously. Please be aware that legal action may be taken against any property owner who rents out an illegal dwelling, which results in harm or injury to its occupants. Due to the assistance of citizens reporting illegal garage conversions and Code Enforcement' code enforcement actions; there have been no major incidents in Huntington Beach. If you have any questions regarding this issue or would like to report an illegal garage conversion in your neighborhood, please call Code Enforcement office at (714) 375-5155.

To report a Code Violation:

- ✓ Call the Code Enforcement reporting line at:
714-375-5155
or email:
.jdemers@surfcity-hb.org
- ✓ State the nature of your complaint.
- ✓ Provide the address where the violation exists.
- ✓ Leave your first name and contact information. This is important, as it allows the officer to ask additional questions and provide you with updates if requested.

For the status of an existing complaint:

- ✓ Call the City's Automated Inspection Line at:
(714) 536-5241
and press "22".

Or

- ✓ Contact the Code Enforcement Officer assigned to your case.

It's Spring Cleaning Time!



Interior Property Maintenance

is the responsibility of every homeowner/tenant in Huntington Beach. Unsanitary conditions are a health and safety danger that not only affect those living in the property, but also those who live next to the violating

property. Emergency Response Personnel responding to a call for service at these properties are also placed in danger due to these conditions. With your assistance, your Code Enforcement will continue to keep Huntington Beach a healthy, safe, clean community.