



Code Enforcement

.01 Policy

The identification and correction of unsafe or unhealthy conditions is essential to a community's quality of life. The Police Department will work closely with other Town and County agencies to help ensure a safe environment.

.02 Terms

Stop Work Order: An order issued by a representative from the Town Code Enforcement Office or Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources which prohibits further work due to code violations.

Inspector: An employee of the Town of Bladensburg Code Enforcement or an employee of the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources.

.03 Governing Legislation and Reference

Governing Legislation:

Bladensburg Code, Chapter 40, Buildings and Construction.

Maryland Code, Article 2B.

County Code, §4-1 17(a).

County Code §27-264.

Forms:

Commanders Log (Automated)

Reference:

General Order 203, Criminal Citations.

.04 Procedure

A. Assisting Inspectors with Enforcing the Code

When an Inspector requires police assistance, he or she shall contact a supervisor. The supervisor shall arrange for an officer to assist. If doubt exists regarding the legality of the situation, the Office of the State's Attorney may be contacted for guidance.

Officers assisting inspectors shall familiarize themselves with the situation and the inspector's duties.

B. Violations of Stop Work Orders

It is a misdemeanor for any person to continue work in violation of a Stop Work Order that has been issued by the Town of Bladensburg Code Enforcement. Such a violation is a Municipal Infraction. The Town Code Enforcement Unit shall be contacted prior to the issuance of a Municipal Infraction.

Violations of Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources (DER) orders shall be referred to the Town Code Enforcement unit.

Officers assisting with violations of Stop Work Orders shall respond to the location and verify that an order has been issued. If an order has been issued, the officer shall advise the individual that continuing to work constitutes a misdemeanor offense and may result in criminal charges and civil penalty. The officer shall obtain the individual's identity and provide it to the inspector.

If the individual continues to work in the presence of the officer, a charging document may be issued. The officer shall provide the individual's identity and the case number to the inspector and summons him or her to court.

C. Violations of Plumbing Regulations

After a Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) plumbing inspector obtains a warrant, he or she shall contact the appropriate law enforcement and speak to a supervisor to request assistance with serving the warrant. Only after a warrant has been verified shall an officer accompany the plumbing inspector to the suspect's location.

Upon arrival, the officer shall serve the warrant.

After the suspect has been arrested, the officer shall transport him to a processing facility and complete a Case Report and an Arrest Report.

D. Violations of Liquor Laws (Maryland Code. Article 2B)

Officers who observe violations of the liquor laws shall complete a Case Report.

The Records Section shall forward a copy of the report to the Chief Liquor Inspector, Board

Code Enforcement

of License Commissioners. This allows the Board of License Commissioners to monitor establishments that violate the law. If immediate enforcement is required, officers shall take appropriate action.

E. Violations Involving Adult Bookstores (County Code Section 2 7-264)

The Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources (DER) is responsible for serving notice on property owners who are in violation of provisions of the County Code regarding adult bookstores. This notice directs the property owner to cease the violation.

If the violation has not ceased within 48 hours, DER may initiate enforcement through the Narcotic Enforcement Division of Prince George's County Police.

F. Reporting Environmental Conditions

Employees shall use the Commander's Log to document environmental hazards. Upon completion, the report shall be forwarded to Records who shall disseminate it to the Code Enforcement Unit for follow-up.

The Commander's Log may be used for the following:

- Littered lots;
- Debris on residential or commercial Property;
- Junked/unlicensed automobiles on private property;
- Grading without a permit;
- Sediment leaving site;
- Littered roadside;
- Mud and debris on road (non-construction related)
- Clogged storm drain; or,
- Littered park.

HISTORY: Adopted October 1, 2013

This General Order supersedes all other orders and memoranda in conflict therewith.

Authority:



Charles L. Owens
Chief of Police