



Community Partners Meeting

**Wednesday
December 6, 2017**



**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.



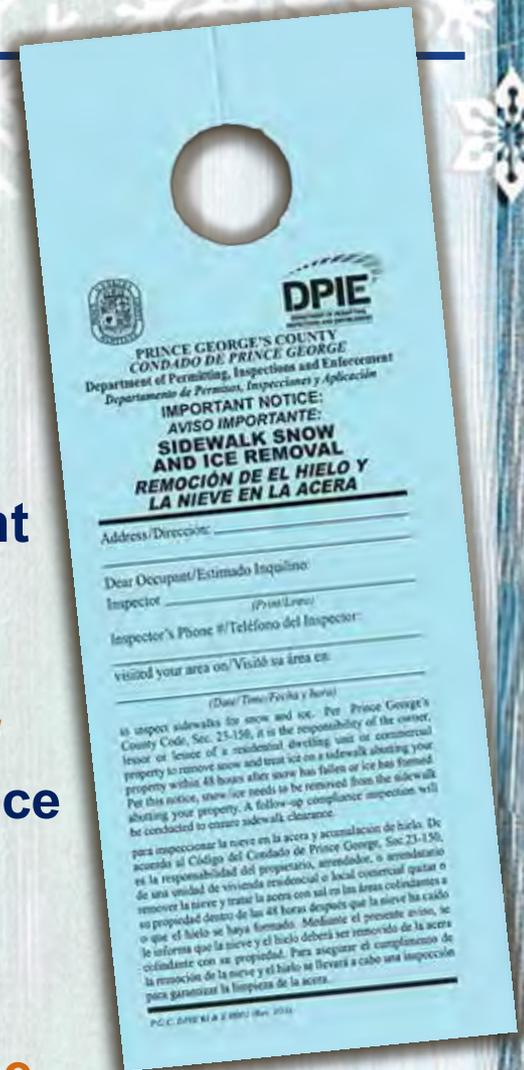
Focus Sidewalk Areas

- Adjacent to **commercial establishments** and **apartment complexes**
- Along roadways within **1.5 miles of a school**
- Along **State-designated highways**
- Along **County primary roadways**
- Abutting major **public gathering places** (*i.e.*, churches, assembly halls, etc.)
- Within **residential communities in response to** **complaints**, which will trigger an inspector to place a door hanger warning on homes along both sides of the road where a complaint has been reported



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. **The contractor’s costs will be added to the fine.**



Sidewalk Snow & Ice Removal Inspection Program

- **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 and accessibility consideration for pedestrians, especially those who have ambulatory disabilities, young children and students who walk to school, and seniors.



If you have questions,
please call:

301.883.6168

A vertical wooden plank background with a warm, golden-brown tone. A string of white, intricate snowflake ornaments is draped across the top. Small, glowing yellow lights are scattered along the string and around the snowflakes. The word "Inspections" is centered in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black drop shadow.

Inspections

Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC)



- QA/QC conducts special utility inspections
- QA/QC responds in a timely manner to a number of resident complaints such as:
 - Construction work without permits
 - Stormwater runoff/drainage
 - Utility companies working in the public rights-of-way
- Tree removal in a Tree Conservation/Chesapeake Bay Conservation Area
- Sediment control/erosion
- Unsafe conditions in the rights-of-way

QA/QC Monthly Average

- Over 750 complaints investigated
- 80 “Stop Work Orders” issued
- 220 “Building Violation Notices” issued
- 10 “Consent Orders” signed

Questions about the
QA/QC Section?

Contact Denny Brittingham:

240-508-9619

Dtbrittingham@co.pg.md.us



The background is a vertical plank of weathered wood with a mix of brown and greenish-grey tones. A string of white, intricate snowflake ornaments is draped across the top. A large, detailed snowflake is positioned on the left side, and several smaller ones are scattered across the top right.

Nuisance Abatement Board

Nuisance Abatement Board



Neighborhoods have experienced noise pollution and other types of nuisances. As a result, the Nuisance Abatement Board was implemented.

Nuisance Abatement Board

- **Membership is comprised of 7 designated members:**
 - **Raphael Grant** **Deputy Chief**
Prince George's County Police Department
 - **James V. Reilly** **Assistant Chief**
Prince George's County Fire Department
 - **Gary Cunningham** **Deputy Director**
Prince George's County Department of
Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement
 - **Representative** **Prince George's County Office of Law**
 - **3 Citizen Members**

Board Responsibilities

- Notify citizens of public hearings/meetings.
- Hear complaints.
- Issue:
 - Summonses, notices, records of hearings, and final order issuances



Neighborhood or Public Nuisance Examples

- 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 or obstruct the quiet enjoyment and reasonable use of property and are reported to police, fire departments 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.**
- **Nuisance Abatement Board hears complaints referred by an agency that registered and investigated the allegations that a premise generated a public nuisance.**



Hearings

- Board schedules a hearing and issues summons to involved parties.
- Hearing is conducted to provide the opportunity for the parties to present testimony/evidence that:
 - Insufficient evidence exists to dismiss; or
 - Sufficient evidence exists to move forward with the hearing.



- Upon completion of the hearing, the Board reviews the evidence, determines the findings and issues a written notice to the involved parties.

Hearings, *continued*

- If the Board determines a public nuisance existed, a civil and monetary fine for each civil violation can be assessed:
 - 1st Violation **Cease Order**
 - 2nd Violation **\$ 500**
 - Subsequent Violations **\$1,000**
- 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.



Administrative Hearing Process

Creating a New Board

- Neighborhoods experience various property standards and housing violations.
- The current correction process could take more than nine (9) months from the initial inspection to the final court disposition.



Consequently. . .

the **Administrative Hearing Process**
was created!

Administrative Hearing Process

- Hearing officers will adjudicate citations issued to properties in violation of Prince George's County Code.
- Hearings will take place at 9400 Peppercorn Place, Largo, Maryland.
- Hearings will be held more expediently than the current process.

Objective:

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

Adjudication Unit Responsibilities



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

County Code Violations



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

Complaint Procedure

- 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 in order to seek compliance.
- Only citations will 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

- Adjudication division schedules a hearing 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.



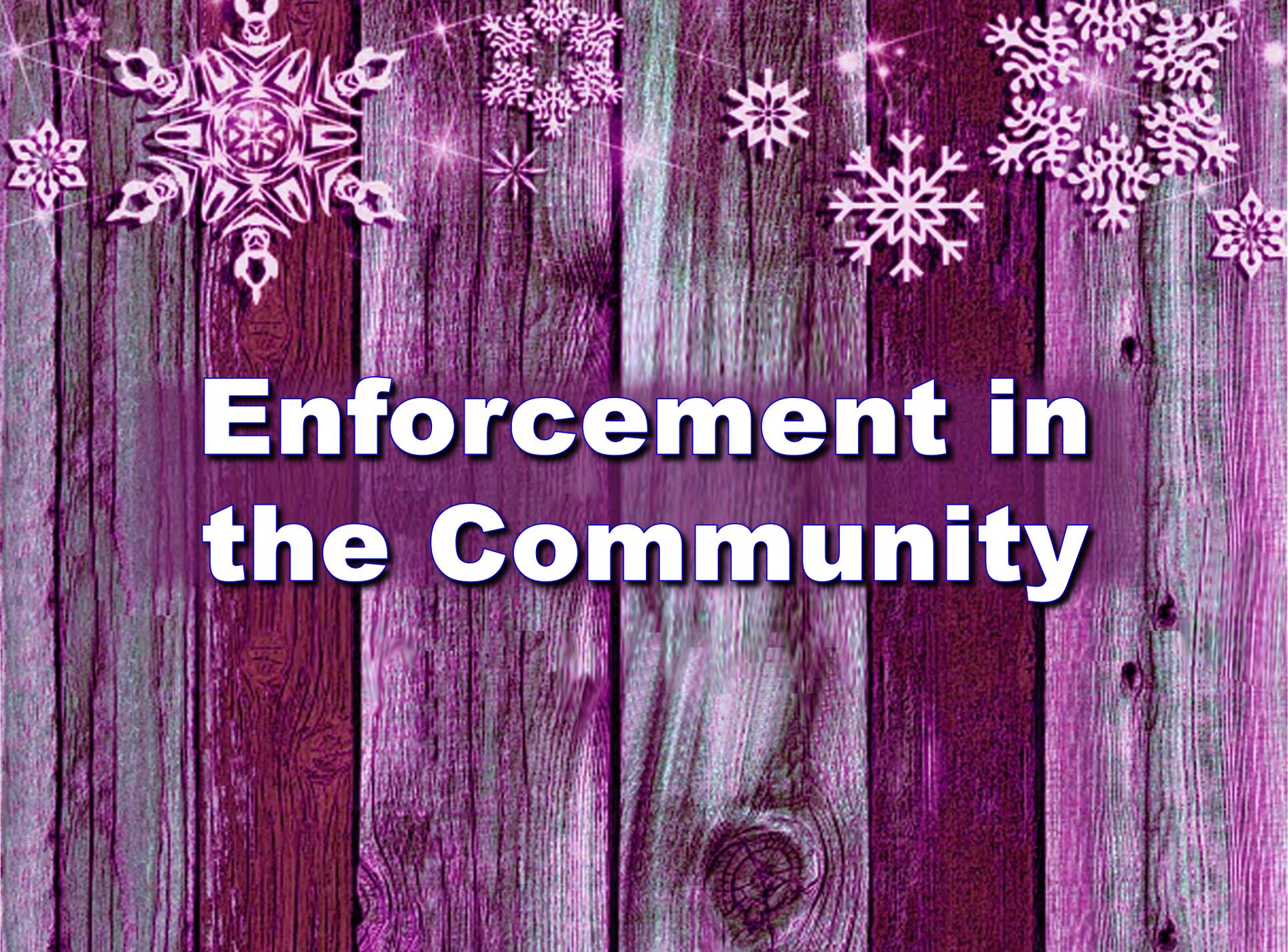
Hearings, *continued*

- 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 board administrator.
- The decision by the hearing board 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.



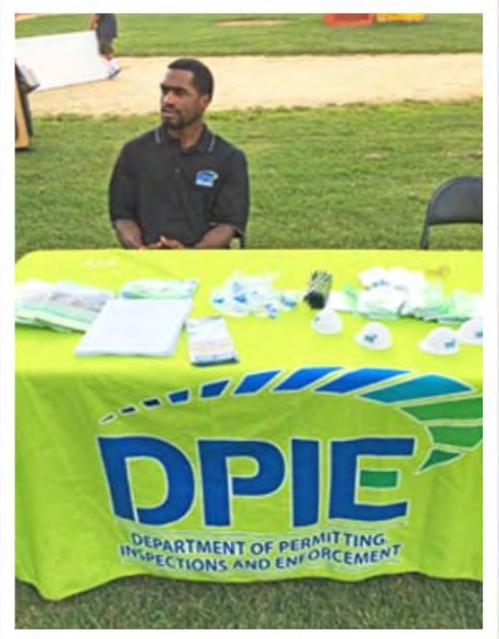
Status

- **Eric R. Wardford, Esquire is the Adjudications Administrator.**
- **The adjudications software system is being created and implemented by Motorola. It is compatible with the software currently used by the inspectors in the Enforcement Division.**
- **The hearings will be held in two newly created hearing rooms in the Directors Office on the 5th floor of DPIE.**
- **The hearing rooms will feature a display screen to show photos and other evidence provided by inspectors and respondents. Hearing records will be created using modern recording technology.**



Enforcement in the Community

Enforcement in the Community





the



ingswood Community Meeting
Sep 14, 2017, 8:35:31 AM



Code Enforcement Officers attended over **106** Association Meetings and Public Events



Oct 14, 2017, 1:29:43 PM
Radiant Valley Community Day



Bladensburg
Sep 16, 2017, 3:30 PM



Oct 14, 2017, 12:22:29 PM
Radiant Valley Community Day



Riverdale Heights Community Event



Sep 13, 2017, 7:11:31 PM



Additionally, our Code Enforcement Officers are: in the communities upholding the County Code; an integral part of the County's TNI program; helping a family in need; in the field after significant weather events; and removing illegal signs. During April's Sign Removal Blitz, DPIE and DPW&T jointly removed 2,765 illegal signs.



Enforcement in the Community

**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.**

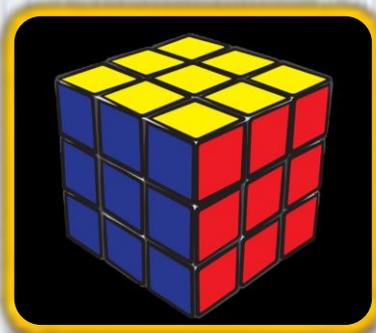


Permitting & Licensing System



Change Is Coming to Permitting & Licensing

- If you have a future project in mind for your home, such as putting an addition on your house, building a privacy fence or adding a deck, you will be interested to know the processing of your required permit will be changing from. . .



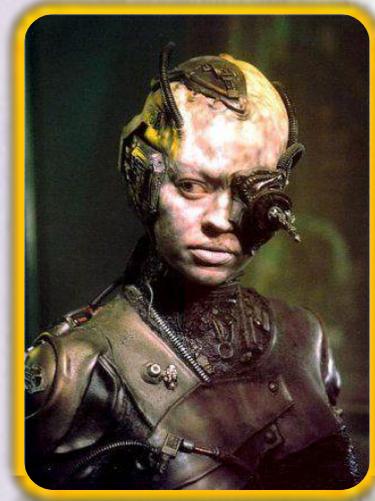
This. . .



To This!

Permitting & Licensing System (PLS)

- Replaces 10-year-old ePermits system.
- Automates processing and tracking of County permits and licenses.
- Implements cloud-based, online system that:
 - Receives applications and issues permits and licenses;
 - Reduces paper;
 - Facilitates field-based inspection reporting; and
 - Provides real-time documentation.
- Centralizes integration across County agencies and systems.



PLS Team Members

■ PLS Contractors:

- Motorola, Infor, TruePoint and Limbic

■ Prince George's County Agencies:

- DPIE, Health, Fire, DPW&T, PGSCD, DoE, M-NCPPC and OIT
- Other (WSSC, DLLR and SDAT)

■ Customers:

- **County residents**, developers and business owners

So we are interested in **citizen suggestions!** This is especially important while we are still in the planning phase. If you have been through the permitting and/or licensing process and can provide feedback, please contact us by calling Robbi Das at (301) 456-6876. The expected time frame for the new system is May 2019.



*Happy
Holidays!*

