

Code Enforcement

Accomplishments

Monetary: In 2019, revenue increased in comparison to 2018.

2018: \$630,206 2019: \$658,840

(Includes Rental Registration, Vacant Registration and Sale Certificates)

Registered Vacant Properties:

- In 2018, 255 Vacant Properties were registered- of those registered properties, 16 properties were rehabilitated in 2018 and returned to the tax rolls.
- In 2019, 206 vacant properties were registered and of those 206 registered properties, 65 properties were rehabilitated, returned to the tax rolls, and are now occupied.

Inspections:

Code Enforcement does Rental (occupancy) Inspections, Sale Inspections, complaint follow-up & investigation, and self-initiated Target Area inspections.

- In 2018, 6,350 inspections were completed. Despite a decrease in staff in 2019, inspections in 2019 increased to 6,737.
- The department's main focus is to continue to be vigilant and proactive in addressing code violations throughout the City's neighborhoods.

2020 Goals: Code Enforcement

- ✓ Greater “curb appeal” by continuing to enforce relevant codes in such a way that occupants, owners, or other responsible parties are held accountable for keeping their respective properties free of debris, grass overgrowth, and improperly parked vehicles. This will be accomplished via payable citations which shortens adjudication timeframe.
- ✓ Increase use of technology that has been provided to the department so as to decrease the time it takes to document conditions (photos), record inspections, and issue corrective orders.
- ✓ Adopt more current Property Maintenance Codes (1993 BOCA versus 2015 IPMC)
- ✓ Continue with training and best practices for each inspector to insure maximum consistency in enforcement of codes within the department.

Construction Office

Accomplishments:

- In 2019 our revenue was \$219,792 (State of NJ eliminated fees for roofing and siding and certain type of decks and sheds which accounts for the lower revenues from the previous year.)
- The revenue is based on permits that were issued for: Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical and Fire.
- A state fee is also collected and it is based on the total cost of the work being done.
- 33,550 cubic feet of new construction with \$14,752,079 in construction costs were realized in 2019 compared to 11,801 cubic feet of new construction with \$601,093 in construction costs in 2018.
- The Construction office issued: 165 for building (200 in 2018), 147 for plumbing (153 in 2018), 340 for electrical (316 in 2018), 189 for mechanical (140 in 2018), 113 for fire (109 in 2018).
- Permits are required for a reasonable degree of protection to the health, safety and welfare of our citizens and visitors.

Zoning Permits

- Issued 115 Living Space Rental Permits (84 in 2018) \$5750 in revenue
- Issued 32 Dumpster Permits (10 in 2018) \$800 in revenue
- Issued 8 Permits for New Businesses (please note that previous year's numbers included NJ DAM auto mall as a "new business" - they are now correctly listed as office space)
- Collected \$14,425 (\$14,875 in 2018)

Goals for 2020

- Department goal is to continue to maintain compliance with the various codes: Building, Electric, Plumbing and Fire codes for the safety and welfare of the city and its residents.
- Encourage and educate our citizens on the importance of obtaining the proper permits to obtain code compliance.
- Complete the required inspections along with educating the residents of proper construction techniques.
- Assisting in new construction projects and facilitate completion of the expansion of Cumberland Dairy, Food Specialization Center, construction of Wawa and the Downtown Project (Both of which are under construction review) and several home-owner projects- begin the construction of several new projects that will lead to the revitalization of the Great City of Bridgeton.

Accomplishments for 2019

- Worked with Code Enforcement and continued the razing of substandard structures without spending city funds. (24 to date)
- Oversaw construction of Phase I expansion of Cumberland Dairy
- Oversaw start of construction of River Grove.
- Began the start of construction for the new county jail.
- Oversaw completion of solar farms.
- Oversaw completion of Community Center at Ivy Glen (Villas)
- Continue to oversee rehabilitation of residential homes city-wide.
- Oversaw completion of the addition to the church on Irving Avenue
- Began the renovation of the existing church on Irving Avenue that includes a nursery, classrooms, and offices.