

Missouri City Listens to Residents;

Steps up Code Enforcement

The City Council in Missouri City has directed staff to place increased emphasis on code enforcement violations for junked or abandoned vehicles and for garbage cans left out beyond the time allowed for trash pickup. Council took this action because of public feedback. Citizens have said that some residents were not following City code, which was negatively affecting the appearance of some neighborhoods in Missouri City. Council set a July 1 deadline for removal of junked and abandoned vehicles.

“While we appreciate the majority of citizens comply with code enforcement initiatives, there still are outstanding violations we need to address,” said Scott Elmer, Director of Public Works, who currently also serves as Acting Director of Planning.

Over the past year, Council has asked staff to use educational and other information opportunities to help bring more residents into compliance with City code and avoid being cited to Municipal Court. Most recently, code enforcement officers were sending courtesy letters for trash can violations and then following up with a citation to court, if necessary.

“Courtesy letters have not been as effective with some of our citizens,” Elmer said. “We’ll be stepping up our enforcement, beginning with more blatant and habitual offenders.”

Code enforcement will be using these guidelines in citing residents:

Junked vehicle – license plates are missing or expired or safety inspection sticker is not valid; is wrecked, dismantled or dismantled in some way, and has been inoperable for more than 72 hours. The homeowner will be cited directly to Municipal Court.

- Abandoned vehicle – citizens should contact the City if they believe a vehicle is abandoned; staff will review and make the determination if it is abandoned. The owner will be cited directly to Municipal Court.
- Garbage cans, bags and other debris including lawn waste – at the curb prior to 6 p.m. the day before trash pickup and after midnight the day of trash pickup. The homeowner will be cited directly to Municipal Court.

The maximum fine for the above code violations is \$500 per occurrence of each violation, except for the junked vehicle violation, which carries a maximum fine of \$200.

Citizens wishing to report a code violation can call the Code Enforcement Hotline at 281-403-8560 or email: code@missouricitytx.gov.