



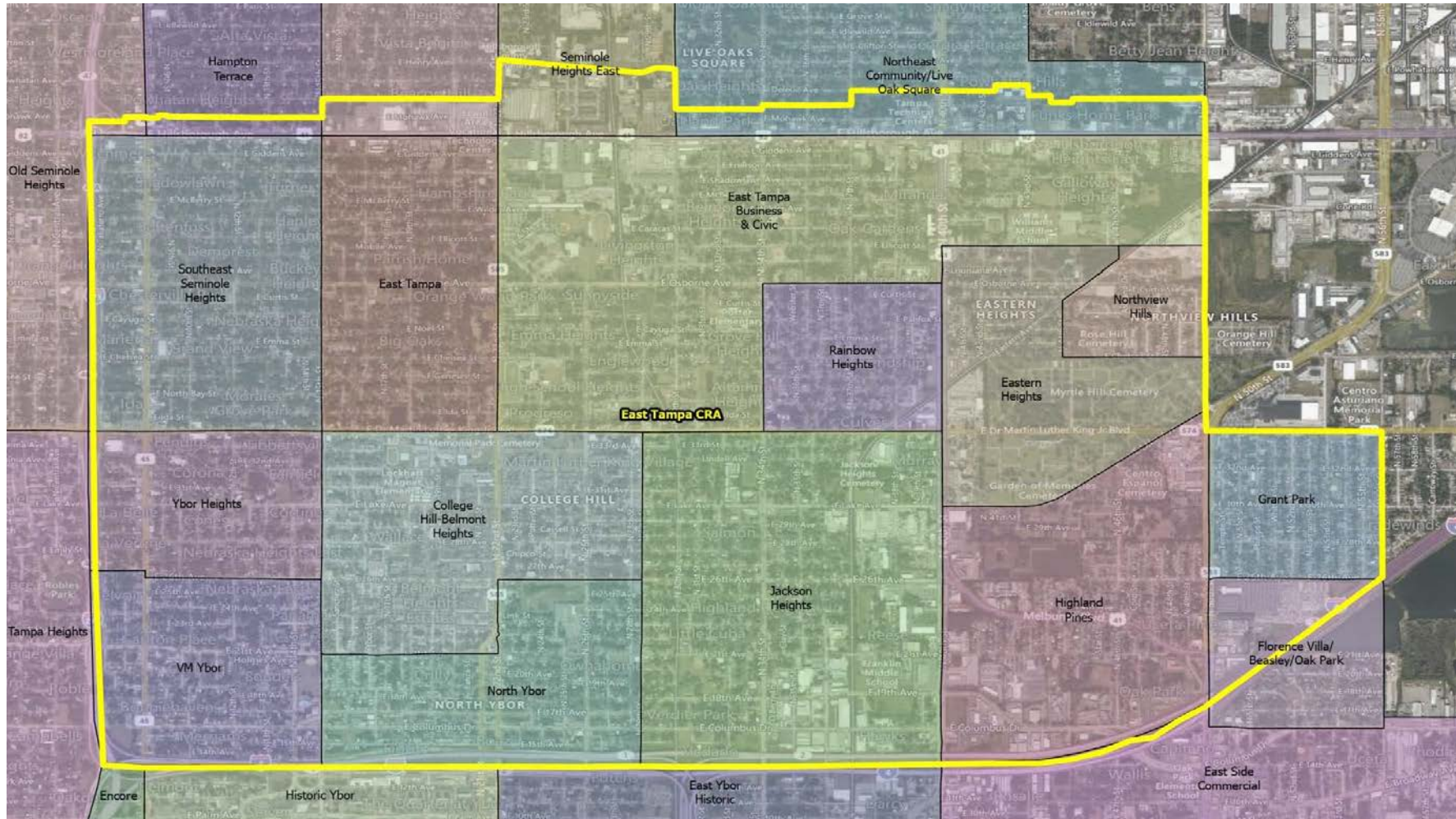
EAST TAMPA CRA ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES UNIT

FLORIDA REDEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AWARD SUBMITTAL
CATEGORY: MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

JUNE 7, 2021

EAST TAMPA CRA

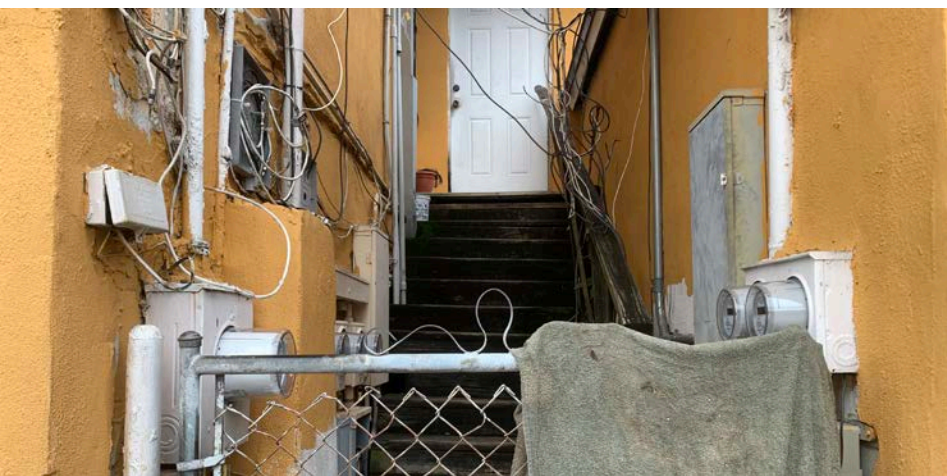
(LARGEST CRA IN STATE, 13 NEIGHBORHOODS, 7.7 SQUARE MILES)



THE COST OF ILLEGAL DUMPING

- The cost cleaning illegal dump sites can be astronomical, not only financially but also the negative impact it has to a community and its residents.
- Illegal dumping is one of the most problematic issues facing the community and is being addressed through a collaborative inter-agency model.
- The Environmental Crimes Unit is a proactive approach that implements problem-solving oriented policing to remedy blighted conditions in the East Tampa CRA.





ACTIVE CASE - ANEL BUILDING

- Privately owned long standing heavily blighted property at 3706 N. 29th Street.
- The exterior due to debris and inoperative vehicles was a blight to the community.
- Notorious illegal commercial business attracting ongoing drug activity and crime.
- City fines and liens have been mounting to over \$75,000 and owner is reluctant to address issues
- The structure was deemed unsafe for human occupancy, vacated by City Ordinance and slated for future demolition.
- Environmental Detective coordinated entire operation in collaboration with Code Enforcement, Fire Marshall, State Alcohol and Beverage, Zoning and the Homeless Liaison.

BLIGHT OPERATIONS PHASE I

Phase I



RESULTS

- **Officers** issued 16 trespass warning along the Nebraska Ave Corridor, made 2 arrests, tagged three inoperative vehicles and collected 35 snipe signs.
- **Crime Tracking** verified compliance of 31 sex offenders and rooming houses along Nebraska Ave. One warrant to be issued for noncompliance.
- **Homeless Liaisons** spoke with multiple homeless during the operation in attempt to get them long term services but none would accept the invitation. Liaisons has a large homeless camp on DOT property complete with tents and recliners cleaned up.
- **Code Enforcement** issued 17 Notices of violation, tagged three inop/unregistered vehicles and completed a Demolition report for 1209 E 24th Ave.
- **Empowerment Team** collected approximately 3.5 Tons of illegally dumped trash, furniture etc. and cleared multiple alleys and easements
- **Animal Control** impounded 2 kittens, educated 5 on their TNVR(cat program) issued 6 neuter vouchers, issued one written warning and returned one stray to its owner.

BLIGHT OPERATIONS PHASE II

Phase II



RESULTS

- **Officers** issued 2 trespass warning along the N 50th St, wrote 1 UTC, 2 parking tickets, tagged three inop vehicles and collected 50 snipe signs.
- **Homeless Liaisons** spoke with several homeless during the operation in attempt to get them long term services but none would accept the invitation.
- **Code Enforcement** issued 8 Notices of violation, tagged ten inop/unregistered vehicles
- **Empowerment Team** collected approximately 6.5 Tons of illegally dumped trash, furniture etc. and cleared multiple alleys and easements
- **Animal Control** Made 39 contacts, Vouchers 5, Care standards 6, Courtesy notices 2, Passed out 8 cans of food, Placed 2 calls for follow up

BLIGHT OPERATION PHASE III

Phase III



RESULTS

- **Officers** issued 4 trespass warnings, Red tagged twenty inop vehicles, Issues 4 parking tickets and collected 45 snipe signs.
- **Crime Tracking** verified compliance of 21 subjects within the listed area.
- **Code Enforcement** issued 32 notices of violation, while replacarding several vacant homes and having illegal tents removed
- **Empowerment Team** collected 7.6 Tons of illegally dumped trash, furniture etc. and cleared multiple alleys and easements.
- **Animal Control** made 21 citizen contacts, opening one new case while handing out 13 pamphlets and 11 goodie bags containing educational items useful to pet owners.

SECOND SWEEP COLLECTION - EAST TAMPA ONLY



EAST TAMPA CRA S.W.E.E.P. COLLECTION

SET OUT DEADLINE: 11/29/2020

Items must be placed curbside by the deadline. Items will be collected within two weeks.
Items placed curbside after 11/29 will not be collected and will be charged as a special pickup.

ITEMS ACCEPTED:

Household Appliances
Furniture
Mattresses
Barbecue Grills
Toilets
Carpet
Flat Glass
(duct taped or wrapped)
Tires without Rims
(up to 4 tires total)
Yard Waste
(cut down to 4 feet)
Railroad Ties
(cut down to 4 feet)

PLEASE NOTE: The City of Tampa reserves the right to refuse items as necessary.



- Please do not approach the truck at any time, especially while it is under operation.
- For safety purposes, items blocked by vehicles or other objects will not be collected.
- Items cannot be placed under low hanging tree limbs, on or near electrical/ phone lines, water meters and utility boxes
- Items must be placed curbside on the right-of-way in front of your residence
- To avoid additional disposal costs for excessively large debris, S.W.E.E.P. piles must not exceed 10 cubic yards.
- Flat glass items such as mirrors, window glass and table top panes must be duct tapes or wrapped to prevent it from breaking.
- Items placed in front of vacant homes or lots will be considered illegal dumping and will be investigated by Code Enforcement.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

Building materials
(sheds, fences, tile, pipe, wood/plywood, brick, concrete blocks, rocks, doors, roofing material, windows, drywall)
Electronics*
Household Hazardous Waste*
(paints, solvents, oil or fuels)
Pressurized Gas Cylinders,
Explosives/Ammunition
Metal drums
Tires with rims
Boats

**At no additional charge, household hazardous waste may be taken to one of Hillsborough County's Household Hazardous Waste sites. Electronics may be taken to Hillsborough County's Community Collection sites Monday-Saturday for environmentally safe disposal.*

PROACTIVE CAMPAIGN – CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP



- The Environmental Crimes Unit continues to remedy blighted conditions throughout the East Tampa CRA and combat the ongoing problem with illegal dumping.
- A new outdoor advertising sign campaign was launched with HART at 20 bus shelters to create community awareness to combat illegal dumping. The messaging promotes a positive goal with a call to action.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH- NEWSLETTER & EVENTS



TAMPA POLICE DEPARTMENT
DISTRICT 3
Environmental Crimes Unit
Brian Dugan
Chief of Police
3808 N. 22nd Street
Tampa, Florida 33610

A message from the Environmental Crimes Detective on patrol in East Tampa. As we are working hard at keeping East Tampa Beautiful you may start to notice my "Keep East Tampa Beautiful" campaign signs. The East Tampa Community Redevelopment Area and the Tampa Police Department partnered to counter the problem of illegal dumping many years ago. We, together, have to step it up! Through public awareness, education of public services and enforcement it is my goal to dramatically decrease the incidents of illegal dumping in East Tampa. Together as a team we can make that difference! One way you can assist is through civic engagement and beautification in your area. Several neighborhoods already organize monthly area clean up events where they help tidy up the neighborhood while getting to know their neighbor.

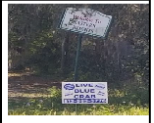
Respectfully
Detective Curtis Williams

Sec. 27-289.7 - Prohibited signs enumerated.

(a) Any sign not specifically permitted or authorized by this Code is prohibited; provided, however, that any authorized or permitted sign under this Code is allowed to contain non-commercial speech in lieu of any other speech.

(b) The following types of signs are expressly prohibited, except as otherwise provided by this Code:
Snipe Signs, including those attached to trees or natural features, telephone poles, utility poles, public benches, streetlights, or on any public property or right-of-way.

(c) Notwithstanding any Code provision to the contrary, neither the city council nor any board of the city may grant a variance allowing the erection of any of the prohibited signs expressly enumerated in this section 27-289.7.



What can I do about snipe signs

- ◆ Collect and discard any snipe signs on the right of way on utility poles and street signs
- ◆ The right of way is typical from the sidewalk to the right of way
- ◆ Do not go on private property in attempt to remove a sign
- ◆ Refuse to use company services on snipe signs that contribute to the blight

Detective Curtis Williams
Keeping the neighborhood beautiful
(813) 242-3870
www.tampapd.net/pol



TAMPA POLICE DEPARTMENT
DISTRICT 3
Environmental Crimes Unit
Brian Dugan
Chief of Police
3808 N. 22nd Street
Tampa, Florida 33610

The Environmental Crimes Detective is on patrol in East Tampa to help reduce the blight in the neighborhood! The East Tampa Revitalization Committee and the Tampa Police Department created the Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU) in 2006 to counter the growing problem of illegal dumping. The Tax Increment Fund, known as TIF is paying for the specialized detective. All money generated from this special taxing district is reinvested back into the East Tampa community. This system creates a great partnership between citizens and the City of Tampa. As a team, they can decide how to improve the area. Detective Curtis Williams is working in the neighborhood but it's a massive area for one person. Below are a few things that would greatly assist as time permits.



What is illegal dumping?

- ◆ **Illegal dumping is defined by F.S.S. 403.413 (Florida Litter Law)** as any garbage, debris, refuse, appliance, vehicle, etc. which is discarded on any public or private property without the permission or consent of the owner or agent.
- ◆ It's a third degree felony to dump more than 500 pounds of litter and is punishable by hefty fines and up to five years in prison.
- ◆ Littering less than 15 pounds will get you a **\$100** civil citation. More than 15 pounds is a first-degree misdemeanor.
- ◆ Conducting detailed street checks of trucks and trailers with large amounts of trash and tires, especially at night can greatly improve chances of future charges



How can patrol make a noticeable difference?

- ◆ **Red Tag vehicles**
- ◆ Unregistered and mop vehicles are one of the East Tampa community's biggest complaints
- ◆ It's a major blight on the community
- ◆ It's very quick and easy to address with the 19-56 violation sticker
- ◆ No need to write a report on first contact simply put a case number on the red tag
- ◆ Environmental Crimes will check the red tags upon seeing them and impound the vehicle accordingly
- ◆ Most often the owner will correct the issue before the 72 hours
- ◆ For unregistered vehicles on private property follow the link: <https://www.tampapd.net/app/c/customer-service-center/form.asp?cat=Service-27-65>

How can you help reduce the blight?

- ◆ **Signs (Snipe Signs) on City Right of Way**, telephone poles and attached to street signs are illegal under Tampa City Code Sec. 27-289.7.
- ◆ The only exception is political candidates during polling time
- ◆ Signs can be pulled up and discarded
- ◆ Do not go on private property to remove a sign
- ◆ Issue Parking Citations for vehicles parked on sidewalks 316.1945, \$30

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