

Clean Up Your Act Ordinance Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. How many housing, land use and weed complaints does DPD process annually?**

About 3,000

- 2. How many people comply voluntarily once they are asked?**

75%

- 3. What are common land use violations?**

Illegal uses, such as auto repair and junk storage in residential neighborhoods; parking in front yards; illegal dwelling units.

- 4. What are common housing violations?**

Lack of maintenance, locks not working on entry doors to units, no peepholes, no smoke alarms, lack of utilities, stairs without proper railings.

- 5. How will the revised rules help the city gain compliance with these minimum standards?**

The potential for greater fines will put more pressure on owners unwilling to meet minimum standards. The same is true with the increased ability to seek criminal penalties for some violations. In addition, using citations for hazardous vegetation will allow the city to immediately assess penalties. A number of the changes are to streamline process requirements.

- 6. What about property owners who through no fault of their own are unable to bring their property into compliance?**

The city's goal is compliance, not penalties. We will continue to work with individuals who are clearly without means or are otherwise unable to correct violations, in some cases seeking outside counseling and or clean up services.

- 7. Under what circumstances would the City decide to pursue criminal penalties?**

The changes make it easier for the City to seek criminal penalties, a decision that is made by the City Attorney. Factors that are typically considered include a prior history of violations, severity of violations, and level of proof.

8. How can the public learn more about the Department of Planning and Development's enforcement program?

The website for the program is:

http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Enforcement/Code_Compliance/Overview/

The public can file complaints online or by phone: 615-0808