



Olympia Police Department



Block Watch Quarterly

Fall 2008

Code Enforcement

Keeping things Civil

The City of Olympia's Code Enforcement officers are part of the Community Planning and Development Department. It is their job to deal with nuisance violations on private property that are not covered by criminal law. Examples include trash, inoperable vehicles, substandard buildings, land use violations, graffiti and overgrown vegetation encroaching on public right of way.

Code Enforcement personnel have a commission that allows them to enforce violations of the Olympia Municipal Code primarily through the issuance of tickets. However, they are dedicated to working with property owners whenever possible to fix the problem before it comes to that point. Often, Code Enforcement and OPD work together to find strategies to address complex neighborhood situations.

Problems come to the attention of Code Enforcement mainly via the complaint process, similar to the Police Department. If there is situation that needs their attention, it must be reported to begin a case. Our three Code Enforcement officers are assigned cases by geographical area.

East side – Chris Grabowski

West side – Georgia Sabol

Downtown – Ruth Snyder

If you need help determining whether a situation is appropriate for the police or code enforcement, contact Amy at 753-8049 or astull@ci.olympia.wa.us. Contact information for the Code Enforcement Office is 753-8487 or cpdce@ci.olympia.wa.us.

What is "Cyberbullying"?

Bullying has now migrated into the online world. This "cyberbullying" involves the same hurtful messages and reactions. Teens have figured out ways to prevent cyberbullying by following in the footsteps of other quick-thinking teens by refusing to pass along cyberbullying messages, telling friends to stop cyberbullying, blocking communication with cyberbullies and reporting cyberbullying to a trusted adult .

Don't forget that even though you can't see a cyberbully or the bully's victim, cyberbullying causes real problems. If you wouldn't say it in person, don't say it online. Delete cyberbullying. Don't write it. Don't forward it.

-NCPC.org

OPD Profile



Officer Randy Wilson has a long history of experience in emergency services. He began in law enforcement as an Explorer (youth volunteer) and has also held positions as a reserve officer, dispatcher, community service officer and volunteer firefighter. All of that knowledge applies directly to his position with the Olympia Police Department which he has held since 1998.

As the most senior member of OPD's Traffic Division, Officer Wilson is primarily responsible for the investigation of serious or fatal accidents. He has completed over 240 hours of accident investigation training. Officer Wilson can also be found keeping neighborhoods and school zones safer by enforcing traffic laws.

Recent Crime Statistics

Twice a month, Chief Michel convenes a meeting to review crime data and trends. This month, our Crime Analyst reviewed several categories of crime and how the numbers compared to 2007. Here is a summary of that information with information from Jan-Sept of each year:

Robbery	28	up 40%
Rape	17	down 26%
Aggravated Assault	54	down 2%
Residential Burglary	153	up 49%
Commercial Burglary	130	up 15%
Auto Theft	122	down 39%
Vehicle Prowls	453	up 67%

The last time burglary and vehicle prowl numbers were at this level was 2005. However, these crimes are very responsive to basic crime prevention techniques, so I hope we will all do our part to reduce those opportunities.

Another number we review is the response time for officers to arrive at a high-priority call. The Patrol division selected a goal of 4 minutes or less in any area of the city. The average for the last 12 months is 3.1 minutes.

In the 3rd quarter of 2008, Patrol responded to 14,070 calls for service.

Sex Offender Awareness

Sex offender registration and tracking are the responsibility of the local county sheriff's office. City jurisdictions assist with community notification.

The Thurston County Sheriff's Office has recently become the first county in the state to offer *OffenderWatch*® which allows citizens to search for registered sex offenders and sign up to receive email alerts for notifications within a mile of a specific address. This service was made possible by new legislation and funding from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

To learn more, visit the Sheriff's Office website: www.co.thurston.wa.us/sheriff.

The Olympia Police Department also maintains an email list for notifications within the city limits. Any Block Watch Captain or designee can sign up for this list as well. Please contact Amy if you are interested.