

## Response to Questions on the FY 2009 Advertised Budget Plan

**Request By:** Supervisor Gross

**Question:** In the Strike Force Team's "5 Gradations of Code Enforcement", describe what a Gradation 3.5 would look like (e.g., apartment strike team, new positions)?

**Response:** On March 8, 2007, the Board requested a consideration item totaling \$1,000,000 to support additional enhancements to the Code Enforcement Strike Team. This level of funding (Gradation 3 on the scale of one to five) would allow for the creation of a third Strike Team and allow for enhanced data collection efforts through the establishment of 8/8.0 SYE additional positions supporting Strike Team-related work. Of these new positions, 5 positions would staff the third team and 3 positions would expand the documentation, data tracking, research, and citizen feedback capacity of the enhanced code enforcement effort, and would provide a foundation for future consolidation of staff resources into a centralized intake center. This funding would also allow for the inspection of additional residential units and begin limited apartment and motel inspections. In addition to the positions noted above, funding would be used for associated operating requirements, including vehicles and operating equipment.

In response to Board comments, another alternative is available for additional funding of \$0.5 million. This alternative, which could be referred to as Gradation 3.5, would require 6/6.0 SYE additional staff. At this \$1.5 million funding level, resources would be available to provide a proactive response to property maintenance and other requirements of the increasing number of vacant properties in the County, particularly in the three current areas in the County with higher concentrations of foreclosures and vacant properties. Gradation 3.5 would also provide resources for relocation assistance and help identify short and long term sheltering options for persons displaced as a result of Strike Team action. In addition, Gradation 3.5 provides additional staff to the code enforcement staff to provide for an increased level of oversight of code violations which are not now able to be fully addressed by the Strike Team whose focus is primarily boarding houses, overcrowding, and life safety issues. The expanded code enforcement staff will address more property maintenance and other quality of life violations.

In summary, fully funding Gradation 3.5 would require \$1.5 million and 14/14.0 SYE positions.