

Response to Questions on the FY 2011 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Gross

Question: Please provide additional information on the proposed Department of Code Enforcement.

Response: The FY 2011 budget includes the creation of a centralized Department of Code Enforcement, combining the functions of the Enhanced Code Enforcement Strike Team primarily budgeted in Land Development Services (LDS), the majority of the Zoning Enforcement function currently budgeted in the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ), and two positions in the Environmental Health Division of the Health Department. Public Safety/Fire Marshal staff will continue to be deployed from their home agencies, through the currently funded positions, in support of the new department. Other functions that are proposed to fall under the control of this new entity are the grass and unpermitted construction programs from LDS and the Blight and Nuisance vacancy program formerly handled by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Specifics of this consolidation are still being worked out; however, the end result of this reorganization will be a new Code Enforcement department of approximately 65 staff, which will be primarily responsible for customer service intake and administrative support. The vision of the consolidation is to create an adaptable, accountable, multi-code enforcement organization within a unified leadership/management structure that responds effectively and efficiently toward building and sustaining neighborhoods and communities. Administration of enforcement programs will pertain to Zoning, Building, Property Maintenance, Health, and Fire Codes, as well as the Blight and Grass Ordinances in a collaborative multi-functional environment in order to investigate and resolve violations and concerns in the residential and commercial communities.