

# Memorandum



DATE: February 11, 2010

TO: Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: **Neighborhood Improvement through Nuisance Abatement**

Attached is briefing material on the "Neighborhood Improvement through Nuisance Abatement" to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Tuesday, February 16, 2010.



Ryan S. Evans  
First Assistant City Manager

alb

Attachment

CC: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council  
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager  
Deborah Watkins, City Secretary  
Tom Perkins, City Attorney  
Craig Kinton, City Auditor  
Victor Lander, Administrative Municipal Judge  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager  
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager  
Dave K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer  
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager Mayor/City Council



# Neighborhood Improvement through Nuisance Abatement Public Safety Committee

February 16, 2010



# Nuisance Abatement Objectives

- To identify, investigate, and abate locations deemed to be a criminal nuisance
- Abatable crimes are:
  - Violent crimes
  - Prostitution offenses
  - Drug offenses
  - Gambling
  - Random gunfire
- 3 or more of these crimes within a 12 month period is enough to activate an investigation

# Nuisance Abatement Objectives

- Consistency
  - All abatement activities, regardless of the property and its ownership
- Cooperation
  - Cooperate with and support responsible property owners
- Certainty
  - Uncooperative owners will be held responsible, including financially through criminal and/or civil litigation

# Nuisance Abatement Objectives

- To marshal all administrative, legal, and community resources to:
  - Deny criminals use of real property as a base of operations
  - Secure property owner cooperation in removing the criminal elements
  - Secure property owner compliance with all applicable building, fire and health codes
  - Remove or seize blighted property

# Nuisance Abatement Objectives

- Compliance achieved through either:
  - Self Abatement:
    - Over 90% of cases are resolved this way
    - Self abatement makes the owner aware of problems and possible sanctions for non-compliance
  - Court Ordered Abatement:
    - Reserved for non-compliant owners
    - Achieved through either Chapter 54 or Chapter 125 litigation

# Nuisance Abatement Objectives

- To achieve its objectives, the police department works in cooperation with:
  - Code Enforcement
  - Fire Department
  - City Attorney's Office

# Nuisance Abatement Decentralization

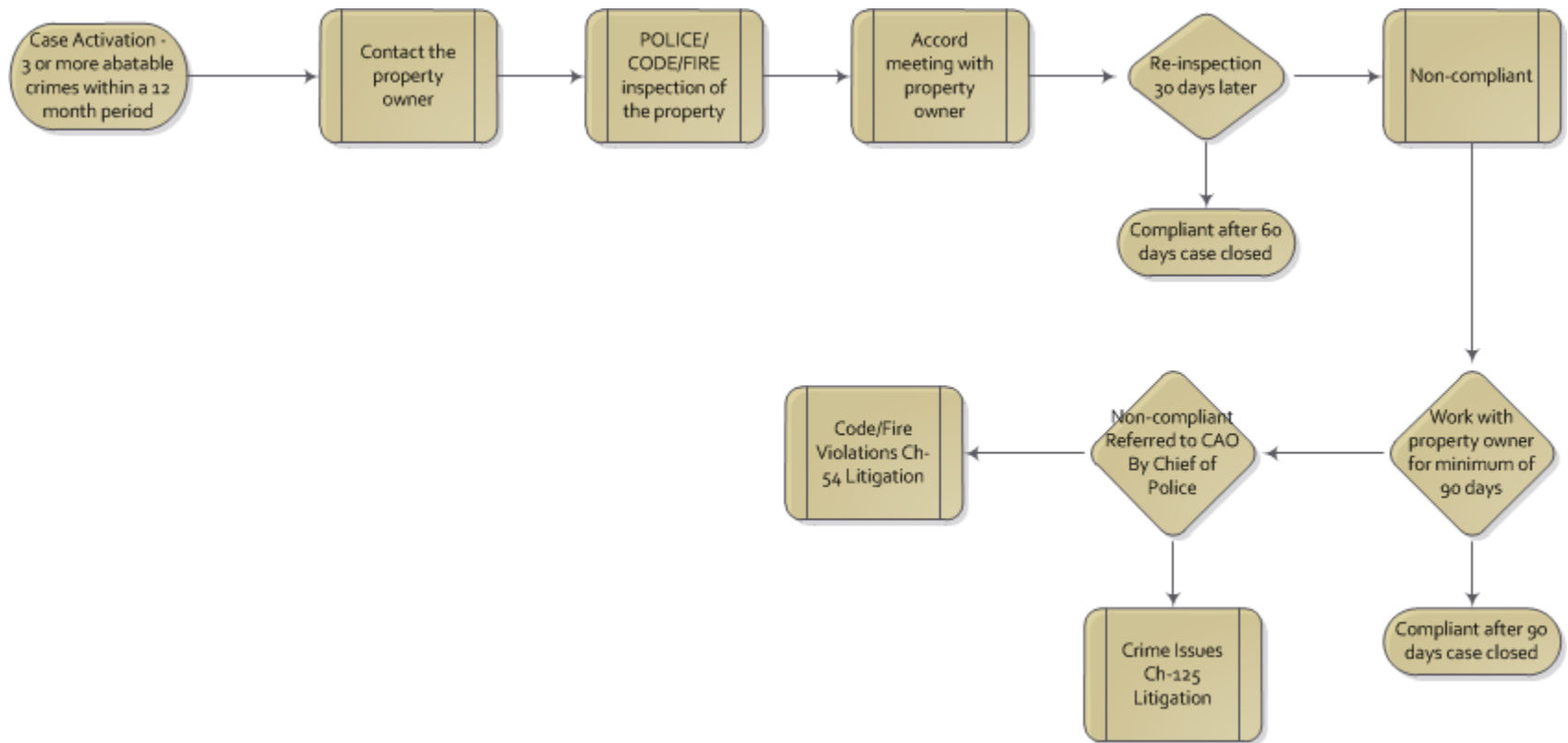
- The nuisance abatement process was decentralized January 2009
- Each patrol division (except North Central) has a nuisance abatement detective
- The detective is more accessible to the Patrol Division Commander



# Nuisance Abatement Decentralization

- Allows the Patrol Division Commander to align nuisance abatement efforts with their division priorities
- There is an increased level of cooperation and intelligence flow between detectives, patrol officers, and community prosecutors.
- Communication between community stakeholders and detectives has improved.

# Nuisance Abatement Flow Chart



# Nuisance Abatement Decentralization

- 37% increase in new cases opened 2009 v. 2008
- Dallas Fire Rescue officers assigned to the nuisance abatement function have increased inspections by 10%, 2008 v. 2009
- January 2009 – January 2010, 3 structures were demolished as a result of nuisance abatement investigations

# Nuisance Abatement Decentralization

- Detectives assisted Code with their investigations, resulting in 2 additional structures being demolished

# Questions?