

# Inspections

One thing recent hurricanes and tropical storms have taught us is the need for code compliance. Some residents may have developed a new respect for codes and ordinances after returning home from evacuation and finding their shed blown away into the neighbor's yard or across the road. Others may have experienced this same impact to items they store outside in the yard.

Roadways, ditches and storm drains can be obstructed by more than just blown over trees or broken tree limbs during high winds. Trash containers and basketball goals are a concern too. In an effort to reduce obstructions and scattered trash, the City asks that you not leave trash containers by the road after they are emptied and to keep basketball goals away from roadways. Properly storing these items now may better prepare you for the next storm and help keep the city free of obstructions and litter.

One of the many objectives of our code enforcement officers is to reduce the amount of junk and clutter that sometimes can accumulate in our yards, as well as reducing the amount of obstructions and scattered trash throughout the City. Other objectives of these public officers are to enforce a variety of codes to include nuisance



concerns, property maintenance, temporary signs, zoning issues and even property assessments following a disaster such as hurricanes and tropical storms.

Code Enforcement doesn't just focus on aesthetics. Though, statistically, a clean and neat neighborhood benefits by protecting property values and decreasing crime, these officers are also concerned with the safety and wellbeing of the public by being alert to obstructions that could cause an accident, controlling pests that enable disease, and protecting our environment from illicit discharge.



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Hinesville's code enforcement cases are generated by complaints received or by observations in assigned neighborhoods. It is the officer's duty to address the violation(s) by notifying the occupant or owner of the property, let them know what they need to do to correct the violation and allow a reasonable amount of time to do so. Where some cities issue citations imposing an immediate fine for certain violations, Hinesville issues courtesy notices allowing the occupant or owner to correct the violation without penalty first. This is a much friendlier approach that has proven successful in our city. However, those who fail to comply after receiving notices from code enforcement may be summoned to appear in municipal court or may have a lien placed on their property. Don't let this happen to you. Let's work together for the greater good.

We all have rights and responsibilities; whether as a local government, property owner or tenant. We all need to work together as a community to support, protect and even enhance our quality of life in Hinesville. We should each do our part to better Hinesville whether it is home for a day or a lifetime.

