

Neighborhood Improvement / Code Enforcement (Division of BCS)

- Reorganized Inspections/Office staff into special teams to better meet increasing demands for services in an efficient manner - added weekend and evening inspection teams to provide seven-day a week Citywide coverage.
- Dedicated a full-time inspector to the Barrio Latino Commission, the Historic Preservation Commission and the Architectural Review Commission.
- Established the Rental Certification Team to inspect and certify rental units.
- Created a full-time signage team to deal with visual blight and illegal signage.¹
- Attained a 95% compliance rate for Code cases (1995-2002).²
- Invested over \$3.8 million dollars in demolition of nuisance structures, lot mowing/clearance and elimination of illegal signs.³
- Towed nearly 1,000 inoperative vehicles (2002).⁴
- Performed a survey of the East Tampa area in support of the East Tampa Revitalization Initiative.⁵
- Participated in a Police "Ride Along" Initiative in the West Tampa area, as an educational strategy to address Code issues.⁶
- Identified nine target areas for improvement.⁷
- Assembled special Vendor and Noise Enforcement Teams.⁸
- Contributed to the Mayor's N.E.A.T. Clean-Up Program.⁹
- Participated in the City's Emergency Response Team.¹⁰
- Designated a Hispanic Affairs Liaison.¹¹
- Revised Inspector work hours to provide code enforcement service during weekend and evening hours.

Neighborhood Improvement Notes:

- ¹ The team deals with illegal signs and visual blight found within the City. Moreover, a full-time inspector has been assigned to respond to the Barrio Latino Commission, the Historic Preservation Commission and the Architectural Review Committee.
- ² Since 1995, the Division has opened up 131,683 separate Code cases and successfully closed 122,531 of them, resulting in a 95% compliance rate with 913,004 violations corrected.
- ³ A total of \$3,525,483 dollars has been expended on the demolition of nuisance structures and an additional \$354,009 has been used for mowing of privately-owned nuisance lots and in removing over 244,963 illegal signs from the City of Tampa's rights-of-way.
- ⁴ The City towed nearly 1,000 inoperative vehicles that were either abandoned on city or private property, whose owners did not respond to code violation notices.
- ⁵ All properties within the nine identified target areas were photographed and surveyed for condition, excluding commercial and public use property. A total of 6,677 properties were photographed, including 1,536 vacant lots. The survey was accomplished by assigning four (4) full-time inspectors to this area.
- ⁶ Began a police "Ride-Along" initiative in the West Tampa area with a Code Officer and the Tampa Police Department's FireHouse Officer. This public awareness strategy has been expanded to cover the entire city as a coordinated attack against the problems concerning commercial vehicles. The emphasis has been in targeting large commercial vehicles that frequent this area late at night and in the early morning hours.
- ⁷ All properties within areas were photographed and surveyed for condition, excluding commercial and public use property. A total of 6,677 properties were photographed, including 1,536 vacant lots. The survey was accomplished by assigning four (4) full-time inspectors to this area.
- ⁸ Special teams such as the Vendor Enforcement and Noise Enforcement Teams have been established to work during major special parades and events to ensure that vendors are properly licensed and permitted to conduct business during these gatherings. Furthermore, the Noise Enforcement Team covers the Ybor City Entertainment District and other areas to check for noise violations, with 8,559 separate addresses checked and monitored to ensure that proper decibel levels are maintained.
- ⁹ The Division is a major player in the Mayor's N.E.A.T. Clean-Up Program. Three (3) full-time officers are assigned to map overgrown lots that are in violation, inspect the lots and issue Notices of Violation to citizens in an aggressive program to help clean up neighborhoods prior to each neighborhood's Annual Clean-Up.
- ¹⁰ Provided sixteen (16) inspectors/officers who are dispatched, along with Construction Services Center inspectors, to perform post storm damage assessment reporting to the Hillsborough County Emergency Operations Management Team to comply with FEMA requirements.
- ¹¹ To educate and assist Hispanic residents with code enforcement issues.