

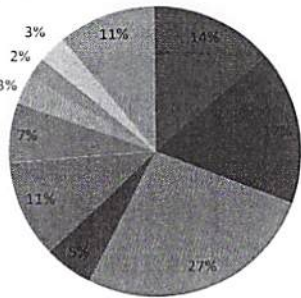
Code Compliance In Maplewood

The City of Maplewood has numerous rules and regulations that protect property owners and neighborhoods, which are called the City Code of Ordinances, or "Code", for short. When someone calls with a nuisance code complaint, our City staff usually ask if they've discussed the problem with the complainant. City staff encourages residents to try resolving the issue themselves before getting the City involved. However, if you need assistance from the City, a complaint can be filed at www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/codeviolation or phone 651.249.Code (2633). It's important for you to note that the City is obligated by Minnesota State Law not to disclose the name of the person who made the complaint. In addition, please note that the City does not investigate anonymous complaints.

The different types of complaints the City receives are shown in the following chart. In addition, the chart demonstrates the proportion of these complaints to each other in 2011.

2011 CODE ENFORCEMENT COMPLAINTS

- Exterior Storage
- House / Property Maintenance
- Trash Container Storage
- Miscellaneous Concerns
- Unapproved Parking
- Junk Vehicles
- Commercial Vehicle / Equipment
- Lawn Maintenance / Abatements
- Trash / Garbage
- Home Occupations



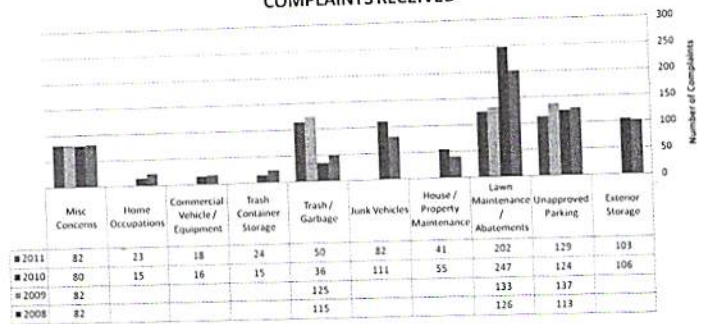
Compliance

The City's preference is for the resident to comply voluntarily. Most violations are quickly remedied in 7 to 10 days. Violations that may require more time and/or effort are given a bigger window of time to come into compliance. Once a compliance order is issued the property owner may contact the inspector for further information regarding the City Code, the enforcement process or to seek an extension on the compliance date. If the alleged violator admits the violation(s) and requests extended time for compliance, it may be granted if circumstances warrant and/or if a "good faith" effort has been made to correct the violation(s). The ideal outcome is to attain compliance within the requested time.

Occasionally, a second notification letter is necessary to encourage compliance. Infrequently, after all attempts to obtain compliance are exhausted, a citation will be issued and then the case is turned

over to the City Attorney for prosecution through the court system. If a citation is written, the resident must schedule a date in Ramsey County Court at which time the matter is heard by a judge. The judge determines if a fine must be paid and how/when the matter will be resolved. The fine may not exceed \$300. The City only utilizes the courts as a last resort since the primary goal of code enforcement is voluntary compliance, not punishment.

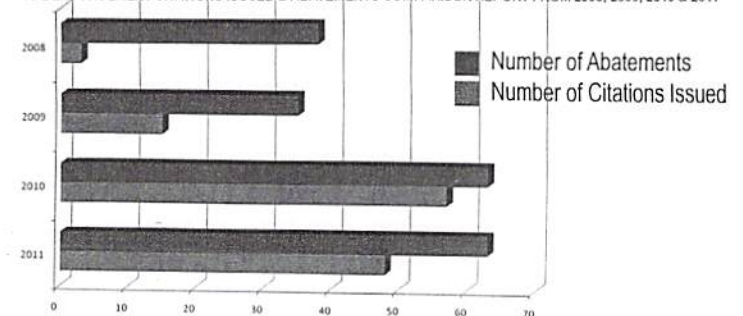
CODE ENFORCEMENT COMPARISON REPORT FOR THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED



Abatements

A common domino effect of foreclosures is as follows: Homeowners move out of the house during a foreclosure process often leaving trash and debris at the property along with uncut grass which quickly reaches long grass status of 8-inches in height. Upon receipt of a report of long grass, an inspector from the City's Community Development Department will inspect the property to see if it is in violation of city code. If a code violation exists, code enforcement will post a letter on the property and mail a letter to the property owner stating that they must bring their property into compliance within 7-days, at which time a follow-up inspection is performed. If the property remains in violation, the inspector will have the City's Public Works Department mow the lawn, for which the city will bill the property owner. Unpaid bills will be assessed against the property.

CODE ENFORCEMENT CITATIONS ISSUED & ABATEMENTS COMPARISON REPORT FROM 2008, 2009, 2010 & 2011



Code enforcement has been a team effort for the City of Maplewood. The Health Officer, the Building Inspectors, the City Planners, the Police Department, Fire Department and the Public Works Department work together to enforce the City Code.