Introduction to Code Enforcement in King County

How to Register a Complaint:
To report a complaint about a building, land use or environmental code violation in unincorporated King County:

- Complete the Code Enforcement On Line Complaint Form at: www.kingcounty.gov/property/permits/ce/complaints/ceform.aspx; or
- Call 206-296-6680 during regular business hours; or
- Send a letter to DPER Code Enforcement at: DPER Code Enforcement 35030 SE Douglas Street, Suite 210 Snoqualmie, WA 98065-9266

- For emergencies (activities happening now that may cause irreparable environmental damage or create a safety concern) occurring on weekends, holidays, or after hours, call 1-888-437-4771.

How to Look Up the Status of a Complaint:

- Visit the following website and enter the case number or parcel number: http://your.kingcounty.gov/ddes/permits/reports

Our Jurisdiction: DPER Code Enforcement investigates zoning, building and land use complaints only in the unincorporated area of King County. If a property in question is located within a city limit (Seattle, Issaquah, Kent, etc.), that city must be contacted directly in order to file a complaint or research zoning regulations. For links to local cities and towns as well as state agencies, go to www.kingcounty.gov/othlink.htm.
The Code Enforcement Process

Code Enforcement complaints can be registered by filling out the on-line complaint form, calling the complaint line, faxing, mailing, or e-mailing a written complaint. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Code Enforcement Office will gather basic property information and assign a case number to the complaint. Complaints are then routed to a specific Code Enforcement Officer for investigation. Initial contact with a reported violator generally occurs within 30 days of receiving a complaint, although environmental hazards and other high priority cases are investigated as quickly as possible, usually within 48 hours.

Some violations are quick to resolve, while others take more time due to their complexity. Code Enforcement Officers work with property owners in an attempt to educate them about the specific code requirements which apply to their property. If the property owner is willing to work with the officer, then both parties agree to a compliance schedule. If the violator is a repeat offender or is unwilling to bring the property into compliance, the officer will issue a Notice and Order, which typically includes civil penalties and the possibility of a lien on the property. The order may be appealed to the King County Hearing Examiner and scheduled for a public hearing.

In some extreme cases, the Code Enforcement Office may abate the violation by hiring a contractor to clean up the property. At the abatement phase, the property owner is responsible for the cost of the clean-up. If this cost is not paid at the time of clean-up, a lien will be placed on the property.

Community-Oriented Code Enforcement

Each Code Enforcement Officer is assigned to work in a specific geographic area. Officers work in partnership with local communities to establish case priorities and to communicate about local Code Enforcement efforts. If you would like an officer to speak at your community group, simply call: 206-296-6680.