

## **ACONA Meeting Notes**

September 24, 2019

After introductions the following topics were covered.

### **Illegal Dumping – and Whom to Call**

Jessica Aldridge, Sustainability Manager, Athens Services

Freddy Torres, Operations Manager for Altadena, Athens Services

Typically dump to avoid pick-up charges (but Athens has bulky item pickup service)

County oversees illegal dumping. Report at 1-888-8386746. There's also reporting capability online via <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/illdump/>

County works with Athens to pick up the illegally dumped item/s.

If Athens sees illegal dumping and it hasn't been reported to county, Athens will create a work order for bulky item pickup and will pick up the item/s. If the county reports a problem, Athens has 72 hours to pick up the item/s; typically they are picked up within 24 hours.

Athens does not pick up household hazardous waste. Powerpoint slide gives options for disposal.

### **Property Rehab – What to Do and Whom to Call about a Neighbor**

Robert Tabares, Code Enforcement Supervisor, LA County Public Works District Building and Safety Engineering

Ciara Barnett, Senior Civil Engineer, Building and Safety San Gabriel District Office

Yosh Morisaku, Senior Civil Engineer, Code Enforcement Section Head, District Building and Safety Engineering

Kevin Petroski, Code Enforcement Supervisor, District Building and Safety Engineering

Deal with everything on private property. Public right-of-way is dealt with by the county.

Nuisance Abatement team is made up of a number of different county agencies.

Complaint-driven enforcement; not typically proactive. Anonymous reporting.

Building code enforcement: owner as 45 days to correct the problem before they go to the next step.

### **Businesses in Altadena – How to Help New Ones**

Ernesto Bobadilla and Chris Perry, LA County Consumer & Business Affairs

Office of Small Business has three business services:

- Small Business Concierge, a free consulting service; also provides referrals for service they don't provide. Do workshops and one-on-one counseling. Includes a number of services, in concert with Small Business Counseling. Small Business Utilization Plan, which is geared toward local small business and disabled veteran businesses. Includes Social Enterprise program, for businesses that have a positive effect on the community (a small business that hires ex-felons or the homeless, for example). Also includes the Community Business Enterprise: helps small businesses 51%-owned by women or minorities.
- Small Business Counseling
- Procurement Technical Assistance Center helps small business participate in government contracting.

### **Q&A**

Q: There are properties in my area where neighbors can see junk in the back yard, but it can't be seen from the street. Can you do anything about those properties? A: It has to be visible from the public right-of-way. If you complain about it, Public Works can ask permission to come onto your property to view the violation.

Q: What do you do if a property has been abandoned for 10 years and it's owned by a bank? It's been reported, and the front has been boarded up, but it's a hazard. A: They are not

exempt. There is an administrative process where the county can go on to the property to take action.

Q: Received a complaint about rehab work that was being done at a house and all the trash was piled up in front of the house. The house is on a private road. Can Public Works get involved? A: Yes, Public Works gets involved because private roads are considered privately owned property.

Comment: You said we can be anonymous. My experience is that it's better for the person complaining to make sure there's follow-up. Suggestion: Work through your town council rep and let them file the complaint and follow up.

Q: Is Robot Coffee & Tea ever going to open? A: It's getting there. They are moving along in the process.

Q: Is there an upward tick for businesses in Altadena? A: There is an uptick in requests and proposals.

Q: We see Athens one day a week. Every once in a while there's special bulk pick-ups. How do we make a special request? A: Use the 800 number (888-336-6100) and talk to our customer service reps.

Q: Is there a way to get the bins washed? A: Definitely. Call Customer Service and they will do an exchange.

Q: Do you ever catch anybody for illegal dumping? A: No; that's not our job. [But the Sheriff has.]

Q: You have senior discounts for people over 62. You will also do free rollout for seniors, right? A: Yes.

Q: Construction debris: If someone requests a bin from Athens and they're going to place it on the street, do they need a permit before they request the bin? A: Athens is already permitted to work in the county, but you'd have to ask the county about whether the people doing the construction need or have obtained a permit.

Q: Bulky item pickup: If a resident requests more than the allotted pickups, will they get a message on the website that says they've exceeded their allocation? A: Have never seen allocation exceeded, but there is a process.

Q: When I hit 65, I was told that I would have to change from the 96 gallon bin to the smaller black bin. But my neighbor didn't have to do that. A: Age doesn't matter. And you still get the senior discount.

Q: If the residence is co-owned by a senior, do you get the senior discount, or is it whoever's name is on the account. A: The account holder drives the discount.

Q: Can we refer county vendors to you so that you can add them to your resource list for Small Business Concierge? A: Yes. They may have to go through a vetting process.

Q: What plan do you have to address a massive disaster that generates massive amounts of trash? A: Work with the homeowners to work on the cleanup. Put on workshops on how to conduct the cleanup. Fast-track fire rebuilds. Make sure permits are in place. Expedite plan checks for permits. It's a multi-agency team effort. FEMA, State, and County funding. Some

residents wanted to do their own cleanup (after the Woolsey fire). Post-response evaluation to make improvements where necessary.

Q; Figueroa & Casitas have a lot of trees that drop leaves and debris on the sidewalk. I was told the county was responsible. A: Yes, if it's in the public right-of-way.

Comment: I would love to have more places to eat out up here. Lots of people come up here to hike. Wouldn't it be nice to have some good places to eat up here?