

CITIZENS **AGAINST** LITTER

10 STEPS TO A CLEANER NEIGHBORHOOD

These are some basic things that should be considered when establishing an on-going Citizens Against Litter volunteer pro-active program for a cleaner neighborhood.

1. Identify and get commitments from a core group of at least 12 residents.
2. Walk the neighborhood and divide it into zones (like the Shadyside plan), identifying the streets and alleys within each zone. Maybe 12 to 15 zones.
3. Recruit volunteers. Assign volunteers to each zone; try to have volunteers assigned within the zone where they live. The goal should be 40 to 50 volunteers, or roughly 1% of the population of the neighborhood.
4. Each zone should be frequented regularly, at least once a week. Organized cleanups should be attempted once a month for the entire neighborhood.
5. Encourage your neighborhood schools to begin Litter Education 101 programs. In addition to participating in the Pittsburgh Public School Stash the Trash programs in the spring and fall, suggest to principals to have students, supervised by teachers, clean up around their campus weekly (or more often).
6. There is no backlog of abandoned cars in the city. Therefore, the leader in each zone should be responsible for maintaining contact with Public Safety (412-255-2621) and reporting to them the specific location of abandoned cars on streets and city property as quickly as possible.
7. Monitor the demolition of vacant and dilapidated dwellings. Inquiries should be directed to the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) at 412-255-2175.
8. Identify vacant lots. In 2008, Mayor Ravenstahl announced the creation of a “Green Team” to pretty up vacant lots and demolition sites. Public Works and the Department of Neighborhood Initiatives are involved with this program. Be pro-active. Find out the status of things in your neighborhood. Contact Kevin Quigley (see below) and Christine Berger (412-255-8680).
9. Monitor the situation with illegal dumpsites. PA CleanWays (affiliated with Allegheny CleanWays) conducted a survey of illegal dumpsites in the city. Contact Myrna Newman at 412-381-1301 or myrnan@alleghencycleanways.org. Request a copy of this report, specifically as it applies to your neighborhood. Maintain contact with Myrna Newman for assistance and training on procedures to eliminate dumpsites. Contact Kevin Quigley of Public Work who supervises the Redd Up Crews for blighted areas at kevin.quigley@city.pittsburgh.pa.us.
10. The city’s Graffiti Busters Team is working to resolve graffiti damage on public buildings and on a case by case basis with private dwellings. Contact Patty Chavez of Public Works at patty.chavez@city.pittsburgh.pa.us or 412-255-2872. **(Updated 8/4/11)**