

# **CITY OF DULUTH**

## **COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO A COMMUNITY PROBLEM**

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**June 2012**

# DEFINING THE PROBLEM

Condemned  
Properties

Tax Forfeited  
Properties

Abandoned Property

Crime

Solid Waste

Structural Issues

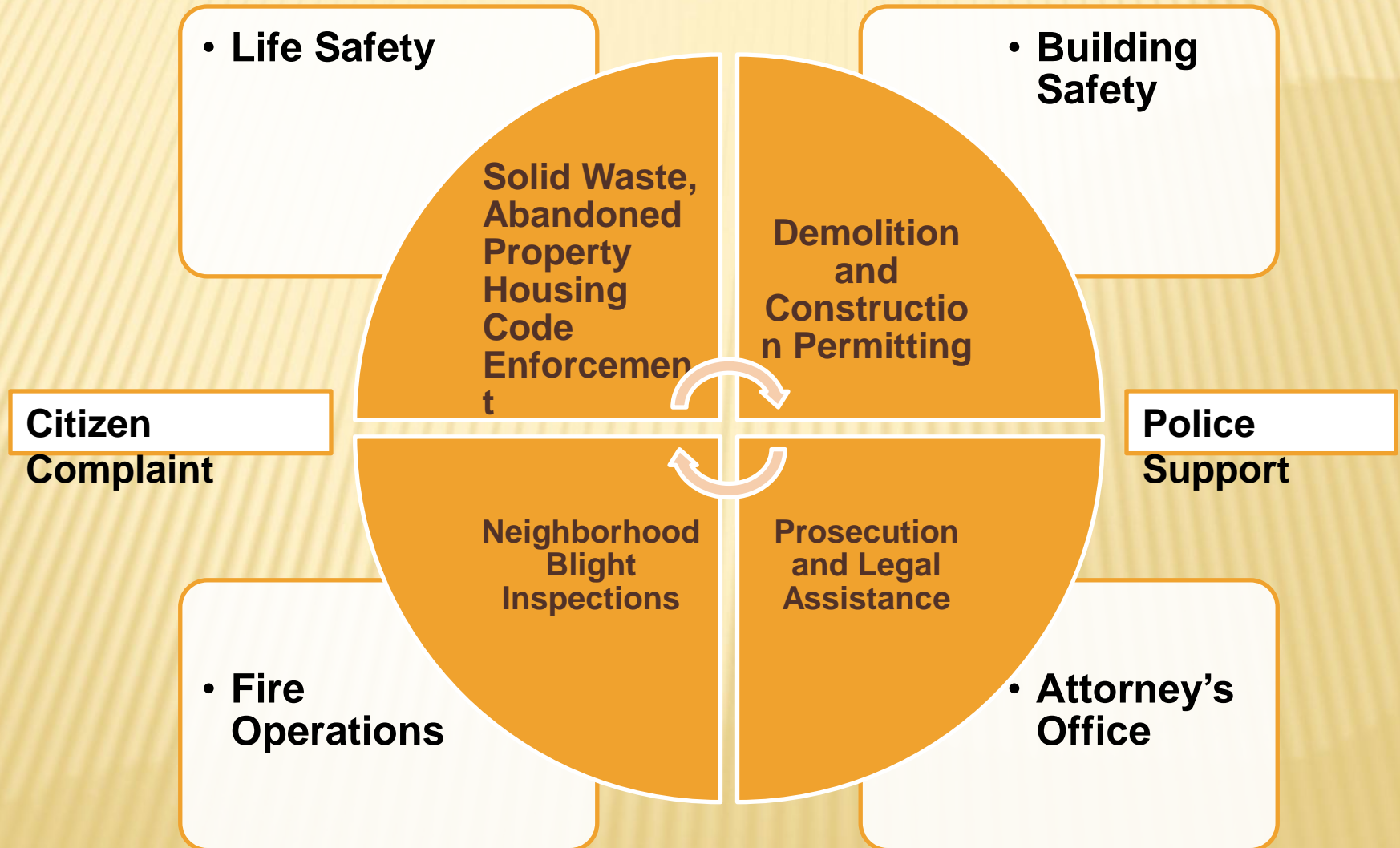
Citizen Complaints

Neighborhood  
Impact





# CITY NUISANCE ABATEMENT PROCESS



# ENFORCEMENT TOOLS

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- Fire Fighter Blight Survey
- Voluntary Compliance
- Administrative Citation's
- Clean Up and Assess to Property
- Condemnation for Habitation
- Condemnation for Demolition
- District Court
- Tenants Remedy Act

# INEFFICIENT PROCESS

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- Many inspectors to same Property
- No one department had big picture
- Each department set own priorities
- Poor communication between government agencies / private partners
- Courts not solution
- Citizen frustration
- Repeat offenders



# BLIGHT AND NUISANCE COLLABORATIVE

## Partners in Response

### Government

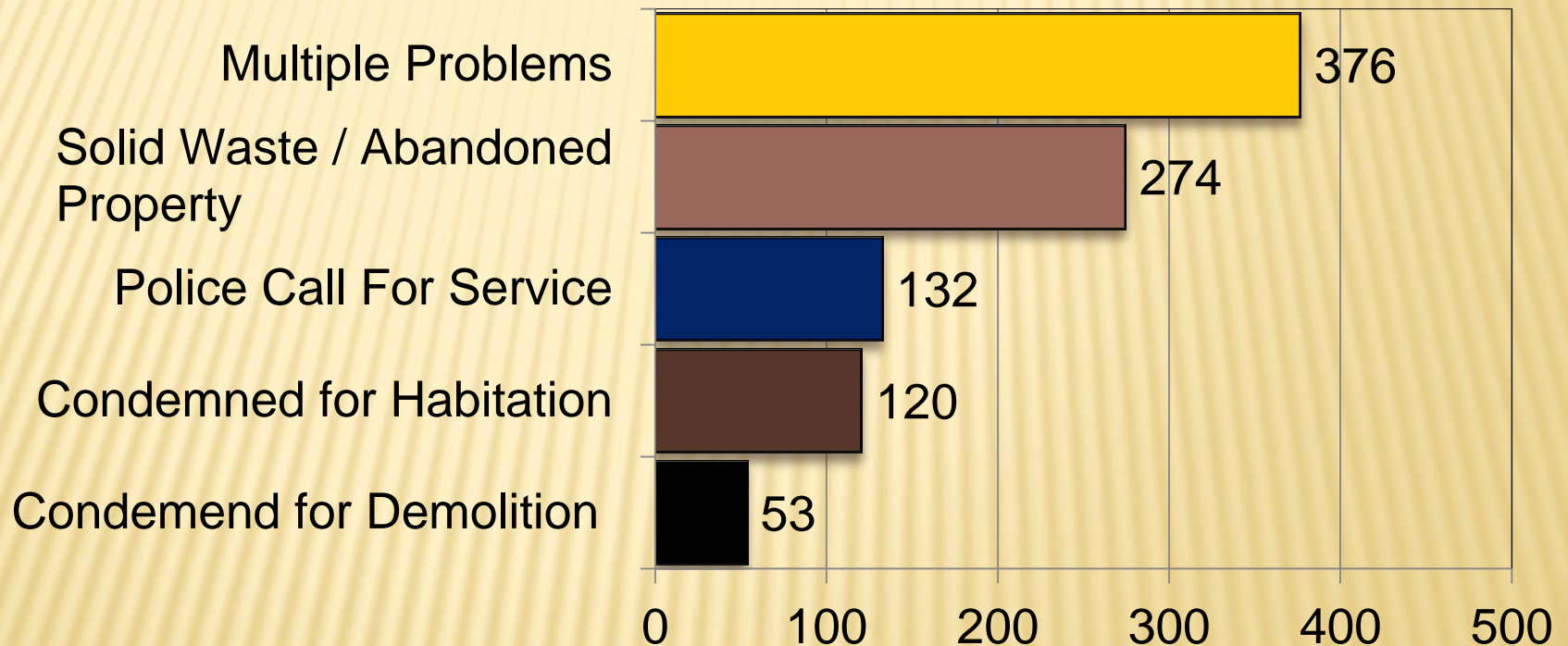
- City of Duluth
  - Attorneys Office
  - Fire Dept
  - Police Department
  - Community Dev
- St Louis County
- Sanitary District

### Community

- Housing Redevelopment Authority
- Housing Resource Center
- LISC
- West Duluth Community Development



# 428 IDENTIFIED PROBLEM PROPERTIES





# PRIORITIZE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

- Use list to prioritize enforcement efforts
- Combine resources of multiple agencies
- Creative solutions and networking

# EXAMPLES

- Use city funds for demolitions on lots that are not buildable.
- Special City funds administered by HRA for demolitions to create buildable lots, gardens, and developments.





# EXAMPLES

## By removing blighted buildings

- Reduce crime
- Increase property values
- Create green space or new buildable lots





# EXAMPLES

## By Coordination of Enforcement tools

- Firefighter blight program finds problem
- Voluntary compliance is achieved 60% properties
- Solid waste compliance officer follow up enforcement



# OTHER COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

## Life Safety Office

- In 2011, a new division of the Fire Department was created. The new division dealt with all aspects of property maintenance.
- This includes:

Fire Code	Rental and Housing code
Solid Waste	Abandoned Property
Public Ed	Abandoned Vehicles
	Condemnations



# OTHER COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

## Life Safety Office

- In 2012, a police officer was added to the division to provide police support on needed calls and to coordinate with Community Police Officers.



# PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Have become proactive vs. reactive – **Firefighters blight survey**
- 650% increase in demolitions – **39 demolitions 2011-2012**
- Condemned for human habitation lifted - **42**
- Focus on Target Areas – **Focused Enforcement and non-profit programs for homeowners**
- Better cooperation with County and tax forfeited properties
- LISC Neighborhood Initiative Award

# QUESTIONS?



*Michael K. Anderson, Photographer*

***Blight and Nuisance Collaborative Team***