

This is an informational agenda item in regards to the March 15, 2017 Council Workshop presentation on Code Enforcement activities. During this presentation, the frequency of code enforcement cases was presented to Council along with the frequency of cases for six other near-by municipalities. There was previous discussion on whether DeBary should change its code enforcement activity from reactive to proactive. As part of this discussion, staff performed a windshield survey of current applicable code violations around the city over a four-day period. The City's total caseload activity for 2016 was 520 new cases. The windshield survey returned another estimated 460 potential new cases. Using the 2016 total caseload data and the windshield survey data, it may be roughly projected that 980 new cases would need to be addressed in following years should the city become proactive in its code enforcement activity.

The City currently has one Code Enforcement Officer. Therefore this would result in 1 officer per 980 cases per year, or 3.8 cases per day. Six other nearby cities were also evaluated to gain a perspective of comparable caseloads per officer. These six cities included New Symrna Beach (1 officer/176 cases/year); Orange City (1/305); Port Orange (1/524); Sanford (1/498); Holly Hill (1/470); and Lake Mary (1/65).

During the Code Enforcement presentation on March 15, 2017, an audience member stated that Orange County handled 20-25 cases per day. However, it must be noted that they have 49 code enforcement officers and 16 administrative staff members. DeBary staff has contacted Orange County and received data from their Chief Code Inspector on the County's number of caseloads for 2016. Orange County is proactive and also works seven days a week, 365 days a year. In 2016, their staff conducted 25,169 new inspections. Their Chief Inspector stated that the code inspectors average approximately 629 new cases per year. This equates to 2.4 cases per day. Therefore, the number of cases per day is actually lower for Orange County then would be if DeBary were to become proactive and handle the projected caseload. (Orange = 2.4/day; DeBary = 3.8/day). DeBary handled approximately 2 cases per day in 2016.

Please note, to determine the number of cases per day, the following variables were considered: One employee works an average of 2,080 hours per year, or 260 days. Therefore the number of caseloads for the year was divided by 260 days.

Re-inspections of existing cases account for roughly three times the number of new cases for both Orange County and DeBary.