

Jeffery Jones
Mayor

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January 24, 2012

Re: Our Personal and Legal Responsibility, in Promoting the Local Quality of Life

Dear Patersonians, Local Business Operators, and Property Owners:

I am writing to ask for your cooperation in enhancing the Quality of Life in our City. To achieve the goal we all desire, City Hall must do its part, and you must also do your part. We all must take responsibility.

"Responsibility" means in this case that if you see that an offense affecting the Quality of Life has been committed near your home or business, you should notify the appropriate City agency. The accompanying Information Sheet lists sample offenses, along with the appropriate phone number to use for reporting each type of offense. To do your part in helping the City confront Quality of Life offenses, the phrase to remember is "if you see something, say something."

"Responsibility" also means that you must continue to keep your home and business well-maintained, paying particular attention to areas such as the front and sidewalk. In other words, for the sake of the public at large, your home or business's public face must be kept in a presentable condition.

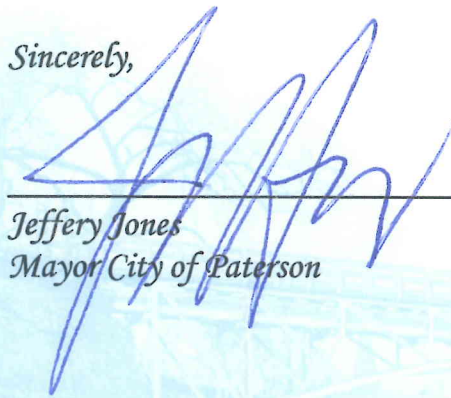
As an example of how a City may potentially hold its stakeholders responsible, please note that in the City of Cleveland and other Ohio locations, certain standards of personal responsibility have been enacted as local laws that hold landowners liable for substantial fines where illegal activities take place repeatedly on the landowner's property, even where the landlord has not personally committed any of the violations. Under that system, fines against the owner may lead to liens against the property, which in turn may lead to loss of title to the property.

Here, in the City of Paterson, we have not enacted such a system, in part because I am hopeful that you, the owners and occupants of private property, will voluntarily cooperate by notifying the City of violations you may observe, and, of course, by continuing to obey the laws that apply directly to you.

As noted above, I have enclosed an Information Sheet listing sample State and local laws whose violation may affect the Quality of Life. The list also includes the phone numbers of the appropriate City agencies for you to call, when there is a Quality of Life offense that you need to report. It is my hope that the list will help you in your own good faith efforts to do your part toward enhancing our local Quality of Life.

Together, we can uphold the Quality of Life in the City of Paterson, and maintain an attractive and healthy community where we all can grow and thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeffery Jones', is written over a horizontal line.

Jeffery Jones
Mayor City of Paterson

Enc.: List of Sample Violations Affecting the Quality of Life, with Phone Numbers for Reporting

LAWS THAT SAFEGUARD THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE CITY OF PATERSON: HOW DO I COMPLY, AND HOW DO I REPORT?

BEHAVIOR ON SIDEWALKS & STREETS (report to Paterson Police 973-321-1111):

- Neither minors nor adults shall consume alcohol on any street, sidewalk, park, or other such public place. Paterson Code §§113-15 to -17, -22
- Radios and similar items shall not be played at a volume that creates a disturbance. Paterson Code § 337-11
- Street parking of commercial vehicles over 2 tons is prohibited 9 P.M. to 6 A.M. Paterson Ord. 07:008
- A vehicle left on a street for 48 hours is considered abandoned, and may be towed. N.J.S.A. 39:4-56.5a
- If an owner or resident of property lets the site be used for indictable crimes (such as drug sales or a business of prostitution) ownership or residency rights may be terminated. N.J.S.A. 2C:64-1 to -9; 21 U.S.C.A. § 853

CONDITION OF LAND & BUILDINGS (report to Community Improvements Division, 973-321-1232):

- Property exteriors must be clean and well-maintained; yards must not be allowed to become health or safety hazards; vacant buildings must be presentably and securely boarded. Paterson Code §§ 149, 271-26, -27, -47
- Sidewalks must be kept in good repair. Paterson Code § 435-6
- Conversion of any structure to include additional apartments is strictly forbidden without the necessary permits and, where applicable, a variance to the Zoning Code. Paterson Code § 187-2

LITTER & RECYCLING (report to Public Works Department, 973-321-1488):

- No person shall throw litter in any public park, private lawn or sidewalk; no occupant or owner of private property shall permit any litter to remain on the property's lawn or sidewalk. Paterson Code §§ 313-1, -1.1
- Garbage and recyclables shall not be placed at the curbside until 6 P.M. on the day before collection. Empty garbage cans shall be removed from the curbside on the day of collection. Paterson Code § 427-5
- Papers, bottles and cans must be separated from garbage. Paterson Code § 427-21A
- Sidewalks must be kept in good repair. Paterson Code § 435-6

PETS (report to Animal Control Division, 973-881-3640):

- Dogs shall be licensed and leashed; their waste shall be disposed of appropriately. Paterson Code Ch. 121

SMOKING (report to Health Division 973-321-1277):

- Indoor smoking, except in a private residence, is generally prohibited. N.J.S.A. 2C:33-13; N.J.S.A. 26:3D-58.

NOTE:

- The said laws will be strictly enforced. Please report violations to the appropriate City office.
- When reporting an offense, you DO NOT have to give your name. Help the City help you in maintaining an attractive and healthy community!