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Public Response Animal Protection Services Graffiti Enforcement

2025 YEAR END NEWSLETTER

MEET OUR NEW CHIEF

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Please welcome Victor Zavala as the new Manager of Code Enforcement which includes Animal Protection Services, Public Response and Graffiti Abatement. Victor has an extensive background in the Animal Protection Services field, most recently as an Animal Control Supervisor with Clark County for the past 10 years. Victor brings a strong mix of leadership, experience, and enthusiasm to the role. Over the last 12 years with Clark County, he has gone above and beyond. Victor has been the face of Animal Protection Services for the Hispanic community, often being interviewed by Spanish speaking news channels. He continually strives to boost morale during Animal Control Officer Appreciation weeks, last year cooking breakfast for all the officers. He is always there to support the team in any way that he can. In an effort for everyone to get to know Victor, we asked him some great questions. Happy Reading!

Can you think of a moment that shaped how you lead today?

There have been many memorable moments over the last 18 years that have influenced how I lead. I was always amazed at how supervisors, managers, and directors would handle tough situations flawlessly. I remember dealing with challenging, out of the norm cases, where the team would be stuck. We would reach out to leadership, and calmly they would explain their thought process and find a solution. Observing capable leaders absolutely shaped how I lead today. The extra hours I spent reviewing code and policies were to ensure that I could always provide the same level of guidance to my team when they needed it. -VZ



How would you describe your leadership style?

Working in the animal welfare field we are required to adjust our response from call to call. To accomplish the goal of enforcement, rescue, or community engagement, we must utilize different approaches while still maintaining industry standards and best practices. I apply the same thinking to my leadership style. If the situation requires decisive action, or allows me to be democratic and inclusive, then that is the approach I utilize. Although my leadership style will change as needed, the "best practices" will always continue. My team knows I will always be respectful, approachable, collaborative, and fair. -VZ

A true leader inspires confidence, not fear

I think it is fair to say that you were comfortable and confident in your role as Animal Control Supervisor, so what inspired you to want to take on this new role as Code Enforcement Manager?

My time working in the public sector has taught me the importance and value of strong leadership. I have been fortunate enough to work under some amazing individuals. Having the opportunity to be involved in the future direction of the Code Enforcement unit was very exciting. Our unit has come such a long way over the last ten years, and I felt that I could help continue that progress. I am passionate about taking care of the team and ensuring we create an environment where they want to work. Our unit has a lot going for it right now and I could not pass up the opportunity to continue moving in a positive direction. -VZ

Leadership is about lifting others so the whole team can rise

What excites you most about your new role?

The challenge of a new role is always exciting. I am excited about handing over my previous responsibilities to the other supervisors in the Animal Protection Services division and seeing them lead. I am excited about working with and getting to learn from an entirely new team on the Public Response side. -VZ



What is a fun fact about you most people don't know?

I love to get outdoors as much as possible. Hiking or boating to find a hidden spot off the beaten path is always the goal when I have some free time. -VZ



PIPE DREAMS



How many people does it take to get a cat out of a pipe?

For one brown tabby that wandered into a storm drain, apparently only a diverse rescue team of various professions will do.

Officer Lara was the first to be called in and attempted to free the cat. The cat was reluctant to accept help and would scream and squirm rendering herself more stuck. This was clearly not going to be an easy task.

Officer Prol was called in to help, bringing more equipment to try and free the cat. Numerous tools and strategies were attempted by the two officers, and still the cat remained stuck. Stumped, it

was time for the officers to call in more backup, and assistance from the fire department was requested.

When the firefighters arrived with even more equipment to assist, these attempts, too, were unsuccessful. The cat was so unwilling to cooperate that our classic team of stuck cat rescuers needed more help.

Captain Noe Quintero called in our last set of professionals. DVM Bryan Kenton was willing to come and help. He soon arrived with one of his vet techs. The cat was sedated, and with some soap and careful maneuvering, they were able to pull her free. Her arm and elbow had been stuck awkwardly in the pipe, which had prevented earlier attempts to free her while she was still awake.

The veterinary professionals volunteered to take the cat from here, intending to keep an eye on her as she came out of sedation and give her some vaccinations. All seemed well until the cat woke up in the office, apparently very ungrateful for the forced nap and assistance. She would not allow anyone to handle her again while awake, hissing and swatting and attempting to fight anyone that tried. Animal Protection Services entered the scene again, and Officer Rodriguez was able to assist with the aggressive cat. She was taken to the shelter where she continued to protest but received her rabies vaccine and a spay.



PAWNSTER MASH

Those who live in Commissioner Michael Naft's district are likely aware of his love of animals. Howl-O-Ween is just one of the events he hosts to highlight animal-related vendors in the community, give shelters an opportunity to showcase their adoptable animals, and give animal lovers a chance to connect.

Animal Protection Services was present again this year, and it wasn't just our officers working the event who showed up! Dispatch and Administrative Staff attended as well to show off their pets' costumes and take part in the festivities. It was a beautiful day in the park full of music, treats, goody bags, information, and tons of cute costumes.

Be sure to keep an eye out for Animal Protection Services at other community events!



DEJA MEW

How many people does it take to get a cat out of a pipe? Wait, didn't we just do this?

Yes, a separate brown tabby in a separate storm drain on a separate day was called in to dispatch. Officer Lara responded to this call as well!

Thankfully, this call was a much smoother experience. The cat was cramped in the pipe like an amateur contortionist who had gotten in over her head. With a slight nudge from Officer Lara's cat pole, the cat was able to finally reposition herself, no longer stuck.

Apparently uninjured, *this* cat had no intention of being sent to the vet and made a run for it as soon as it was freed. Hopefully the feline learned her lesson and won't be giving Animal Protection Services a "cat in a pipe" hat trick.



FLIGHT RISK



Some dogs live for the thrill of the chase and will take any chance to run. For two weeks, a Siberian Husky named Azul eluded all capture, content to live on the run.

Maybe after all her time running, she wanted to give flying a try instead. Nellis Air Force Base called for assistance from Animal Protection Services when she bolted onto the flight line and nearly got herself pulled into a jet engine.

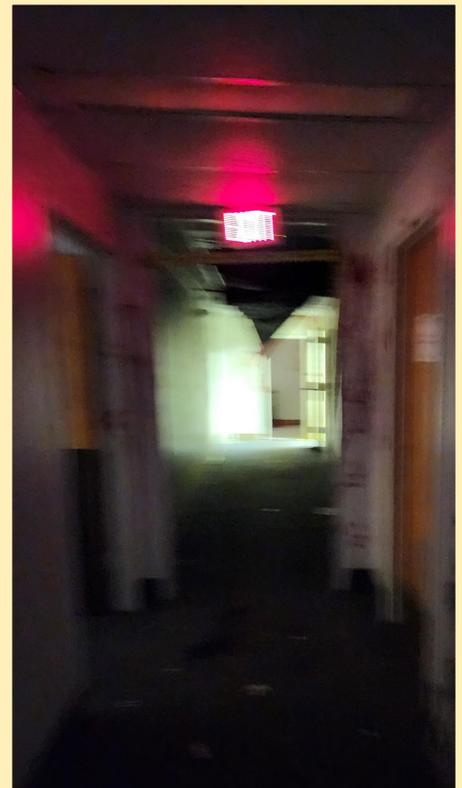
Officer Prol arrived to find security and police chasing the dog with their vehicles. The stakes had been significantly raised for the fugitive Husky, now being pursued by Nellis Air Force staff, Metro, and Animal Protection Services. Officer's priority was keeping Azul from returning to the flight line and possibly causing an accident.

Luckily, Officer Prol was able to finally herd the dog into a blocked area. Unluckily, the blocked area contained a dilapidated building that was due to be demolished. Much of the building was poorly lit, and to add to the cinematic feel of the entire situation, it had recently been used as a haunted house.

It was the perfect setting for the grand finale, with props and fake blood strewn about. While security and police were certain the dog had gotten away again, Officer Prol wasn't ready to call off the search yet. She called for another officer to help with the search, and Sergeant Petralia was soon on scene.

They combed through the spooky building, asking security and police to secure the area as they went. Finally, Azul's last stand came to an end as they located her hiding in the dark.

Azul was safely taken to the shelter where she was found to be in good health, just a bit dirty. Her time on the lamb is over, and she has entered foster care, hopefully a good distance away from any jet engines.



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



Congratulations Nik Caldera, Animal Control Officer, for being named the Employee of the Quarter. Nik joined the Clark County APS team in December 2023 and has been a great team member ever since. Knowing that he makes a difference in the community has been a great motivation for him as he strives to be better every day. Nik states the best thing he has learned in his position is how to prioritize his day and knowing that he has an endless amount of support from his supervisors and

coworkers. Outside of work, Nik enjoys trying new restaurants, watching RuPaul's Drag Race and spending time with friends. Some hobbies are taking long walks, dancing, and playing Mario Party. If Nik could go any place in the world, it would be Italy so he can learn about his family's history and culture. When asked if he could have dinner with anyone dead or alive, who would it be and why?

There was no hesitation when he said it would have to be his mother; she is his biggest supporter and any day with her is the biggest blessing. We are lucky to have Nik as part of the Animal Protection Services Unit!



WELCOME TO THE TEAM



Join us in welcoming Freddy Galvez to Animal Protection Services. Before joining the team, he was a K9 Handler for eight years with MGM Resorts International and is currently a member of the Nevada Air National Guard. Along with his K9 partner, they would sweep casino floors, lobbies and concerts conducting firearms detection. Wanting to continue his passion of working with animals and his desire for public service, the move to join the Clark County team was a "no brainer". On his off time, Freddy enjoys spending time with his wife and two beautiful daughters and watching

UFC. Freddy takes his hobbies outdoors, by traveling when he can, hiking in the Red Rock Mountains and walking his dog. If Freddy could trade lives with any one person for two weeks, it would have to be Elon Musk. Freddy is fascinated by space exploration and wants to know all that is planned with Space X. Welcome Freddy!



ANIMAL PROTECTION SERVICES YEAR END STATISTICS

27,328

**CALLS HANDLED
IN THE FIELD**

85,376

**CALLS RECEIVED
BY DISPATCH**

\$379,900

**ADMINISTRATIVE CITATIONS
FINES ISSUED**



Vehicle Confinements 431

Stray Animals 2,258

Administrative Citations 848

Impounded Animals 8,053

Misdemeanor Citations Issued 1,244

Bite Reports 1,455

Total Sterilizations 19,331

Health and Welfare 1,723

Injured Animals 1,475

Felony Cases to Metro 53

Return to Owner in the Field 191

CODE ENFORCEMENT YEAR END STATISTICS

22,756
TOTAL CCPRO
CASES

10,192
OUT OF 11,400
CASES, 89%
RESOLVED
WITHOUT FINES

12,993
TOTAL GRAFITTI
CASES

- Landscape Parking 453
- Outside Storage 160
- Parking Citations 1,875
- Short Term Rental 1,540
- Squatter Homes 215
- Trash & Debris 1,046
- Unlicensed /Inoperable Vehicles 178
- Vagrant Camps 2,632
- Zoning Violations 2,250



- Abandoned/Unsecured Properties 203
- Auto Repair 563
- Building Without Permits 780

- Commercial Vehicles in ROW 2,756
- Dangerous/Unsafe Structures 236
- Dead Vegetation & Weeds 815

Total Fines

- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Dead Vegetation & Weeds \$16,700 | Running a Business Out of a Home \$250,000 | Landscape Parking \$28,000 |
| Building Without Permits \$183,900 | Short Term Rental \$3,455,050 | Parking Citations \$187,500 |
| Dangerous/Unsafe Structures \$7,150 | Trash & Debris \$75,700 | Outside Storage \$8,100 |
| Unlicensed/Inoperable Vehicles \$17,550 | Zoning Violation \$30,750 | |

SAFE AND PROTECTED

In October 2025, Clark County Code Enforcement received an online complaint regarding a possible squatter house located in the East side of Las Vegas. The reporting party stated that the homeowner had passed away and there had been multiple unknown people living in the home bringing unwanted traffic along with trash and debris making the house a safety hazard. The reporting party further stated that in addition to the very suspicious activity, it seemed that the home was without electricity.

Code Enforcement and Metro acted fast to investigate the neighborhood's concerns. After conducting an initial investigation, Code Enforcement Officer Chavez and the Metro police officers discovered the property was being occupied by the deceased owner's girlfriend who also had individuals living inside the garage. The individuals were running a generator to power the home, the backyard of the property was covered with solid waste, trash and debris. The front door to the property was broken, and there was an accumulation of solid waste, trash and debris throughout the driveway and in front of the garage.

After verifying ownership of the home, Clark County Code Enforcement and Las Vegas Metro Police Department deemed the property an imminent danger due to the uninhabitable living conditions. Metro requested and Code Enforcement obtained an administrative warrant to secure the

property. A red tag for imminent danger was posted on the property. Once approved, Metro cleared the property, and the home was boarded and secured. The officers' fast actions kept the neighborhood safe and protected. A lien in the amount of \$2,900.00 was placed on the property.



Before



After

\$2,900 Lien!!

SUCCESS STORY: PERSISTENCY PAYS OFF

There are times when cases handled by Code Enforcement take longer than expected to resolve. After three years of continuous inspections and numerous complaints from neighbors, we are happy to announce a successful resolution!

Short-term rentals continue to be a challenging issue in our community. Unfortunately, some property owners choose to ignore repeated communications and notices regarding violations, continuing to operate despite our efforts.

Our dedicated Code Enforcement Specialists never give up. They work diligently to investigate complaints, conduct inspections, and gather the necessary evidence to take enforcement action. In this particular case, their persistence paid off; multiple Administrative Citations were issued, totaling \$78,575.00.

All fees were ultimately paid, and the case is now officially closed. As of today, no additional complaints have been received for this property.

This success highlights the ongoing commitment of the Clark County Public Response Office to uphold community standards and protect the quality of life in our neighborhoods.



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



Hip Hip Hooray for Kulani Purkey, being named the Employee of the Quarter. Kulani has expressed some wonderful things about working with Clark County, such as getting to work alongside such great coworkers and developing working relationships across other departments. This is important to her, as she sees herself working for the County for a long time, taking whatever career path opportunities arise. An important lesson she has learned along the way is kindness can go a long way and she takes that into her everyday practice. Outside of work, she loves to spend time with family and playing Mario Party with her nieces and nephews. Kulani also enjoys lifting weights, practicing yoga or working to perfect her golf swing. Her favorite animals are lions and dolphins and her favorite movies are White Chicks and The Secret Life of Walter Mitty. When asked if she could spend dinner with any one person, Kulani stated it would have to be her friend Avery who passed away a few years ago, Avery was a joy to be around and was always her biggest encourager in life; they would probably hit the gym together and then have dinner. Since being named Employee of the Quarter, Kulani has been promoted to Code Enforcement Specialist!! A double congratulations to Kulani! We know she will do a great job!



PROACTIVE INVESTIGATION

One of the responsibilities of a Code Enforcement Supervisor is to monitor open investigations that the Specialists are assigned. While doing so and while driving down the street of an active case, the Supervisor observed a house with severe fire damage. After verifying that our office did not have an open and active case, a Supervisor proactively initiated a case to be opened and assigned.

The Code Enforcement Specialist who was assigned to the Supervisor-initiated case conducted an initial inspection of the property. During the inspection, the specialist observed significant structural damage and determined, pursuant to Title 22.12.100 (E), (F), and (I), that demolition of the fire damaged structure was required. The property was red flagged, deeming the structure unsafe.

The property was subsequently reinspected, and the specialist observed no change in condition and no compliance by the property owner. As a result, a Notice of Abatement and a Notice and Order from the Clark County Building Department were issued to the property owner.

After continued noncompliance, bids were solicited for demolition and asbestos testing. Once the bids were approved, search and seizure warrants were obtained to conduct asbestos testing on the property, which returned positive results. The property was cleared of asbestos after the warrant was executed.

Following asbestos abatement, demolition of the structure was completed. A fence with a posted No Trespassing sign was installed on the property. The property was liened for a total



Property Lien

ENCAMPMENTS REMOVED

Code Enforcement recently addressed renewed concerns at a vacant lot that has recurring unauthorized access and homeless encampments. An initial email complaint reported that there was a recent tent fire which prompted attention to the property due to potential safety risks associated with open flames, debris, and unsafe and temporary structures.

In addition to the tent fire incident, the complaint highlighted ongoing issues related to encampments at the lot. Vacant lots, while often held by property owners for future development or other purposes, may be viewed by unhoused individuals as an opportunity for temporary shelter, particularly when lots remain unsecured.

In response to the complaint, Officer Grant completed his initial inspection and found multiple unhoused individuals camped in tents on the property with assorted trash and debris throughout the lot. He moved forward by issuing a Notice of Abatement to the property owner highlighting the concerns and code violations of illegal, unsafe and unsightly maintenance of the property. Conditions continued to worsen on the lot. The debris grew and additional individuals moved onto the lot. As the deadline for compliance from the property owner soon passed, Officer Grant coordinated efforts to address the worsened conditions, issued a Notice of Estimated Costs and scheduled an abatement. In addition to Code Enforcement's efforts, Help of Southern Nevada made plans to visit the site and offer services to the unhoused individuals. The abatement was completed with the assistance of vendors. They removed a significant amount of solid waste, refuse, debris, discarded materials, to remove hazards and improve overall site conditions.

Following the cleanup, the lot was secured to help deter future encampments and mitigate repeat safety concerns. This brought the case to closure, and a lien was recorded in the amount of \$7,155.00.



FIND THE VIOLATIONS



- 30.04.01 (F) (2) (i) (C) Overgrown/dead vegetation, weeds, brush, grass.
- 9.04.050 (C) Accumulation of Solid Waste.
- 30.03.03 (A) (2) (ii) (e) Residential Uses—A recreational vehicle is prohibited as an accessory dwelling.
- 30.04.04 (H) (1) (iv) (e) Parking within unimproved or landscaped areas is prohibited.
- 30.04.04 (G) (7) Storage of unlicensed, unregistered, or inoperable vehicles.
- 30.01.04 (A) (2) Setbacks—No structure or use of any structure or land shall be established, enlarged, extended, altered, moved, divided, or maintained and no lot shall be created, except as authorized by and in compliance with this Title and all other applicable regulations, including Building Code and Public Works standards.

ANIMAL PROTECTION SERVICES

By Phone:
702-455-7710

By Email:
Animalprotectionservicesinfo@clarkcountynv.gov



CODE ENFORCEMENT

By Phone:
702-455-4191

By Email:
Publicresponseinfo@clarkcountynv.gov

Graffiti Hotline:
702-455-4509

Download the FixIt Clark County app to report an issue in your neighborhood



SCAN ME