



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSES & INSPECTIONS
1130 Municipal Services Building
1401 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19102-1687

DAVID J. PERRI, P.E.
Commissioner

May 29, 2019

The Honorable Darrell Clarke
City Council President
City Hall, Room 490
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Council President Clarke,

This letter is in response to questions raised at the April 10, 2019 hearing before the Committee of the Whole on the Fiscal Year 2020 Proposed Budget for the Department of Licenses and Inspections. At this hearing, the following questions were asked:

Parker: Provide a breakdown of the Nuisance Unit's efforts to combat unpermitted activities.

The Nuisance Property Unit (NPU) works closely with the Police Department to ensure that business owners are held accountable for nuisance behavior. The NPU Director and supervisor regularly meet with other city agencies to discuss locations where nuisance activity has occurred and to decide the appropriate course of action.

During Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 to date, NPU has issued one-hundred (100) Cease Operations Orders. If any location is under a Cease Operations Order, the location will be placed under continuous monitoring. Locations that have violated a Cease Operations Order are reported to the City's Law Department. Monitoring efforts will continue until the owner brings the property into compliance. During Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 to date, NPU has referred one hundred eighty (180) cases to the Law Department.

If a location is found to be in violation of the property maintenance, fire, or zoning codes, all violations are thoroughly explained to the business owner and they are made aware of what is required to correct the violations. The NPU supports the business owner in their efforts to correct violations whenever possible.

Henon: Provide a breakdown of L+I's locally generated non-tax revenue by category (permits, licenses, fees, etc.).

Source	FY17	FY18	FY19 YTD (as of 3/31/19)
Licenses	21,938,977	23,810,688	18,507,971
Permits	29,664,953	31,716,519	26,212,828
Cert Statement	2,330,794	2,678,954	1,918,986
Fees	1,315,340	1,701,404	1,840,438
Other	4,723,234	6,296,951	4,666,913
Total:	59,973,298	66,204,516	53,147,136

Henon: Provide Law's report on violations that go to court for operating without a permit.

The Law Department does not track cases by the cause of the underlying violation. Accordingly, their statistics reflect the total number of cases sent for prosecution. For calendar year 2018, 6,577 cases were sent for prosecution in Municipal Court and 1,476 cases were sent for prosecution in the Court of Common Pleas.

Reynolds-Brown: How many complaints of chipped paint come from tenants?

The Department issues approximately 1,750 violations annually within a broad category of "interior wall surface defects" that includes chipped paint. Upon final implementation of the eCLIPSE Project, we will further define and track these specific violations.

Henon: Have any contractors, developers, etc. been fined under the 2013 legislation requiring contractor licensure?

The Department formed a new Audits & Investigations Unit (AIU) in 2018 to provide greater oversight over contractor compliance. AIU makes referrals to the Revenue Department when inspectors discover unlicensed contractors at work sites. During Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019, AIU has sent 56 contractor referrals to Revenue.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Thank you,



David J. Perri, P.E.
Commissioner