

**“WE ARE WHAT WE LOOK LIKE”***Handout***The way we do Code Enforcement currently:**

- 1)...We expend too much time and effort to try to correct the effects, instead of the cause. In addition to spending resources on proactive enforcement, more resources should be allotted toward a preventive and educational action.
- 2)...We have blighted areas in our city that will eventually destroy an entire neighborhood. The citizens of Rapid City make investments in their properties and neighborhoods. When the integrity of a particular area is jeopardized due to violations, those investments are also at risk.
- 3)...The current process pits one neighbor against the other.
- 4)...In the past, many different approaches, such as door hangers etc., and how to best enforce code violations have been looked at and talked about, but none have been fully implemented. Over the last 10-12 years, the Code Office has been placed under too many different departments; most recently, according to the 2011 budget PDF document, Code Enforcement is now placed under the Community Development Office. It is time to have some stability and clarity of purpose.



**THEREFORE:** I am proposing a new approach in the way we do Proactive Code Enforcement.

**FIRST:** I propose that we move our Code Enforcement Division (a community service) under the authority and direction of the Rapid City Police Department.

**SECOND:** I propose that we create a (Working Supervisor Position), within the Code Enforcement Division under the authority and direction of the Police Department. (See attached structure chart)

**There are several advantages of having Code Enforcement under the direction of the Police Department;**

- 1)...Code Enforcement, for the most part is an **Enforcement process**, not an **Administrative process**.
- 2)...Code Enforcement is a vital part of **Crime Prevention**.
- 3)...A crime is a violation of the State Criminal Statutes. An Ordinance violation is a violation of the City's Municipal Code of Ordinances. In either case, both have to be dealt with by an **Enforcement Officer**.
- 4)...Presently, our personnel in the Code Office have the title of **Enforcement Officers**.
- 5)...During a recent briefing, I was informed that statistics show that 60-70% of all violations that are identified and submitted were Police issues. This is evidence that we can streamline the process by bringing Code Enforcement under the same structure as the P.D. Code Enforcement and the P.D. would work coordinately as a team in Crime Prevention and bringing Code violation into compliance.
- 6)...**CPTED**, (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) and The Broken Window Theory would be a joint effort of the PD and Code Enf, and to educate the public. This would be accomplished through the Coordinating Working Supervisor that I am proposing in my chart.

7)...The **RED TAG** & 24hr.TOW-AWAY could also be accomplished by the Code Enforcement Officers. This also would be coordinated by the Working Supervisor, resulting in a reduced work load for the Uniformed Police Officers and non-sworn crash investigators.

8)...The Working Supervisor that I am proposing would develop a system to **Educate** the public, and **Encourage** the public to comply, then, if necessary **Enforce** the ordinance. In order to have better communication with the public and with one another in our respective departments of City Government, there must be a **central point of contact and coordination** in the municipal structure that is approachable by all without hesitation or apprehension. That **point of contact** would be the Coordinating Working Supervisor, at 355-3465.

9)...At the present time the supervisory responsibility for the Code Enforcement Division is included in the Resource Director summary. The Code Division is the only one that deals with enforcement, all others listed are an administrative process. My proposal would not only place Code Enforcement in a department whose day-to-day function is enforcement and community service. It would also streamline the essential duties of the Community Resource Office,



The "Working Supervisor" that I am proposing, under the direction of the PD, would coordinate Proactive Code Enforcement and as a result reduce crime. Enhanced Proactive Code Enforcement would have a positive impact on many issues that presently have a negative effect on our community.

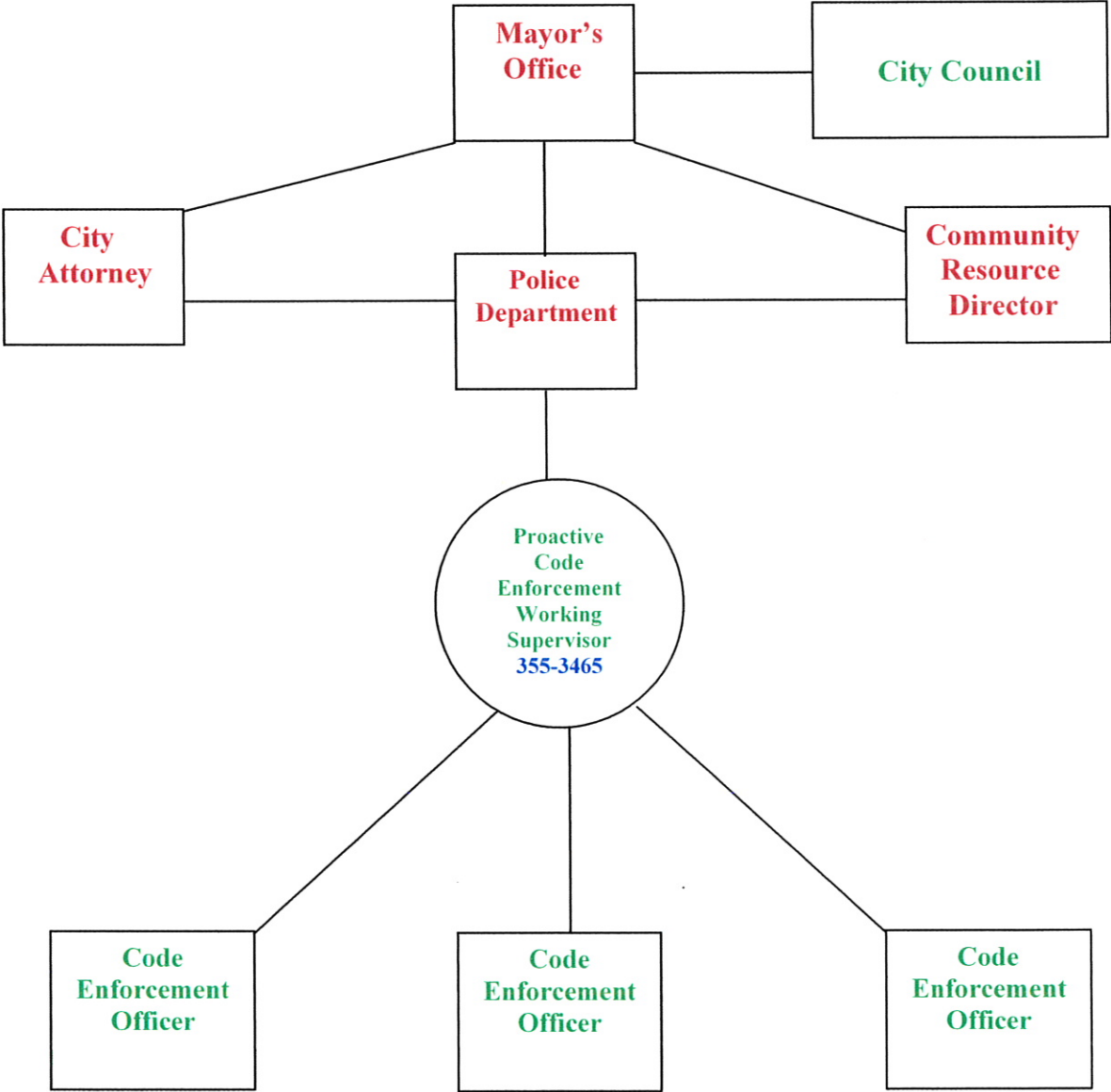
This Supervisor would be working in the Code Office along with the present (3) Enforcement Officers, **not just on paper, in another office, in another department, in another building.** This would enable our Code Enforcement Officers to do their job more efficiently and more effectively with a sense of pride and immediate support that they can rely on when difficult situations arise.

We can't afford NOT to do this. The payback for the City would be ten fold.

Respectfully;  
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(Copy for the record)  
12-14-2010, P.W. Committee

**Rapid City  
Municipal Code Enforcement  
Organizational Structure**



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