



CITY OF HARTFORD

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
250 Constitution Plaza
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Telephone: (860) 757-9022
Fax: (860) 722-6074
www.hartford.gov

EDDIE A. PEREZ
Mayor

JOHN F. PALMIERI
Director

NEWS RELEASE

Hartford's New Citation Process: A New Weapon to Combat Urban Blight

The City of Hartford now has a powerful new weapon to combat urban blight. Housing, Health, Rodent and Solid Waste inspectors (from the Departments of Development Services, Health and Human Services and Public Works) are writing \$99 municipal citations for violations of Hartford's Municipal Code, such as:

- Garbage on premises
- Inadequate rubbish storage facilities
- Tall grass and weeds

Until now, the city has used public resources to clean up properties and charged the violator for the remediation costs. If the bills were not paid, a lien was placed against the property. The city can still resort to this action but citations should go a long way to encouraging property owners to clean up their properties.

Mayor Eddie A. Perez has been listening to neighborhood concerns about quality of life issues and in consultation with the Office of Corporation Counsel believes such a tool will impress upon negligent property owners the importance of keeping their properties in good repair. The Mayor says, "Our city inspectors now have an important tool to ensure that properties are maintained. I expect the professionals who inspect properties for the City to use their judgment and do all that they can to convince violators that it is in their best interest to comply with the code before issuing citations."

Citations can be customized to each situation, \$99 fines may be issued each time the property is inspected (for first time offenders) or may be imposed on a daily basis (for chronic offenders). Violators will be able to contest their liability by requesting a hearing before a Hearing Officer. It is printed on the citation that anyone who wishes to contest liability before a Citation Hearing Officer can deliver the notice in person or mail it within ten days of the citation to the Citation Hearing Office, located at 160 Market Street in Downtown Hartford.