

Hyattsville Code Compliance Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes 09.17.2025

Members:

- Ian Fay (Chair) - Present
- Michael Bonds (Vice Chair) – Present
- Stacy Dennery (Recorder) - Present
- Arinee Flurry (Member) –
- Jamie Been (Member) -
- Susan Zahran (Member) - Present
- Gloria Felix-Thompson (Member) – Present
- Kareem Redmond (Council Member Liaison Ward 3) –
- Gopi Dhokai (Member) - Present
- CJ Reading (Staff Liaison)
- Hal (Staff Liaison) – Present Deputy Director of Public Works
- Dealon LaCroix: CAO for Hyattsville Public Works

Topics Discussed:

1. Previous Meeting Minutes from 5.21.25 are approved
2. Code Compliance Updates from City's Staff Liaison:
 - **Joe Brewer:** left the Code Compliance Office
 - **Grass length update:** Still no decision on the length of time before a violation is issued. Council was confused by whether our recommendation was 7 calendar days or 7 business days. Per CJ, the change to 7 days may be good in theory, but perhaps not in practice since it is very difficult get a contractor out to the site to mow the grass that quickly. CJ voices support for a compromise of 10 days, rather than 14 days. The advisory committee maintains its recommendation of 7 days.
 - Ian will draft a new recommendation memo making the recommendation for 7 "calendar days" clear and send it to the clerk again.
 - **Junk Vehicle Ordinance:** Over 2 years ago, this advisory committee recommended the fine amount for the first offense change from \$100 to \$200 and the subsequent offenses be \$400. The issue will go to Council on October 6 if the agenda holds. CJ recommends that the committee look at the recommendation again.
 - Hal: Related history on small cell tower ordinance fine: A first time offense included a fine of up to half of the amount allowed by the state for a municipal infraction and subsequent offense was the full amount allowed by the state. This would not require fine amount changes over time. Hal will send us a copy to consider the same type of set up for Junk Vehicle changes. It's unclear whether there's time to review and consider a change in recommendations before the issue goes to Council.
 - **Short Term Rental Licenses:** City is considering changing the definition of rental units. County will issue a short-term rental license for 180 days while the City license is for 12 months. Rental unit definition is "a unit that requires a lease" which would not include Air BnB. The Council wants to know if the advisory committee has a recommendation on a definition change. A license requires a city inspection, which the city wants so the bad apples can be held accountable. The City Council will discuss this issue at the October 6, 2025 meeting. Licenses expire on 9/30, although not all will likely get renewed on time.

- Susan: Best to standardize.
 - CJ prefers to adopt the county’s language of a “short term rental.”
 - Short term rentals include some negligent owners and the city doesn’t have a way to hold them accountable.
- **Actions for committee members before the next meeting:**
 - Re-review Junk Vehicle fine language recommendations;
 - Review Short Term Rental License definitions that CJ sends.
- 3. Committee News and Updates: Combined with section above.
- 4. New Business:
 - **License Recommendations:** Council wants to simplify and standardize the different types of licensing (SFR license vs MFR license vs Business licensing). Council will discuss this internally and come back to the advisory committee with questions on recommendations. Looking to minimize confusion for city staff because each license operational process runs differently. Ex: Length of license is different. Some are issued at application. Some issued after inspection.
 - **Urban Fowl Ordinance:** Still not on a Council Agenda. It’s up to a Council Member on the Advisory Committee (Kareem Redmond) to recommend it for inclusion on the agenda and the Executive Committee has to approve it.
- 5. Next Meeting: October 15, 2025
- 6. Meeting is adjourned.