



# Special Edition Code Compliance Month

October, 2007

October is National Code Compliance Month, and we want to use this opportunity to raise awareness about the Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Department and some of our many responsibilities.

## How can I report a suspected violation?

Suspected violations can be reported to the Code Enforcement Department in several ways:

- 10119 Windhorst Rd.  
Tampa, FL 33619
- 410 SE 30th St  
Ruskin, FL 33570
- 813-274-6600
- Online  
[www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce)

## CODE ENFORCEMENT TIP OF THE MONTH

This is a monthly electronic newsletter by Hillsborough County Code Enforcement. If you have comments, or wish to receive a text version of this newsletter via e-mail, call 813-274-6675 or e-mail: [greenkj@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:greenkj@hillsboroughcounty.org)



## Q Who are we and what do we do?

Hillsborough County's Code Enforcement Department is responsible for the enforcement of the Minimum Housing Code, which defines standards for the maintenance of existing properties and structures, portions of the Land Development Code, which addresses the uses of property, the Hand Sanitizer Ordinance, and the Shopping Cart Ordinance. Code Enforcement is also the lead agency which identifies and arranges for the removal of dangerous buildings through condemnation and demolition. The Department also administers Hillsborough County's Homeowner Rehabilitation program, which provides assistance to income qualified homeowners in making needed repairs or modifications to their home, and the collection and enforcement of the County's False Alarm Ordinance which provides for a penalty for false alarms registered with the Sheriff's Department.



## Q How are Codes enforced?

Hillsborough County uses a Code Enforcement Board/Special Magistrate system as authorized under Florida Statute, Chapter 162. Persons found to be in violation of one of the Codes enforced by the department are given every opportunity to comply with the Code before any penalty is assessed. Violators are notified of the section of the Code being violated and are afforded a reasonable period of time to comply. Anyone who fails to comply with the Code within the time allotted may have their case forwarded to the Code Enforcement Board where fines may be levied as a lien against the offender's property.



## Q How much are the fines?

The amount of the fine is determined by the Board/Magistrate and can range up to \$1000 per day for each day that the violation continues to exist. In the case of repeat violators, or those who have been found guilty of the same violation by the Board/Magistrate in the last five years, this fine can range up to \$5000 per day.



A fine which has continued to accrue for ninety days is forwarded to the Hillsborough County Attorney's office for possible legal action.

## Q Who makes up the Board/Magistrate?

The Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Board/Special Magistrate is comprised of civilian volunteers appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and are appointed for a three year term.

Hillsborough County Commissioners are currently seeking volunteers to serve on a variety of citizen advisory boards and councils such as the CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD. Deadline for applications is Wednesday, October 31.

Applications are available in the Commissioners' reception area in the County Center, 2nd Floor, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. in downtown Tampa, by calling the Boards and Councils Coordinator at 272-5826, or on the Hillsborough County website at: [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org), then click County Commission, click on Advisory Boards and Committees, then on Application questionnaire for County Appointments.

## Q Can I remain anonymous when registering a complaint?

Yes. We do not require that you provide any personal information when registering your complaint. Remember that all information you choose to provide to the County, including names, phone numbers, or email addresses, is subject to the Public Record Laws. In other words, we must provide this information to anyone who asks for it. If you wish to remain completely anonymous, do not provide your personal information.

