

Code Enforcement Department

The City of Wilmington accepts complaints regarding violations of the City's Property Maintenance and Zoning Codes. These complaints are received from citizens submitting them in person, by phone, through the City website, or through the SeeClickFix mobile app and are investigated by the Code Enforcement Official.

The number of violations decreased this year from 701 to 433. Those 433 violations resulted in 375 new cases being opened. Of the new 375 cases, 37 cases remain open. Here is a breakdown of all property maintenance warnings and violations issued in 2020:

Type of Violation:	
Unsafe Structures and Equipment (also demo orders, vacant structures)	36
General (Exterior & Interior Property Areas.)	51
Public Nuisance	41
Animal Violations	4
Vehicle Violations	41
Weeds & Grass	99
Litter	10
Trees & Shrubs	16
Zoning Ordinances (Permitted Use, Accessory Structures, etc.)	23
Other	24

Of the 375 new cases opened this year 338 were closed. In 2020, 388 total cases are listed as closed or resolved which also includes 50 cases from previous years. A total of 37 cases remain open from 2020 and 32 remain open from years 2016-2019 and are in various stages of the code enforcement process. Below is a breakdown of the statuses of the 54 open cases:

Open Case Status:	
Condemned Buildings- Boarded up and monitored, seeking demolition	4
Open Court Cases	1
Follow Up Inspections Scheduled-Compliance in Process	17
Condemned Buildings in Foreclosure- Monitored for Progress	3
Properties Working Towards Compliance- Continued Improvement	12
Noncompliant	1
Various Stages of Notification and Compliance	16

Violations of the zoning and property maintenance codes are addressed by issuing formal violation notices and working with the property owner and/or tenants to bring their property into compliance within a specified time frame. If property owners are not compliant, they may be brought before the Municipal Court. Seven properties were turned over for prosecution this year and one is still open in the municipal court system.

Five condemned properties were demolished this year. Of those properties, two were acquired and demolished by the Clinton County Land Bank. This year the Code Enforcement Department has collaborated with the Clinton County Land Bank, The Clinton County Juvenile Court Community Service Program, and Sugartree Landscaping to help to bring problem properties into compliance. Our department looks forward to continued success 2021.

