

POLICY

- SUBJECT:** Environmental Crimes Team Protocol
- PURPOSE:** Establish a Prince George's County policy for addressing major incidents of illegal dumping by the Environmental Crimes Team (ECT).
- DEFINITION:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines Illegal dumping as the disposal of waste on public or private land or into water without a license, permit or approval from the relevant authority, i.e. Prince George's County government.
- SCOPE:** This procedure outlines the process in which the Environmental Crimes Team will handle receipt, removal, investigation and prosecution of major incidents of illegal dumping complaints in Prince George's County.
- AUTHORITY:** Prince George's County Code, Sections 13-265, 13-271, and 23-151.
- AGENCIES:** CountyClick 311
 Department of the Environment (DoE)
 Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE)
 Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T)
 Police Department (PD)

1. BACKGROUND

Illegal dumping is a serious and widespread problem in Prince George's County. The Environmental Crimes Teams (ECT) will address and solve these issues with a coordinated multi-agency approach through clear authorities and responsibilities.

2. POLICY

It is the policy of Prince George's County Government for the Environmental Crimes Team to address complaints, investigate, remove and prosecute offenders of major incidents of illegal dumping on private property and in the public right-of-way.

3. **DESIGNATED RESPONSIBILITIES**

A. Environmental Crimes Team

Each agency will be responsible for selecting a designee (s) to participate on the Environment Crimes Team

B. Constituent Services

Receives complaints of illegal dumping through the CountyClick 311 system, and forwards complaint to DoE for review and appropriate course of action.

C. Department of the Environment (DoE)

As the lead agency, DoE is responsible for identifying major incidents of illegal dumping through review of CountyClick 311 complaints. Upon identification these cases will be forwarded for review and further investigation by the Environmental Crimes Team. DoE is also responsible for implementing a community based social marketing program to change citizen behavior; distributing wildlife cameras for illegal dumping deterrence; coordinating and assisting in community cleanups and establishing Litter Free Zones; installing trash traps in streams, and tracking the reduction of litter per the Anacostia Total Maximum Daily Load and MS4 Permit.

D. Department of Permitting, Inspection and Enforcement (DPIE)-

DPIE's will post the property with a 24-hour compliance notice. If not cleaned within 24 hours, DPIE will provide a B-Number to DPWT to have the dumping removed. DPIE will invoice the property owner and have a lien placed on the property. Occupied properties will require a court order to clean.

E. Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT)

The Department of Public Works and Transportation is responsible for removing litter and illegal from the public Rights - of - Way. Litter removal is scheduled on two weeks cycles from primary and collector roadways. Per the Abutter's Ordinance, residents and businesses are responsible for maintain the public space that abuts their property. In addition, illegal dumping in front of a privately-owned home or business that is occupied is the responsibility of the owner and/or occupant.

F. The Police Department (PD)

The Point of contact for the PD will be the Operation Commander, Bureau of Investigations. The Operations Commander will assess incidents and assign the appropriate Regional Investigation Division (RID) component. The RID Detective will support the Environmental Crime Team (ECT) in cases that merit prosecution.

The RID Detective will support ECT in presenting cases to the State's Attorney's Office for prosecution.

4. **PROCEDURE**

A. **Routine Complaints**

Each agency should continue to forward all routine complaints of illegal littering and dumping to DoE. For these case DoE will continue to follow standard policies and procedures.

B. **Illegal Dumping Complaint Review**

DoE shall obtain illegal dumping complaints from CountyClick 311 and/or other County entities to identify major incidents of illegal dumping. DoE will convene monthly meetings of the Environmental Crimes Team (ECT) to determine and implement a plan of action regarding removal, investigation and prosecution of said cases.

C. **DPIE Enforcement**

DPIE shall notify the property owner to have the dumping removed and to take other actions as appropriate.

D. **Illegal Dumping in the Public Right-of-Way**

A complaint of illegal dumping in the county right-of-way or on county property shall be referred to the DPW&T for removal and to the PD for potential prosecution. DPW&T shall cause to have the illegal dumping removed.

E. **Criminal Investigation and Prosecution**

The PD shall determine if complaints of illegal dumping in the public-right-of-way, on public property or on private lots have investigative merit.

F. **Confidentiality**

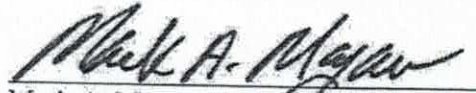
Meetings of DoE, the Police Department, DPIE and DPWT to discuss illegal dumping complaints and confidential and pre-decisional

5. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

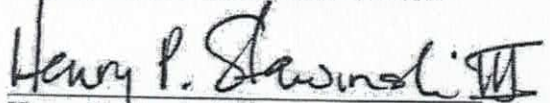
This Procedure is effective on the date of issuance and signature.



Barry L. Stanton
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer



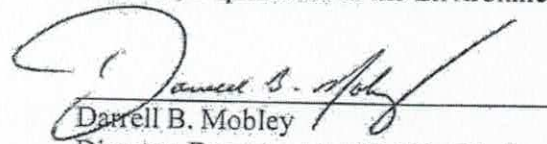
Mark A. Magaw
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer



Henry P. Stawinski
Chief of Police



Adam Ortiz
Director, Department of the Environment



Darrell B. Mobley
Director, Department of Public Works
and Transportation



Haitham A. Hijazi
Director, Department Permitting,
Inspections and Enforcement