



*City of Mount Rainier*

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**CITY MANAGER REPORT  
June 5, 2012**

**REPLACEMENT OF PEPCO UTILITY POLES**

The City received a few complaints during the month of May concerning soil left or other problems associated with the Reliability Enhancement project which involved the replacement of the utility poles. In all cases, the issues were resolved.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

The burned house of 34<sup>th</sup> Street continues to be a major blighted property. Communication was sent to the owner as follows:

*Thank you for your recent communication with us regarding the property and the demolition of the house. I am sure you are aware that the current condition on the property is unacceptable. Please provide me with a time frame as to when the tarp and wood will be removed from the property and the lot cleaned. The tarp which was placed over the piles of wood and other debris is blowing off the woodpile. This will eventually create a breeding ground for vermin and stray cats and dogs. The current condition remains an eyesore for this community.*

*Thank you in advance for your cooperation.*

As a result of the department, approximately \$15,000 has been requested in property tax liens due to court judgments and code abatements. These lien requests are the result of egregious code violations.

**Grants Management**

The Streetcorp grant program is moving along nicely. During the month of May teen participants developed interview questions during a taping event with one of the Mount Rainier police officers, Jefferson Herriot.

Other teen participants operated the camera and sound for this taping which provided them with technical skills useful in the audio/visual field. One youth developed all of the interview questions for the officer and learned interview techniques as a “reporter” during the taped session.

Another youth participant will be working this summer at the Prince George’s County Courthouse in Hyattsville as a File Clerk. Clothing was provided for him through the Streetcorp grant and through the Prince George’s County Wrap-Around Services so that he will have appropriate attire during his employment. Another youth will participate this week in the Race for Life program where participants learn about safe car racing and auto-mechanics as an incentive to stay in school. This participant’s goal is to join the US Navy after graduation.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

City Staff met with the Executive Board of the Mount Rainier Business Association, to discuss the process for payment of the CDMA fees, the status of the Façade Improvement Program (the County is still conducting environmental reviews); the county also granted an extension for the grant.

Two great things have recently occurred. A local real estate group DC Mudd ([dcmudd.com](http://dcmudd.com)) recently ran an article about “Slow and Steady Changes in Mount Rainier”. This was an interview with the city manager and later with MRBA President Nisey Baylor concerning the efforts of both the city and MRBA to engage the interest of developers and the potential for great redevelopment and economic opportunities here. Check out the article on [dcmudd.com](http://dcmudd.com).

The other great thing is the **Shop Local Survey** developed by MRBA. This survey was circulated and completed by over 100 respondents during Mount Rainier Day.

Mount Rainier Day was once again spectacular featuring local artists, local high school bands, vendors and numerous activities for youth and families including the annual basketball tournament.

### **RFP**

The city received three proposals in response to the Request for Proposals for development of the 3200 block of Rhode Island Avenue. The responders are Streetsense, Dr. Jamal Fadul, Streetsense, and AHD, Inc. The council’s liaison team will meet with each responder to go over specifics

of their proposals and answer questions during the next week. The council liaison team will then make recommendations to the full council concerning the ranking of each proposal. Following council review and discussion, the public will be advised as to the responses. The projects proposed range from mixed use to all residential facilities.