

Clean Neighborhoods Initiative

An update on fighting illegal dumping

August 2019

In July 2018, Mayor Andrew J. Ginther announced an aggressive, comprehensive crackdown on illegal dumping in city alleys through focused prevention, enforcement and education.

Mayor Ginther sent a clear message: Columbus neighborhoods are not dumping grounds, and illegal dumpers will be held accountable. Since then, a coordinated approach across city departments is making steady progress in the Mayor's Clean Neighborhoods initiative:

- 3,500 tons of illegally dumped trash has been cleaned up so far in 2019 by Columbus Refuse Collection crews dedicated solely to this task
- Nearly 4,300 tires — 40 tons — have been picked up
- 1,240 of the 300-gallon trash receptacles in city alleys — magnets for illegal dumping — have been replaced with 4,184 90-gallon containers, and more conversions are coming
- Cameras have been deployed at 80 locations so far to capture acts of illegal dumping
- 311 complaints are responded to within 3 days by Refuse Collection and effectively mapped to target enforcement on dumping hot spots
- Refuse Collection has made 128 referrals to Code Enforcement and Building and Zoning Services for violations and operating without a permit

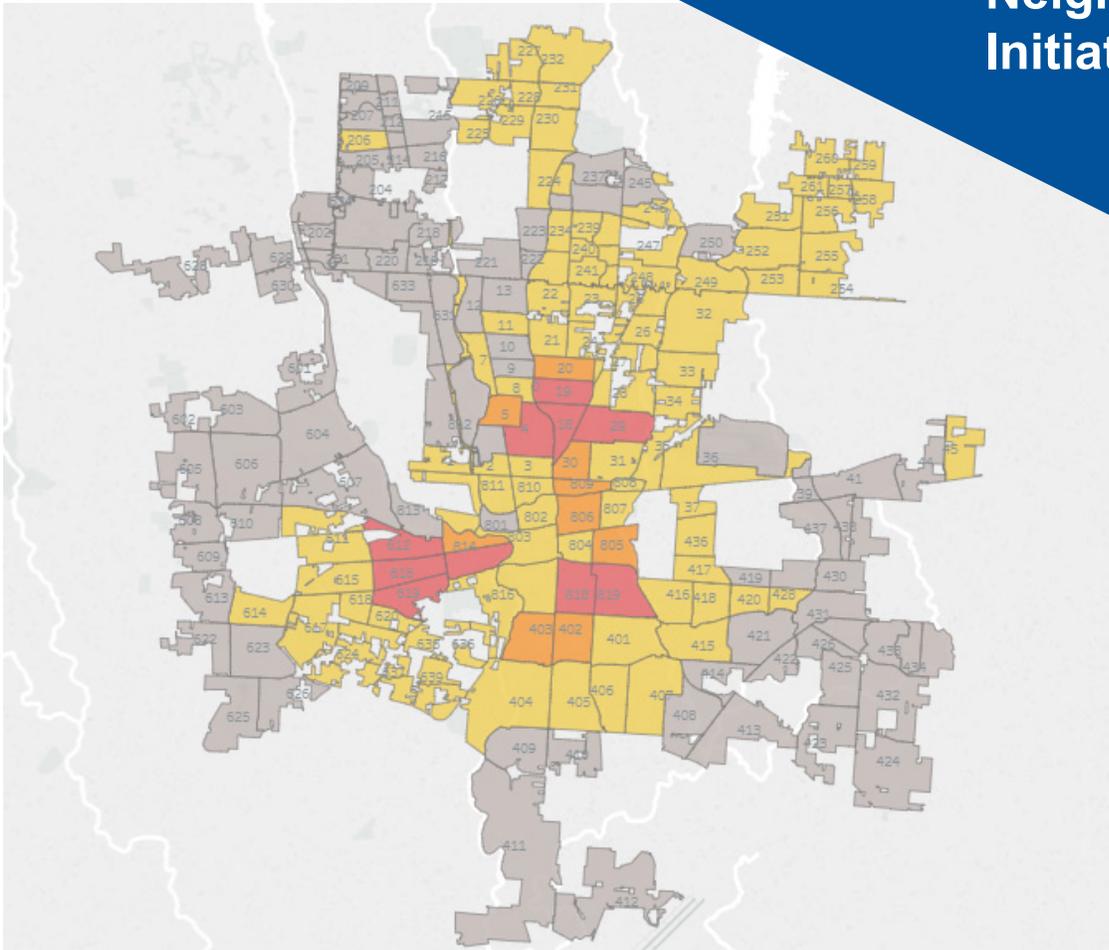
Prevention of illegal dumping improves quality of life for residents

There is more to come as the City of Columbus continues to step up efforts to hold illegal dumpers accountable and provide a clean, safe environment for all residents.

Clean Neighborhoods is more than a beautification effort. It's about residents' quality of life, their health and the health of our environment.

When illegal dumping is prevented, its environmental impact is prevented, too — conditions such as chemicals from dumped items entering city storm drains and reaching our waterways, or leaching into the soil. Or dump piles attracting disease-carrying mosquitoes and rodents.

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How You Can Help

Residents can help be the city's eyes and ears in fighting illegal dumping. If you see an offender or a dump site, call 311 to report it – (614) 645-3111.

The city also offers resources to help residents learn how to properly dispose of or recycle items that are not acceptable in regular trash collection:

- Call 311 or visit <https://311.columbus.gov> to schedule bulk pickup for acceptable items such as furniture, mattresses and carpet
- Use the Waste Wizard tool at <https://www.columbus.gov/publicservice/Refuse-Collection> to learn how to dispose of or recycle items
- Visit <https://www.columbus.gov/publicservice/Refuse-Collection> or <https://www.swaco.org> to learn how to Recycle Right