

# City of San Jose Code Enforcement

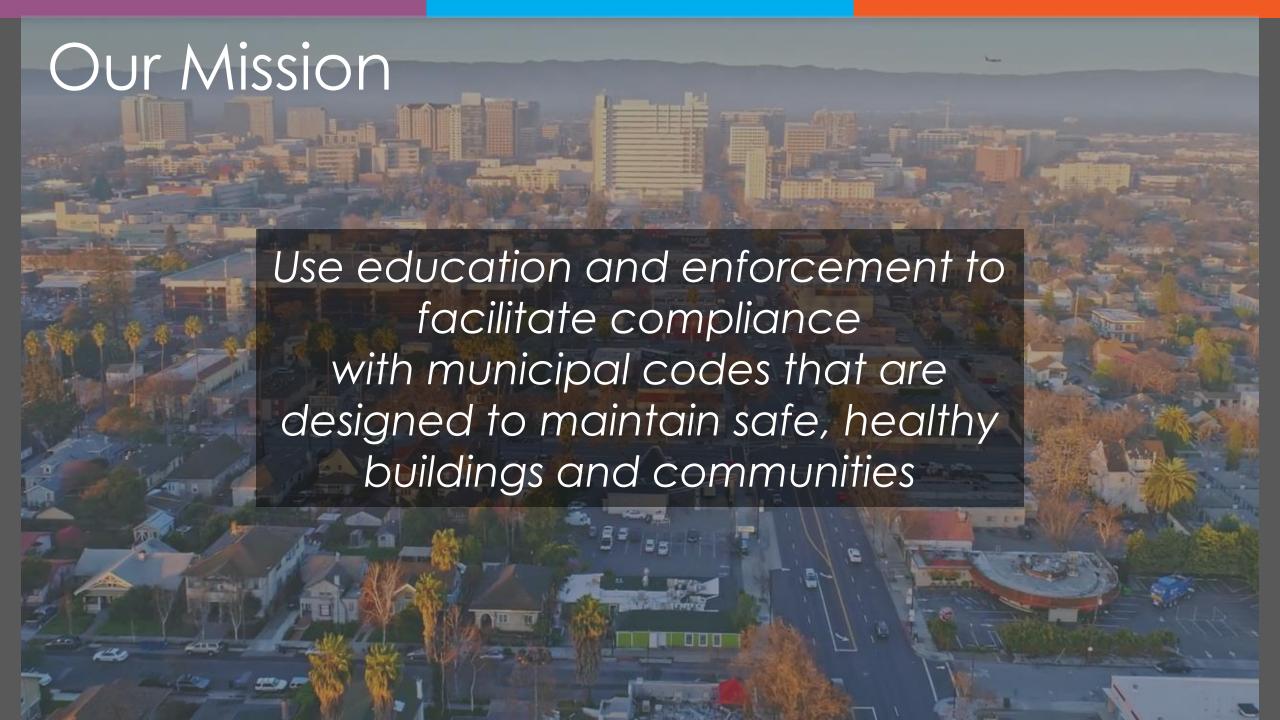
Neighborhoods Commission

June 8, 2022

Presenter: Rachel Roberts, Deputy Director



Planning, Building and Code Enforcement



#### Safety La seguridad An Toàn





Working together
Trabajando juntos
Công tác

#### **Quality of life**

Calidad de vida Chất lượng cuộc sống



#### Division Priorities

#### Safety:

- Respond to life-safety complaints within 24-72 hours
- Building, Substandard Housing, Vacant Buildings, etc.

#### • Quality of Life:

- Work with property owners and community to address blight issues
- Graffiti, solid waste, overgrown vegetation, etc.

#### Working Together:

- Collaboration & Problem Solving with internal and external stakeholders
- Outreach and Education
- Community Driven



Public Information

Customer Service Main Line/Email

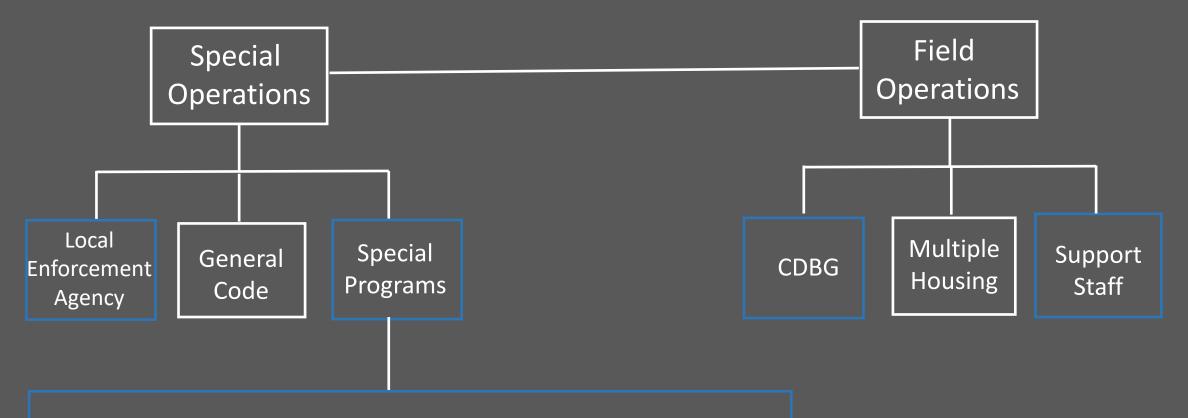
Website

Media, Handouts, and Newsletters

Community Outreach/Neighborhood Meetings



#### Code Enforcement Overview



Tobacco Retail License, Off-Sale Alcohol, Vacant Buildings/ Storefronts, Massage, Cannabis, Abandoned Shopping Carts, Vehicle Abatement/Tow Program

Team of 48 Inspectors

## Code Enforcement Overview

- 48 Inspectors (across all programs)
- We work citywide
- We investigate/enforce:

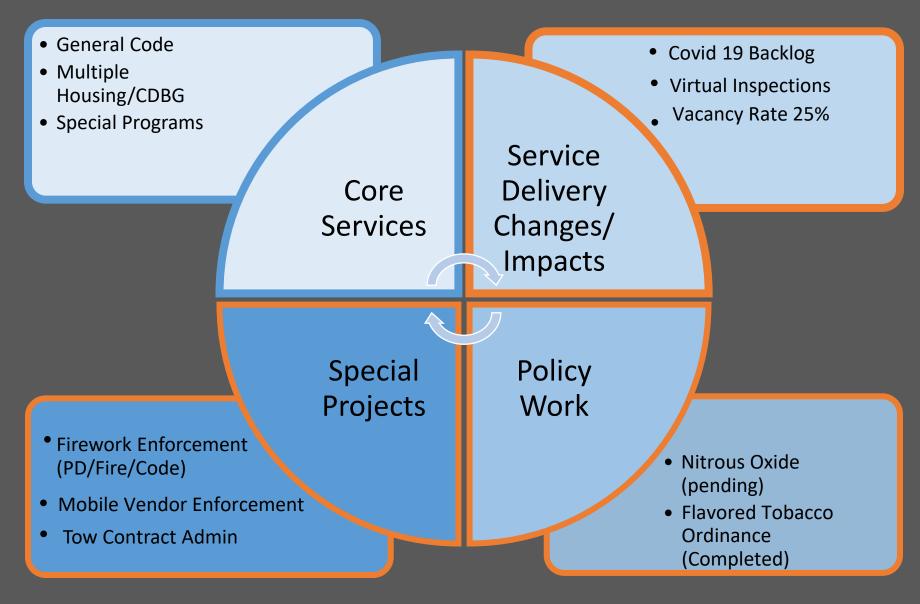
   Blight, Substandard Housing,
   Building, Zoning, Health &
   Safety, and other Quality of
   Life Matters
- Assist other City departments
- Conduct community outreach
- Emergency Response







# Code Enforcement Key Efforts



# Code Enforcement Inspection

#### **Complaint Based Inspection**

- General Code
  - Residential, Commercial, Industrial, and Vacant Private Property
- Current caseload=3,700+ cases

#### **Proactive Inspection**

- Multiple Housing and CDBG
  - Apartments, SROs, Hotels/Motels
  - Tier based inspections (3, 5, or 6-year cycles)
- 103k units, 6,700+ buildings

## **Proactive Inspection- Special Programs**

- Tobacco Retail License
- Off Sale Alcohol
- Massage
- Cannabis
- Abandoned Shopping carts
- Vehicle Abatement
- Vacant Buildings
- Building Code Compliance

# Code Enforcement Case Priority

- Emergency
  - Imminently hazardous housing or building conditions
  - Unsecured swimming pools or refrigerators
  - Vacant unsecured buildings
- **Priority** 

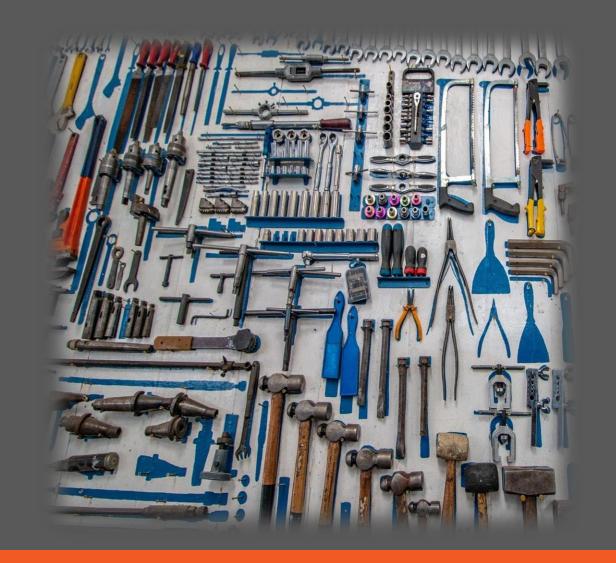
  - Substandard housing
    Construction in progress without permits
    Hazardous conditions
- Routine
  - Blight
  - Zoning
  - Non-urgent or transitory violations





#### Code Enforcement Tools

- Warnings
  - Pre-citation warning notice
  - Inspection Notice
- Citations
  - Escalating penalties for repeat violations
  - Right to appeal
- Compliance Orders
  - Appeals Hearing Board
- Abatements
- Legal Remedies (Injunctions, nuisance, warrants, receiverships)





## Before and After Example of our Work













# Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Redeployments



Disaster Relief Workers

Safety Branch

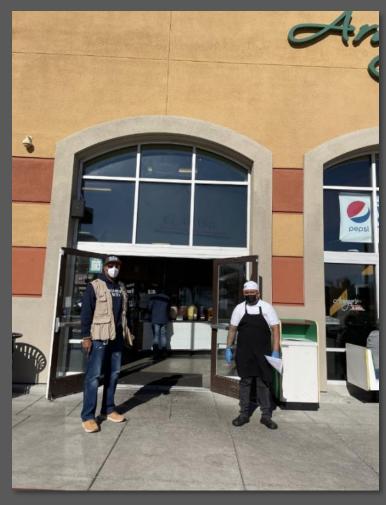
Beautify San José Branch Compliance Branch

Homeless Shelters Homeless Encampments Business Outreach

Food Banks

City Facilities





#### State of Code Enforcement

- Covid-19 Impacts:
  - 2 -year backlog
  - Virtual Inspections

- Backlog:
  - Limited Services
  - Staffing Challenges
    - Retirements/ Left City Employment
    - EOC Redeployments
    - Continuous Recruitment

- 3788 Open Cases:
  - 222 Blight
  - 255 Health and Safety
  - 1848 Building violations
  - 653 Substandard Housing
- Resources:
  - 15 General Code positions
    - 10 Active full-time Inspectors
      - 4 Recently hired
    - 5 Vacancies
  - 1 Retire rehire
  - 3 Special program inspectors assisting

# Questions?