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HOUSING PROTECTION AND CIVIL CODE COMPLIANCE UNIT (HPU)

What to Know About the New Housing Protection Unit (HPU)

The **Housing Protection and Civil Code Compliance Unit (HPU)** is a new unit within the City Attorney's Office dedicated to ensuring that housing in San Diego is safe, fair, and livable. HPU takes a focused approach to addressing persistent code violations, substandard rental housing conditions, unfair business practices, and situations where there may be a pattern or practice of violating the Tenant Protection Ordinance or the Short-Term Residential Occupancy Ordinance.

By identifying patterns of noncompliance, HPU pursues legal action against repeat violators and works to resolve broader public nuisance issues that undermine housing stability, distort the rental market, and impact quality of life. Its goal is to bring problem properties into compliance as quickly as possible, so that safe housing remains accessible to all San Diegans.

This new unit reflects the City Attorney's strong commitment to protecting residents, supporting healthy communities, and ensuring that all San Diegans have access to housing that meets the standards of the law.

What kinds of issues does HPU handle?

HPU takes enforcement action on:

- Public nuisances that negatively impact neighborhoods, including properties with ongoing crime such as drug activity, alcohol violations, prostitution, graffiti, and trespassing.
- Housing violations such as substandard dwellings and unsafe living conditions.
- Building violations including unsafe or dangerous structures, unpermitted construction, and repeated remodels without approval.
- Zoning violations such as illegal dwelling units or unpermitted land uses.
- Abandoned or vacant structures that contribute to crime, deterioration, and neighborhood instability.
- Fire hazards and unsafe property conditions.
- Destruction of historical or archaeological resources in violation of preservation laws.
- Environmental violations including illegal dumping, illegal grading, and destruction of environmentally sensitive lands.



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Does HPU work with other agencies?

Yes. HPU works closely with:

- The Building and Land Use Enforcement Division (BLUE)
- San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD)
- Law enforcement partners including SDPD, state agencies, and federal task forces.
- Other city, county, and community partners to address complex housing and code enforcement issues.

What specialized teams or efforts is HPU part of?

- *Drug Abatement Response Team (DART)*: Targets properties with ongoing narcotics activity to create long-term solutions.
- *Red Light Abatement Team (RLAT)*: Addresses prostitution, lewd activity, and suspected human trafficking, and illegal gambling.
- *Unsafe Facilities Task Force*: Works with multiple agencies to address unsafe housing conditions at independent living facilities and ensure tenants are relocated to safe housing.

How can I report a problem to HPU?

Residents can submit complaints about properties or activities that may violate housing, safety, or quality-of-life laws directly through the City Attorney's Office website. The HPU does not provide legal advice or representation to individuals; if you need legal guidance, please consult a qualified attorney.

Scan the QR code below to submit a complaint.

