

The O·C·E·O·A Enforcer

The Newsletter of the Ohio Code Enforcement Officials Association

Third Quarter, 2005

Code Enforcement Officer Killed

07:15 AM CDT on Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Associated Press

COMMERCE, Texas -- An East Texas code enforcement officer was shot to death Monday as he conducted a routine check of a property that failed to meet code.

Michael "PeeWee" Walker, 44, was killed as he followed up on a December complaint about trash in the residence's yard, Assistant City Manager Mike Dunn said. The deadline for cleaning up the property was Friday.

As Walker took pictures of the property, he was confronted by the property owner and his son, Commerce Police Chief Kerry Crews said. The son got a pistol from the house and shot Walker, police said in a release. Witnesses told police at least six shots were fired. The suspect was arrested, but police withheld his name pending arraignment.

Walker was working alone when he was shot, Dunn said, adding that Commerce does not send uniformed police officers with inspectors.

Walker, a temporary, part-time city employee, always had a smile on his face, Dunn said. "He was so excited when we gave him that job," Dunn told the (Greenville) Herald-Banner for a Tuesday story. "He was on top of the world. He loved it. He really, really loved it."

Commerce is about 60 miles northeast of Dallas.

On behalf of all of our members, OCEOA sent a contribution to the family of Michael Walker.

Send us news from your jurisdiction and we'll be glad to publish it.

Communicable Disease Prevention at Work

Nancy Gantner RN, BS

Public Health Nursing Supervisor for Immunizations/Communicable Disease at the Columbus Health Department will be making a presentation in the afternoon that could just help save our lives.

Nancy will tell us how we can avoid those things in our work places that could make us more susceptible to communicable diseases. She will also have some brief comments about a bioterrorism event and worker responsibilities.

Nancy has many years experience as a Registered Nurse. Her work experiences have included medical/surgical hospital experience, disability case management, home care, and emergency nursing. Her specialty before coming to public health was emergency nursing. She has 20 years of experience working in the emergency department at Mt. Carmel East Hospital, as a staff nurse and as a manager. Nancy has been employed at Columbus Health Department for the last 3 years. She is currently a nursing supervisor on the Communicable Disease Prevention Team.

Nancy received her RN Diploma at Mt. Carmel School of Nursing in Columbus, Ohio and her Baccalaureate Degree from Mt. St. Joseph's College in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her major is Administration of Health Care Services.

The Ohio Public Records Act and the Ohio Public Meetings Act

Lisa Wu Fate is the Director of the Auditor of State's Open Government Unit. The Open Government Unit was created by Auditor Betty Montgomery to serve local government officials by providing them with training opportunities and resources to help them understand their obligations under the Ohio Public Records Act and the Ohio Open Meetings Act.

Lisa Wu Fate is recognized statewide as an expert in the areas of public records and open meetings law. Ms. Fate conducts training seminars throughout Ohio, and upon invitation, educates local and state government officials, law enforcement, attorneys, media, and members of the general public on the intricacies of these areas of law.

Ms. Fate graduated with honors from both the University of Michigan and the Ohio State University College of Law. Before joining the Auditor of State's office, Ms. Fate served seven years with former Attorney General Montgomery as a Senior Assistant Attorney General and the Public Records Officer for the Attorney General's Office. In 2001 Ms. Fate assumed the additional duties of Assistant Chief of the Attorney General's Chief Counsel's Staff. Prior to her service in the Attorney General's office, Ms. Fate practiced as a civil litigator with the law firm of Schottenstein, Zox & Dunn Co., L.P.A. She is admitted to practice in Ohio and before the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

Shame Them Into Compliance

The City of Dayton Division of Housing Inspection is trying a new tool to motivate delinquent property

(continued) on page 2

Please send us your e-mail address, it makes communicating so much faster. Denver.Williams@ci.dayton.oh.us

2005 OCEOA Meeting Dates

• August 18 •
• November 17 •

All meetings will be held at the Midwest Hotel & Conference Center on Sinclair Road in Columbus, Toll Free Phone No. 1-877-609-6086

(continued) from page 1

owners to fix up their buildings. On Friday, May 13, large 3-by 4-foot signs were placed on structures that have been repeatedly cited for violations and whose owners have even ignored orders by the courts to make repairs.

The first such sign was affixed to a long-time neighborhood nuisance at 2048 Rustic Road. City Housing Inspection crews affixed the sign at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 13. City and neighborhood representatives were in attendance. Later that day, similar signs were attached to buildings at 2429 E. Third Street and 3578-84 Stanford Place.

The signs contain a large "Notice of Violation" heading in red lettering, followed by language that encourages nearby residents to contact the building's owner to voice their concerns. The owner's name, address and phone number will be included on the sign.

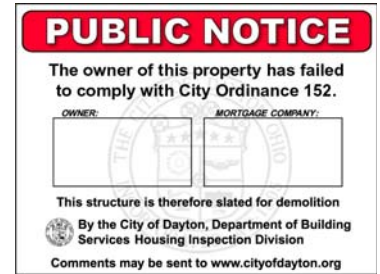
Bill Nelson, Director of Building Services said the program is a result of the Neighborhood Strategies Task Force,

which was created by Dayton City Manager Jim Dinneen in early 2004. One of the recommendations of the Task Force was to replicate similar programs taking place in cities such as Lynchburg, VA and Milwaukee, WI. Those efforts have been recognized by the International City Manager's Association (ICMA) as "Best Practices" for seeking innovative approaches to old problems.

The goal is to visibly identify property owners whose irresponsible behavior has a negative impact on the surrounding neighborhood. By identifying the owner more prominently and encouraging affected residents to pressure the owner to make repairs.

"We believe this will be an effective tool to help motivate property owners to take care of their buildings," Nelson said. "Too often the property owners who cause such a dramatic negative affect on a neighborhood are faceless and nameless

people. We are trying to change that. We want to help educate neighborhood residents about who is truly the responsible party for a building's neglect and decay. If our tickets and citations haven't worked, and if court orders haven't worked, then maybe good old-fashioned peer pressure will have an impact."



Mayor Rhine McLin said, "We are continuing to go after those people who blatantly disrespect our neighborhoods and our residents. We hope to make neglectful and irresponsible property owners accountable for their actions."

You can now download the meeting registration form and copies of the Enforcer by typing **meetings.oceoa.org** where you would normally enter a URL address. Notice you do **not** need to include a www, doing so will prevent you from reaching the files. Need help? Call 937-333-3916.

The Enforcer is published by the Ohio Code Enforcement Officials Association. Submissions to this publication are welcome and may be made to Denver Williams, City of Dayton, 371 W. Second Street, Room 324, Dayton, Ohio 45402 or faxed to 937-333-4294 or via e-mail at Denver.Williams@ci.dayton.oh.us

Visit our website at www.oceoa.org

**OCEOA
PO Box 292434
Kettering, Ohio 45429-0434**

OCEOA Officers and Trustees

- Don Tate, President 937-296-2423
City of Kettering
- Gerry Wasserman, V.Pres 419-698-7071
City of Oregon
- Mike Farrenkopf, Secy. 614-645-7759
City of Columbus
- Richard Osgood, Tres. 513-563-0033
City of Sharonville
- Farrell Humphreys 937-333-3971
City of Dayton
- Janette Matala 513-896-8158
City of Fairfield
- Barb Ferebee-McGilvary 614-322-6824
City of Reynoldsburg
- Dana Rose 614-645-7897
City of Columbus
- Scott Wallace 937-535-1035
City of Moraine
- Denver A. Williams 937-333-3916
City of Dayton