

- J. Reynolds, Chair**
- W. Baxter, Vice-Chair
- D. Wu
- C. Ellinger
- T. Morton
- S. Lynch
- D. Gray
- J. Hale
- A. Beasley
- H. Boone



Social Services and Public Safety (SSPS) Committee

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

1:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- | | | |
|-------------|--|-----------------|
| I. | Approval of the January 28, 2025 Committee Summary | (1-3) |
| II. | CASA Update | (4-17) |
| | [Wu/Jamison] | |
| III. | Homeless Encampment Response
and Street Outreach Services | (18- 28) |
| | [Reynolds/Herron] | |
| IV. | Comprehensive Review of Code Enforcement | (29-55) |
| | [Gray/Gray, Steele] | |
| V. | Annual Review of Committee Items | (56) |

2025 Meeting Schedule

January 14 June 3
January 28 July 3*
February 25 August 26
April 15 October 14

*Note: The July 3 meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday

"Social Services and Public Safety Committee, to which shall be referred matters relating to the department of social services and its divisions, the department of public safety and its divisions, any related partner agencies, and matters relating to capital improvement projects."- Council Rules & Procedures of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council, Section 4.102 (1)



Social Services and Public Safety Committee

January 28, 2025

Summary and Motions

Chair Jennifer Reynolds called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

Committee Members Vice Mayor Dan Wu, Chuck Ellinger II, Tyler Morton, Shayla Lynch, Denise Gray, Joseph Hale, Amy Beasley, Whitney Elliott Baxter, and Hilary Boone were in attendance. Council Member Dave Sevigny was present as a non-voting member.

I. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 12, 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Motion by Baxter to approve the November 12, 2024 Committee Summary. Seconded by Lynch. Motion passed without dissent.

II. COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE PROGRAM UPDATE

Jason Wells, Chief of Lexington Fire Department, provided a background on the Community Paramedicine Program and introduced Lieutenant Alex Jann, who recently took over as head of the Paramedicine team. Community paramedicine is an innovative healthcare model that expands the role of emergency medical services (EMS) to provide non-emergency care and address unmet needs within the community. This program has three teams: a quick response team, a mobile integrated health, and a crisis response team. The teams include paramedics, social workers, police, and peer support. He introduced Maria Slone and Patrick Graham from the paramedicine team. Graham spoke about the program's timeframe from 2017 to the present. The paramedicine program partners with the Lexington Police Department and the University of Kentucky and is person-centered to help people overcome hurdles. Maria Slone is one of the first social workers hired through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant. With the help of subsequent BJA grants, they have increased the staffing of social workers and peer support specialists. She reviewed the number of cases the paramedicine team serviced in 2024 and the breakdown of those cases. Jann spoke about new additions and said they have three additional paramedics who will join multiple teams, and they hope to start a crisis response team soon. He closed by explaining suboxone administration, which helps with overdose withdrawals.

When asked about suboxone administration, Jann explained a paramedic would start treatment on the scene and get the patient to the appropriate place. Wells added that they are starting at the ground level with this new program. For now, they are monitoring the radio to listen to the need. Jann explained the difference between mobile integrated health and quick response teams. He said mobile integrated health involves more social work, where the quick response team follows up on overdoses, Narcan administration, poisoning, etc. When asked what this would look like in the future, Jann would like to increase staff and provide 24-hour response. Wells said they are people-focused and data-informed, and they want to grow smart to be sustainable. No action was taken on this committee item.

III. FAMILY SERVICES UPDATE

Shelia Horton-Holt, Director of Family Services, provided the mission statement of Family Services: to partner with and empower families with young children to achieve greater stability and resilience. The Family Care Center recently celebrated 35 years of providing a comprehensive approach to meeting the

needs of teen mothers for education, career preparation, parenting support, health care, and childcare. They partner with Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS), the University of Kentucky, LFUCG, and others to provide comprehensive education, healthcare, childcare, and employment-focused services to young mothers and their children. The Family Care Center uses a strength-based approach to assist parents in their efforts to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. She mentioned four core programs: Early Childcare Program, Health Access Nurturing Developing Services (HANDS), Family Service Coordination (FSC) program, and Parent Education Program.

The Early Childcare program provides a healthy, safe, developmentally appropriate, and inclusive environment for children aged 6 weeks to 5 years old. Notable outcomes from this program include the success of children aged five who are "kindergarten-ready" and children who have achieved optimal development. The FSC program provides professional case management services to families with young children. Notable outcomes from this program include several families who exited from the program and achieved 75% or greater on at least two self-sufficiency goals. The HANDS program supports families throughout pregnancy and the first two years of a baby's life. Screening for depression and domestic violence occurs in 100% of families, and screening through the Kentucky Early Intervention System (KEIS) in 100% of children. The Parent Education program partners with Fayette County Public Schools to help pregnant and parenting youth reach their educational and parenting goals. 95% of clients successfully achieved their academic goals, 97% achieved their parenting goals, and 77% achieved or revised their mental health goals. The future goals for Family Services include early childcare playground renovation, an annual grandparent's event, creating a resource room for staff, and hosting community resource fairs. No action was taken on this committee item.

IV. PARTNERS FOR YOUTH UPDATE

Shanreka Shackelford, Executive Director of Partners for Youth (PFY), explained the mission of PFY is to promote positive youth development and prevent juvenile delinquency through collaboration and capacity building. She reviewed the PFY staffing, including the Executive Director, Administrative Clerk, Community Engagement Coordinator, and Youth Program Coordinator. She spoke about community partners who assist with the Summer Youth Job Training Program (SYJTP), skills sessions, and the I DO initiative. Future Goals include celebrating 30 years of community programming with a city-wide celebration, expanding SYJTP, increasing the number of scholarships, and actively applying for grants.

Shantae Bruce, Community Engagement Coordinator, spoke about SYJTP and described its purpose, focus, and extension. Recruitment for this program starts in October, when they will conduct school visits, engage through social media, and issue press releases. Educational components of the SYJTP include skills sessions, youth worker orientation, and parent orientation. Students are encouraged to share their top career interests at a Career Fair hosted in March. Youth workers receive assistance completing new hire paperwork required for employment at a New Hire Paperwork Clinic offered for 4 days in the Spring. Worksite placement for youth workers occurs based on preference and availability. Bruce closed with a review of SYJTP statistics.

When asked about industries represented and how career pathways are determined, Bruce said they are taught about this upfront to understand their interests. Speaking about the deadline for recruitment, if it begins in October, Bruce said they will continue to recruit until they reach 300 students. She added that the skilled sessions are the priority placement. When asked about the SYJTP recruiting process, Shackelford said they try to keep them engaged as many youths are involved in another program. When asked if the Council could do anything, Shackelford suggested the Council could help promote the program. Speaking about recruiting and how to get more employers involved, Shackelford said they are actively searching for new

partners. Council could continue to get the word out to potential employers to help with this program and let businesses know we focus on all youth. No action was taken on this committee item.

V. ANNUAL REVIEW OF COMMITTEE ITEMS

Motion by Reynolds to remove *Expand the Adult Mental Health Court with an Aftercare Program* from the list of committee referrals. Seconded by Baxter. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Reynolds to remove *Review of Golf Cart Policies* from the list of committee referrals. Seconded by Baxter. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Reynolds to remove *Improvement of Fire Department Recruitment* from the list of committee referrals. Seconded by Baxter. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Lynch to remove *Emergency Financial Assistance Program* from the list of committee referrals. Seconded by Hale. Motion passed without dissent.

The meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF LEXINGTON

What is CASA?

A CASA program provides screened, trained and qualified community volunteers to **advocate** for the **best interests** of children and youth who are before family court as a result of abuse or neglect as defined by state child welfare laws, living at home or in out-of-home care.

What does a CASA volunteer do?

Each CASA volunteer:

- Visits their matched child monthly
- Gathers info about their child's life
- Writes reports and makes recommendations

Requirements to Serve

- 21 years or older
- Pass background checks
- Complete 30-hour training
- Oath of confidentiality
- 12 hours of continuing education annually
- 5-10 hours a month for at least 2 years

What's the difference?

CASA volunteers are unique. Unlike lawyers and social workers who are required to consider the parents' or family's best interests, the CASA volunteer focuses solely on what is best for the child or children.



CASA Mission, Vision and Values

- **MISSION:** CASA of Lexington's trained and supervised volunteers advocate through the family court system to ensure all victims of child abuse and neglect are safe and thrive in a permanent home.
- **VISION:** A community where every child lives and thrives in a safe, caring and permanent home.
- **VALUES:** Integrity, compassion, resiliency, stewardship, collaboration, inclusiveness, professionalism, and sustainability.

History of National CASA



- First CASA program launched in 1977 in Seattle
- Today there are nearly 950 CASA programs nationwide
- 49 of 50 states have CASA programs (North Dakota is the outlier)

History of CASA of Lexington



- Program planning began in 1986
- Became standalone nonprofit in 2003
- Funded by private donations, grants, fundraisers and contributions from local governments
- 2024 volunteers: 275
- 2024 children served: 673
- Counties served: Fayette, Bourbon, Woodford, Scott, Jessamine, Garrard and Lincoln

Fayette County in 2024

- CASA of Lexington volunteers: **163**
- Fayette County children who received a CASA volunteer: **423**
- Number of new substantiated cases of abused and neglect: **1,060**

CASA of Lexington Growth



- 2000: 70 children served
- 2003: 100 children served
- 2008: 102 children served
- 2013: 171 children served
- 2018: 626 children served
- 2023: 681 children served
- 2024: 673 children served

Zach's Story

- One of five kids who survived extreme physical neglect and sexual abuse by their parents
- Moved to placement after placement, no one was willing to keep him long-term
- Provisionally diagnosed with autism; CASA volunteer pushed for assessment that revealed he did not have autism
- Now has appropriate diagnosis and receiving effective interventions
- Adopted and living with one of his siblings
- All five siblings had CASA volunteers
- Four of five have now been adopted and fifth is expected to be adopted soon



What is a CASA Volunteer Manager?

- Paid staff person
- 1:30 ratio to CASA volunteers by state law and National CASA standards
- Attend first home visit
- Always attends court hearings
- Guides CASA volunteers through the process

LOCAL FUNDING FOR CASA SERVICES

In CASA of Lexington's seven-county service region (2023 Calendar Year)



TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET

\$1,382,122

TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED

681

COST PER CHILD SERVED

\$2,030



BOURBON

56%

of program budget
provided by local
governments

\$52,392

total annual allocation
from local governments

\$93,380

cost to serve children

46

children served in 2024



FAYETTE

11%

of program budget
provided by local
government

\$100,000

total annual allocation
from local government

\$911,470

cost to serve children

449

children served in 2024



GARRARD

45%

of program budget
provided by local
governments

\$19,892

total annual allocation
from local governments

\$44,660

cost to serve children

22

children served in 2024



JESSAMINE

35%

of program budget
provided by local
governments

\$40,000

total annual allocation
from local governments

\$115,710

cost to serve children

57

children served in 2024



LINCOLN

66%

of program budget
provided by local
governments

\$16,108

total annual allocation
from local governments

\$24,360

cost to serve children

12

children served in 2024



SCOTT

29%

of program budget
provided by local
governments

\$40,000

total annual allocation
from local governments

\$140,070

cost to serve children

69

children served in 2024



WOODFORD

88%

of program budget
provided by local
governments

\$46,380

total annual allocation
from local governments

\$52,780

cost to serve children

26

children served in 2024

VIDEO



Homeless Encampment Response and Street Outreach Services

Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention

Jeff Herron, Homelessness Prevention Manager

February 25, 2025





What Are Homeless Street Outreach Services?

- A mechanism for reaching those least likely to seek out assistance for themselves
- Reduces barriers by meeting people where they are—geographically, physically, and emotionally
- Works to address an individual's immediate, basic needs and facilitate connection to permanent housing for unsheltered persons





History: Hope Center Street Outreach Pilot (2016-2019)

- Initial iteration within Fayette County
- Funded at \$75,000/year
- Focused on outreach as a “first touch” service provider
 - Funded 1 Program Coordinator and 1 Peer Specialist
 - Targeted serving 40 unduplicated individuals/households
 - Facilitated access to emergency shelter, mainstream benefits, and assessment for permanent housing





History: Assertive Street Outreach & Intensive Case Management (2019-2023)

- After initial pilot, an RFP was issued for an expanded model increasing levels of service
- Funded at \$280,000/year
 - Funded 2 Intensive Case Management Team Coordinators with 2 Peer Support Specialists and .5 Clinician
 - Carried an active caseload in addition to making initial contacts to facilitate higher levels of service and outcomes
 - Targeted serving 110 individuals with outreach contacts and 30 individuals with intensive case management services per year





History: COVID-19 Pandemic

- Community Action Council's team operated non-congregate, hotel-based shelter for much of their term.
- LFUCG leveraged Coronavirus funding to expand outreach services, awarding funding to Hope Center and Lexington Rescue Mission.
- Additional teams assisted in facilitating general outreach activities and encampment response as the community struggled to meet increased need.





History: Progressive Street Outreach (2023-Current)

- The next iteration of outreach sought to expand hours of operation and integrate all services into a single team.
- Funded at \$300,000 in Year 1, \$316,640 in Year 2
 - Expanded outreach to operate two shifts (8 a.m. – 10 p.m., Monday-Friday) with ability to receive afterhours contacts and flex scheduling as needed
 - Funded 1 Program Coordinator, 1 Peer Support Specialist, 1 Housing Navigator, 1 Case Worker/SOAR Specialist and .5 Clinician. Added 2 Peer Mentors in Year 2.
 - Targeted 60 unduplicated contacts *monthly* with 40 intensive case management clients at any given time





Increasing Need for Outreach Services

- Increase in unsheltered homelessness
 - 2024 LexCount: 82 unsheltered persons (up from 38 in 2023)
 - Over 500 persons contacted by Hope Center's street outreach team in Year 1.
- The OHPI increasingly spends more time responding to encampments and other issues related to homelessness.
 - FY24: 28 encampment cleanups conducted at a cost of \$51,805 (average: \$1,850)
 - FY23: 25 cleanups at a total cost of \$39,276 (average: \$1,510)
- Effective July 15, 2024, House Bill 5 made public camping illegal.





A Path Forward

- To better address unsheltered homelessness, Lexington needs increased resources.
- The Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention currently holds 3 staff positions, fulfilling all duties of the Continuum of Care and overseeing local response to homeless encampments.
 - Louisville Metro Government maintains at least 10 positions to investigate and respond to encampments.
 - Louisville's Coalition for the Homeless (CoC Lead Agency) has over 20 staff members.





OHPI FY26 Requests

- OHPI proposes the addition of an Encampment Coordinator position in FY26. This position would:
 - Facilitate encampment response in compliance with LFUCG's Homeless Encampment Standard Operating Procedures
 - Coordinate the activities of contracted street outreach services
 - Collaborate with internal divisions to conduct camp removals
- Estimated costs: \$85,000/year (salary + fringe) for Encampment Coordinator
\$45,000 initial cost for fleet vehicle





Additional OHPI Recommendations

- Identify sustainable funding
 - Consider modifying Ordinance 103-2014 to create greater flexibility with Innovative and Sustainable Solutions Fund
- Explore continued expansion and innovative models
 - Ultimate goal of 24/7 outreach services
 - Consider best practice models effective in other communities such as homeless outreach teams within law enforcement or integration with paramedicine teams
- Expand interim housing options
 - Housing ends homelessness and basic needs must be met to achieve higher level goals



Questions?



LEXINGTON





CODE ENFORCEMENT ORDINANCES UPDATING AND PROGRESS

Denise Gray, 6th District Council Member
Lee Steele, Director of Code Enforcement
Social Services and Public Safety Committee
February 25, 2025





Why Code Enforcement?





Mayor's Racial Justice and Equality Report Recommendation

Housing & Gentrification Recommendation #2:

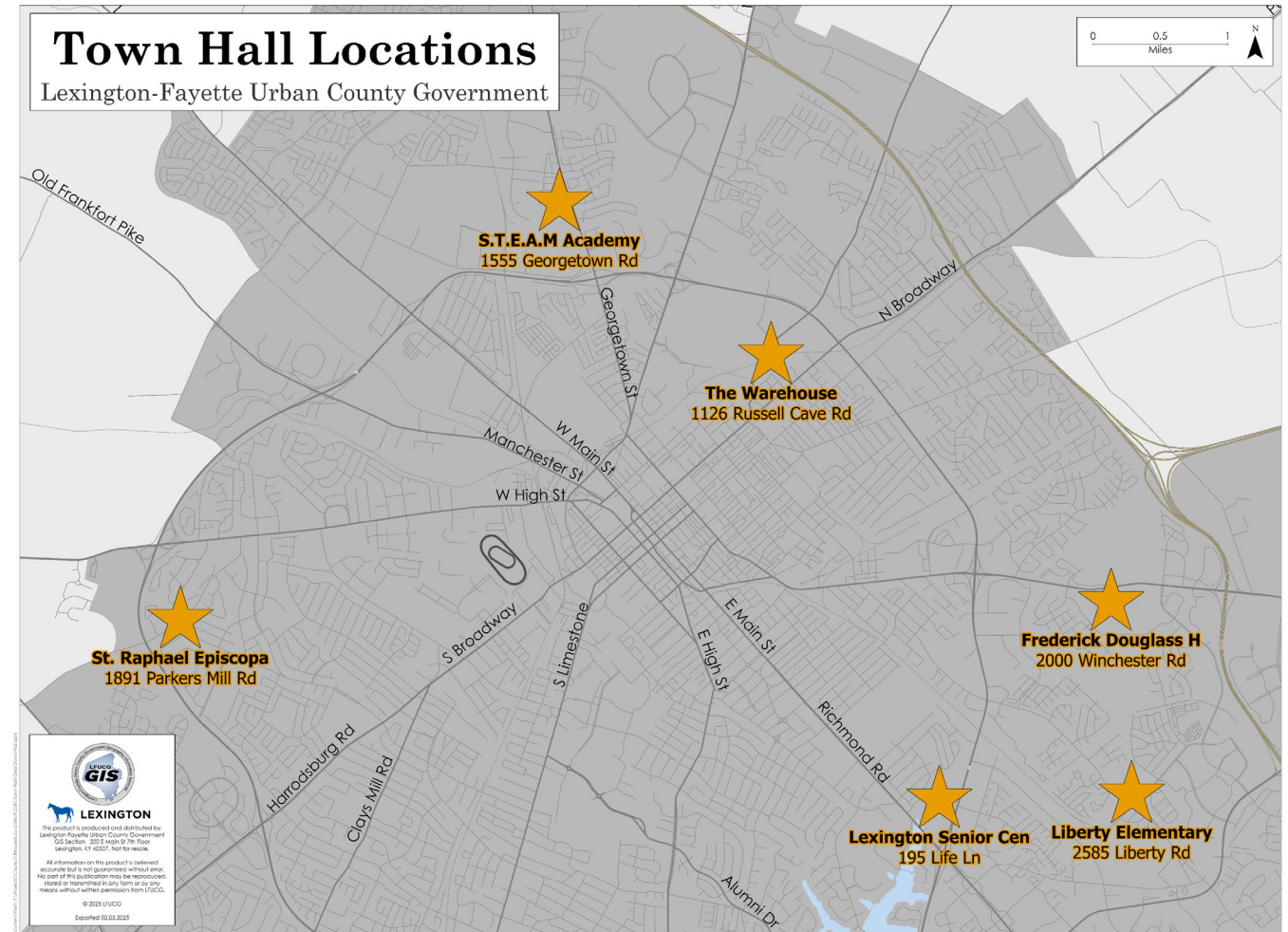
Changes must be implemented in the Division of Code Enforcement. Our recommendation is the Housing Code of the City of Lexington be re-imagined into a Code Agency that places the health, well-being, and protection of residents (especially the most vulnerable) and neighborhoods as its mission.





LEXINGTON LOCATIONS OF ALL TOWN HALLS

- The Warehouse
- St. Raphael Episcopal Church
- Liberty Elementary
- S.T.E.A.M Academy
- Lexington Senior Center
- Frederick Douglass High



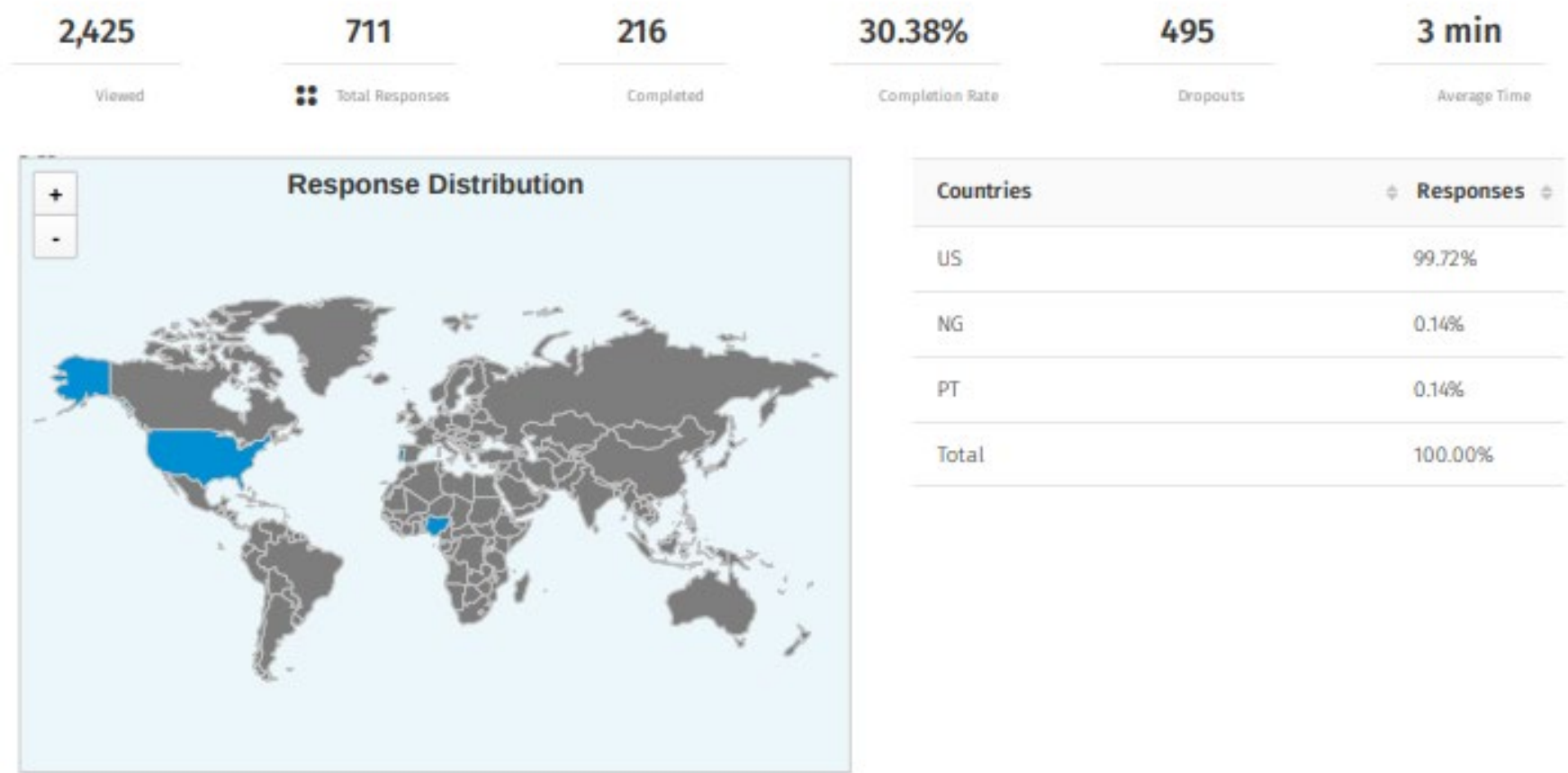


Code Enforcement Survey Results





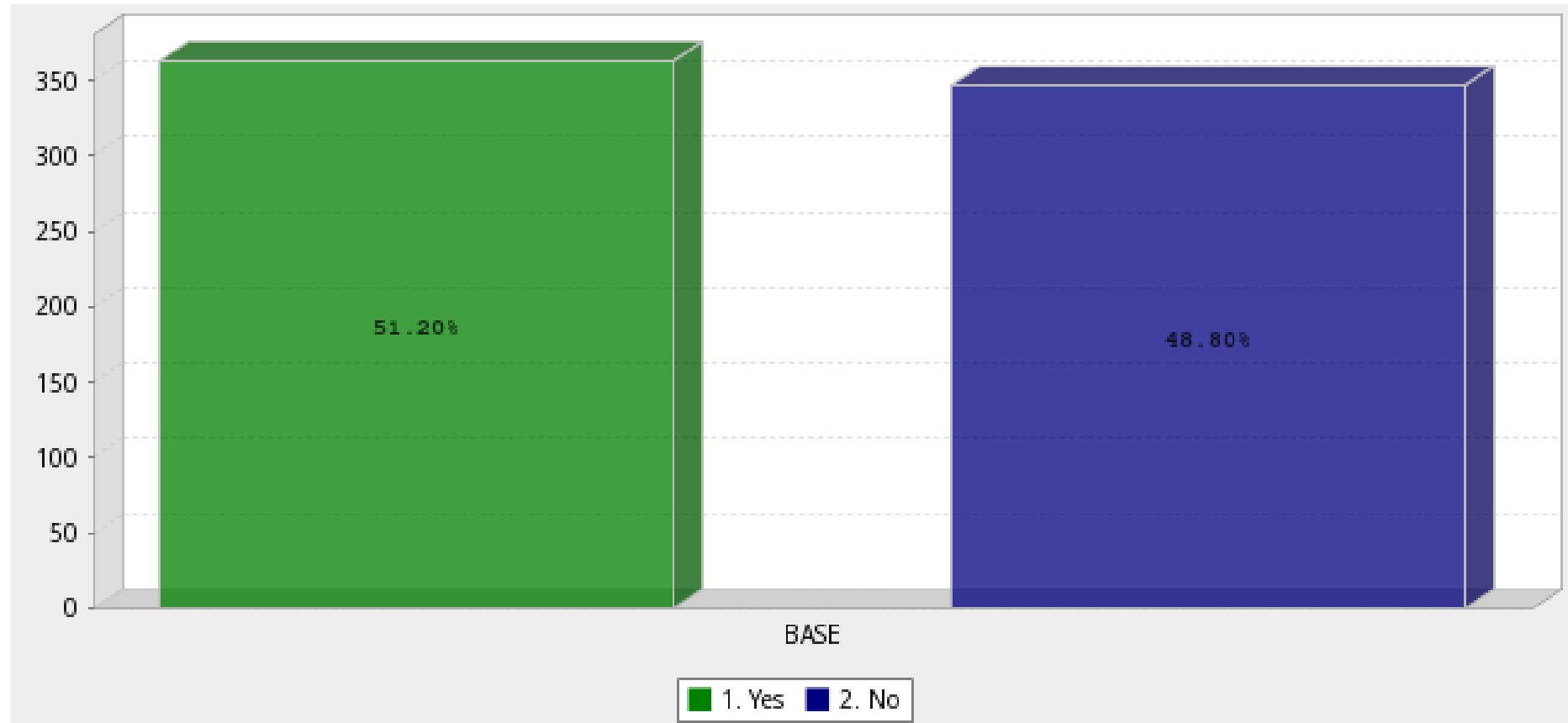
711 Residents of Lexington Responded





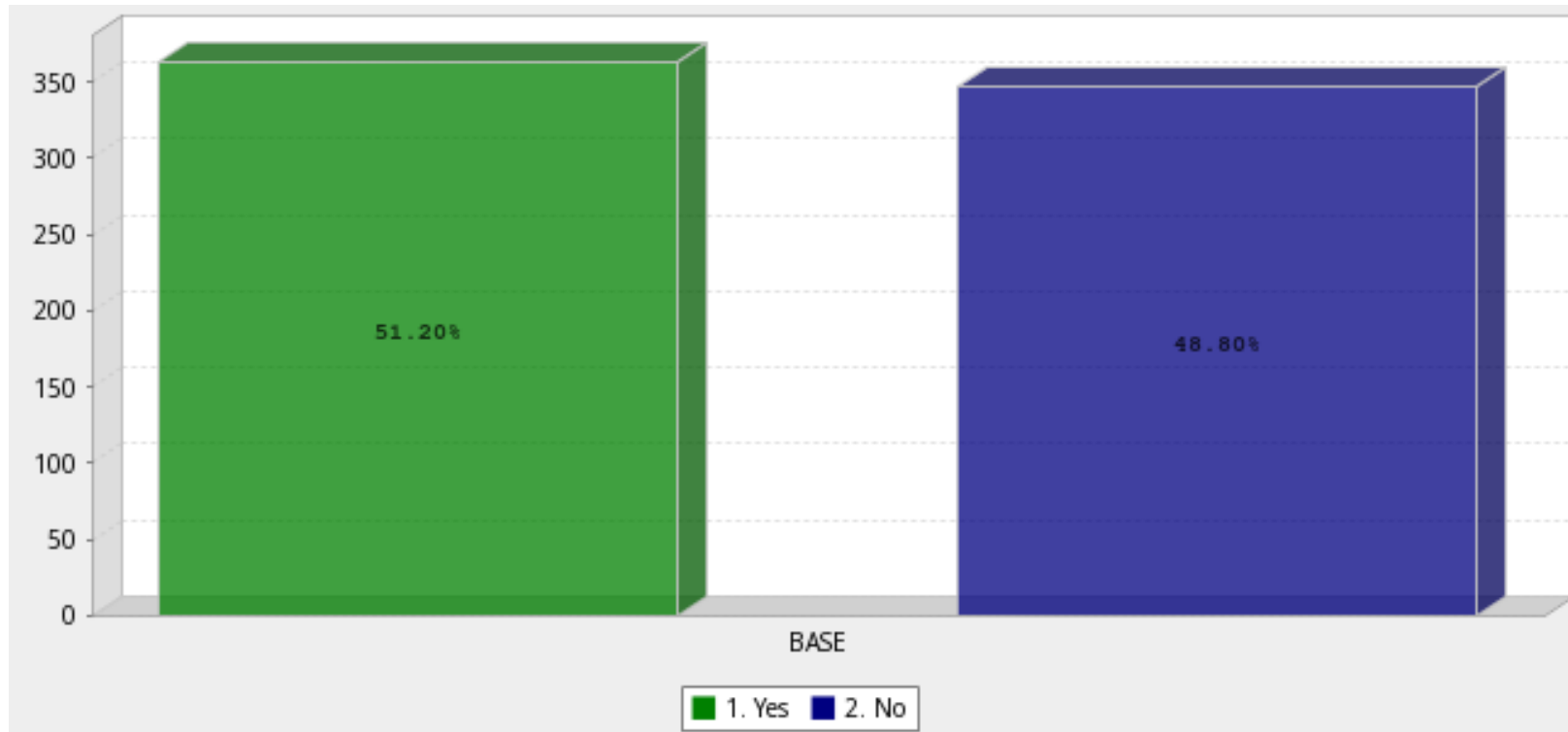
51% of Residents Had Personal Experience with Code Enforcement

48% of Residents Did Not Have Personal Experience with Code Enforcement



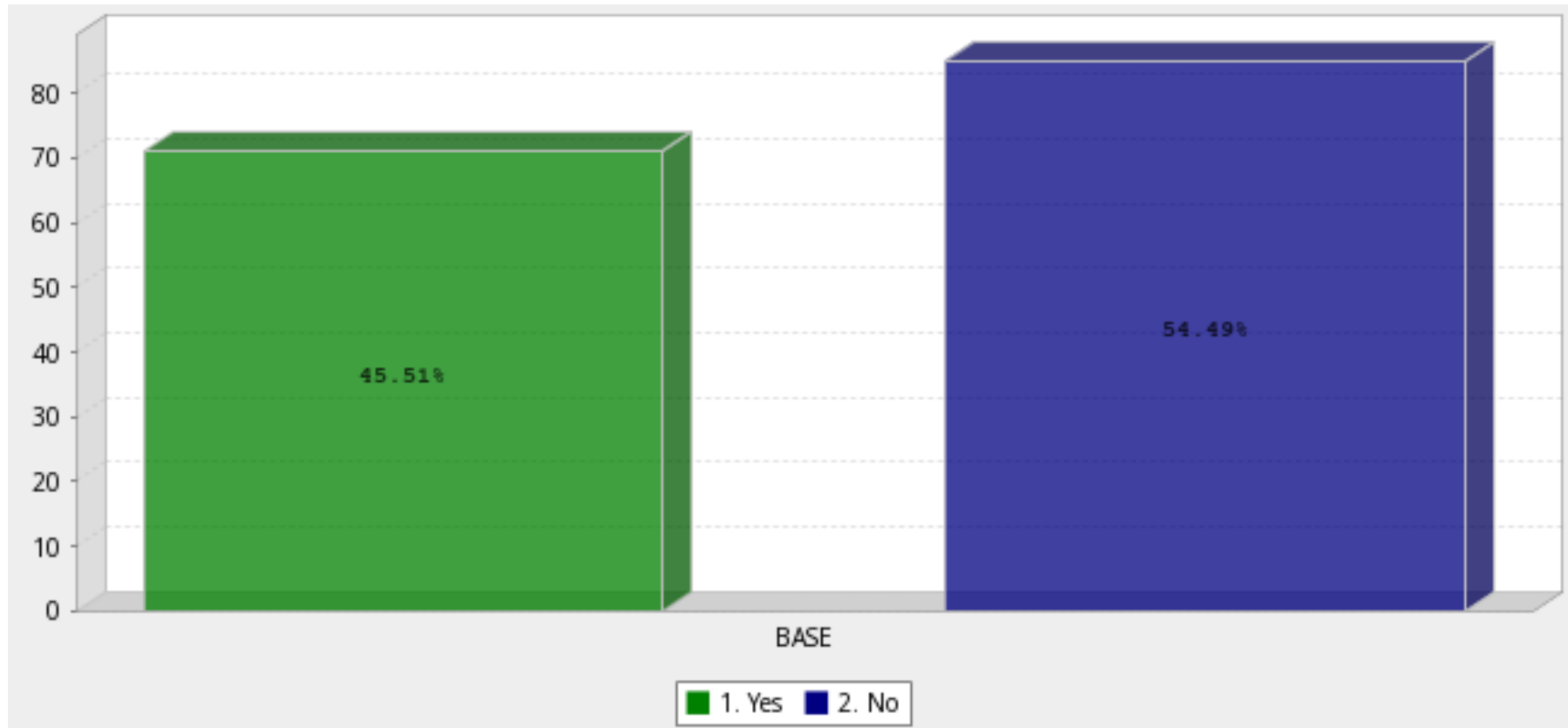


60.2% of Residents Made the Complaint to Code Enforcement 37.35% of Residents Received the Complaint from Code Enforcement



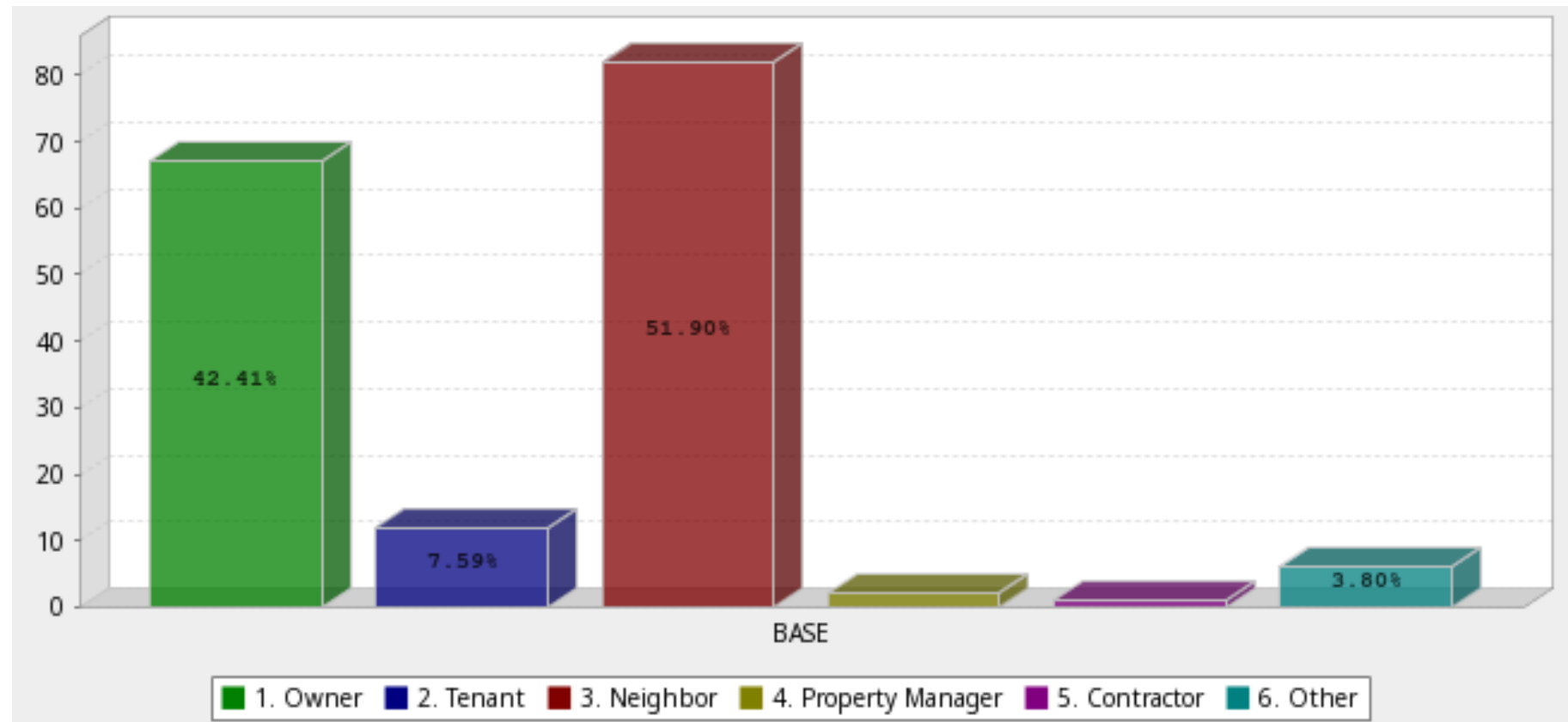


54.49% of Residents Were Not Notified of the Complaint or Request





51.9% of Residents who Received a Complaint or Request Identified as a Neighbor
42.41% Identified as an Owner
7.59% Identified as a Tenant





Demographics of Survey Participants

81.4% - Identified as White

6.98% - Identified as African-American/Black

6.98% - Identified as Two or More

4.65% - Other

.93% - Middle Eastern

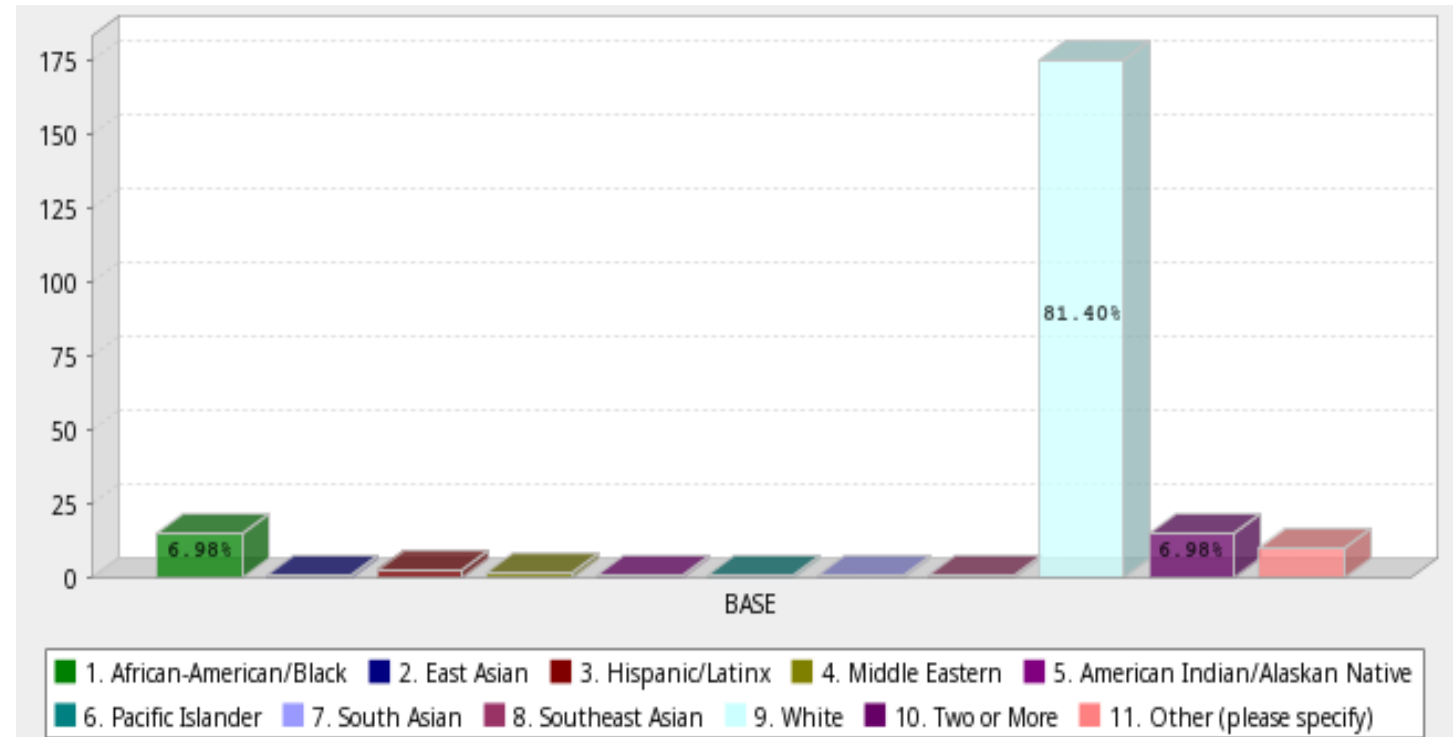
.47% - Identified as Hispanic/Latinx

.47% - American Indian/Alaskan Native

.47% - Pacific Islander

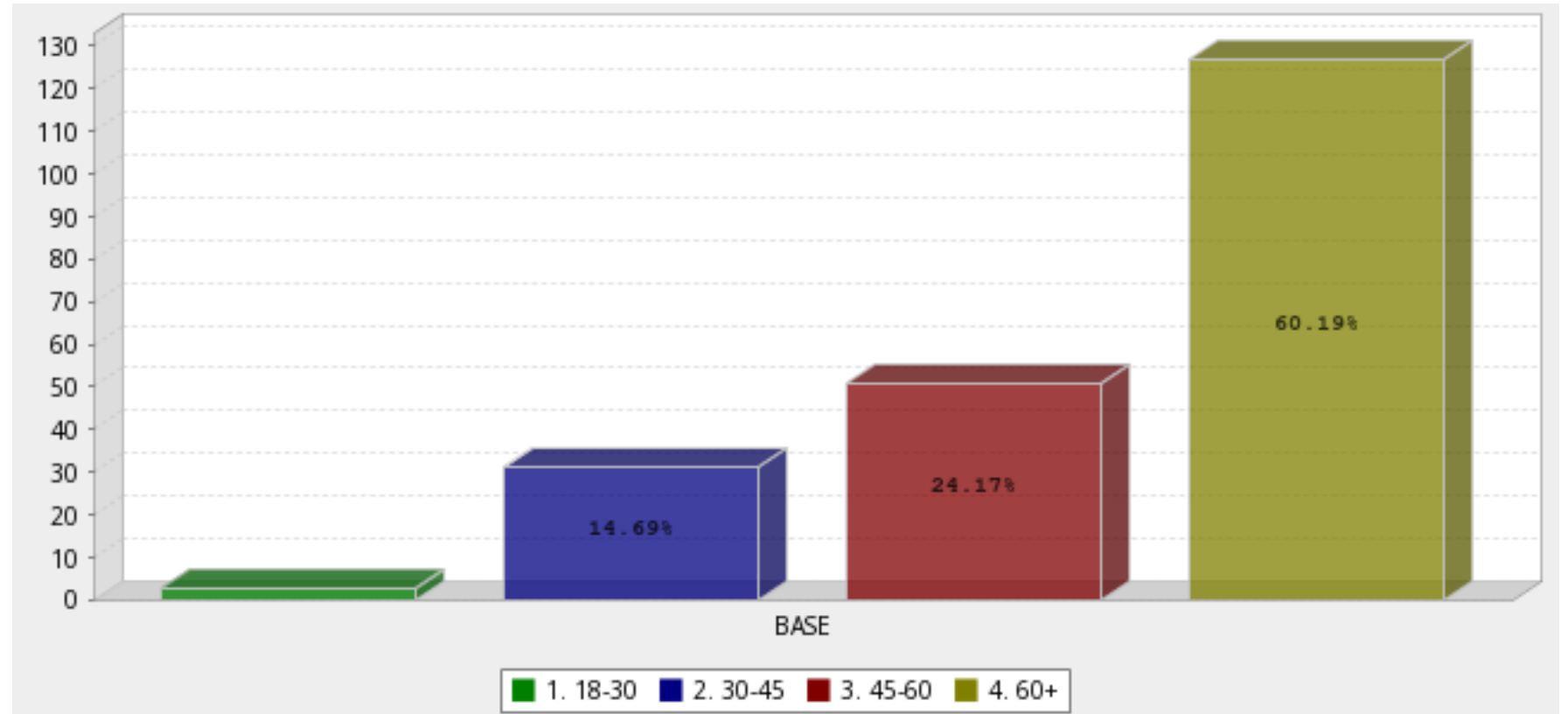
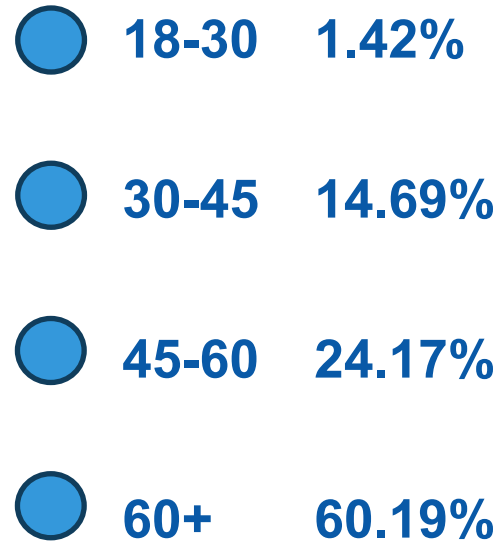
.47% - South Asian

.47% - Southeast Asian





Age of Survey Participants





Council District of Survey Participants

District 1 – 9.33%

District 2 – 6.74%

District 3 – 6.22%

District 4 – 6.22%

District 5 – 8.81%

District 6 – 16.06%

District 7 – 5.70%

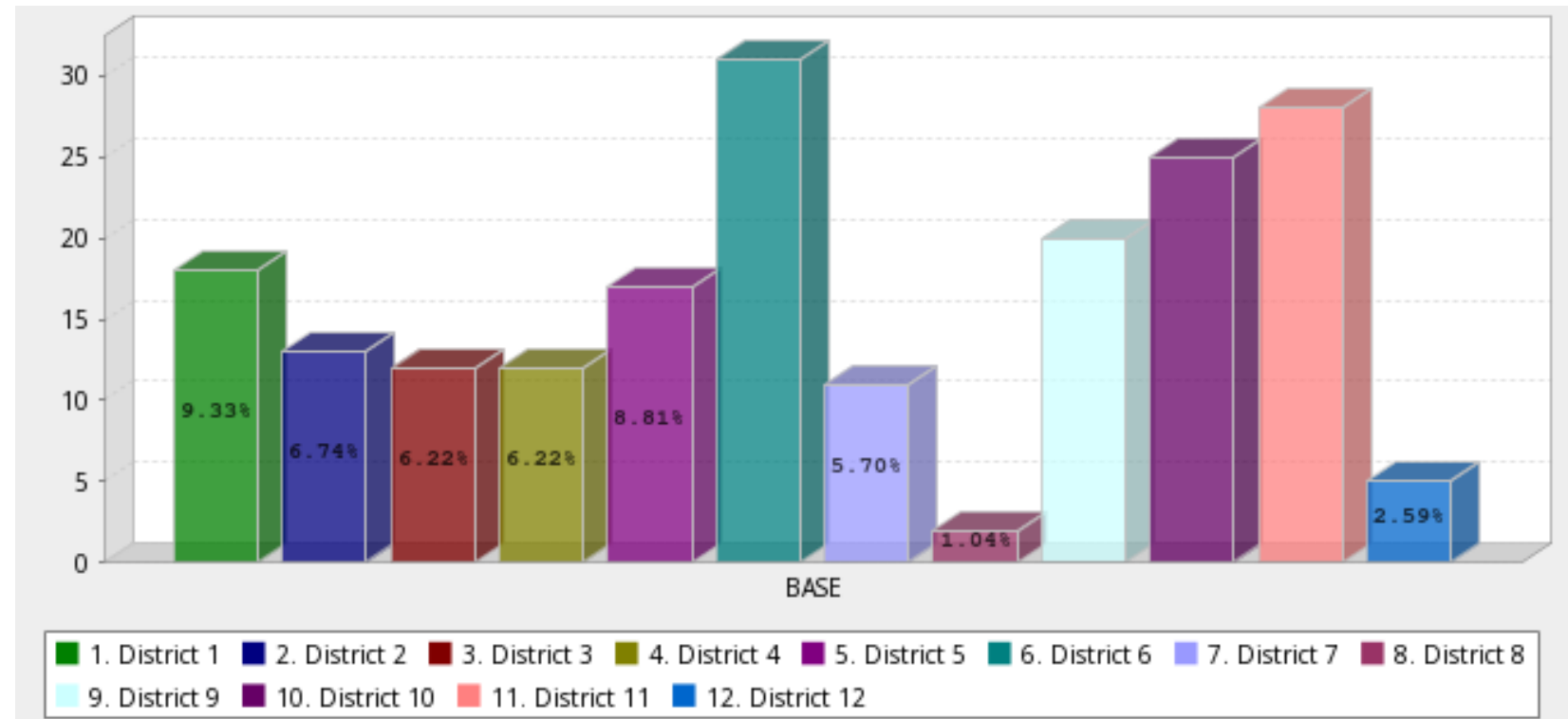
District 8 – 1.04%

District 9 – 10.36%

District 10 – 12.95%

District 11 – 14.51%

District 12 – 2.59%





Some Top Issues Reported in Survey

- No Follow Up from Code Enforcement
- Reports Missing
- Sidewalks
- Overgrowth, Trash/Debris in Yards, Cars Parked in Yards
- Code Enforcement Interactions





CODE ENFORCEMENT IMPROVEMENTS AND UPDATES





Improvements to Code Enforcement – Ordinance Changes



ORDINANCE NO. ____-2024

AN ORDINANCE CREATING SECTION 12-55 (1) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATED TO THE LANDLORD-TENANT ACT TO PROHIBIT LANDLORD RETALIATION FOR TENANT COMPLAINTS TO A GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY; AN ORDINANCE CREATING SECTION 12-55 (2) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATED TO THE LANDLORD-TENANT ACT TO ALLOW TENANT REMEDIES FOR RETALITIAION; AN ORDINANCE CREATING SECTION 12-55 (3) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATED TO THE LANDLORD-TENANT ACT FOR EXCLUSIONS FOR RETALITIAION; AN ORDINANCE CREATING SECTION 12-55 (4) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATED TO THE LANDLORD-TENANT ACT TO STATE LANDLORD LIABILITY PURSUANT TO KRS 383.625(2); AND AN ORDINANCE CREATING SECTION 12-55 (5) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATED TO THE LANDLORD-TENANT ACT TO SPECIFY TENANT REMEDIES FOR RETALIATION.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

WHEREAS, the Council adopted the Landlord-Tenant Act in Revised Code of Ordinances section 12-54; and

WHEREAS, it is the Council's desire to specify a tenant's rights for reporting a code violation pursuant to state law.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

Section 1 - That Section 12-55(1) of the Code of Ordinances of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government be and hereby is created to read as follows:

- (1) Except as provided in this section, a landlord may not retaliate by increasing rent or decreasing services or by bringing or threatening to bring an action for possession after:
 - (a) The tenant has complained to a governmental agency charged with responsibility for enforcement of a building or housing code of a violation applicable to the premises materially affecting health and safety;
 - (b) The tenant has complained to the landlord of a violation under KRS 383.595;
 - (c) The tenant has organized or become a member of a tenant's union or similar organization.

Section 2 - That Section 12-55(2) of the Code of Ordinances of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government be and hereby is created to read as follows:

- (2) If the landlord acts in violation of subsection (1) of this section, the tenant is entitled to the remedies provided in section (5) and has a defense in any retaliatory action against him for possession. In an action by or against the tenant, evidence of a complaint within one (1) year before the alleged act of retaliation creates a presumption that the landlord's conduct was in retaliation. The presumption does not arise if the tenant made the complaint after notice of a proposed rent increase or diminution of services. "Presumption" means that the trier of fact must find the existence of the fact presumed unless and until

evidence is introduced which would support a finding of its nonexistence.

Section 3 - That Section 12-55(3) of the Code of Ordinances of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government be and hereby is created to read as follows:

- (3) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of this section, a landlord may bring an action for possession if:
 - (a) The violation of the applicable building or housing code was caused primarily by lack of reasonable care by the tenant or other person in his household or upon the premises with his consent;
 - (b) The tenant is in default in rent; or
 - (c) Compliance with the applicable building or housing code requires alteration, remodeling, or demolition which would effectively deprive the tenant of use of the dwelling unit.

Section 4 - That Section 12-55(4) of the Code of Ordinances of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government be and hereby is created to read as follows:

- (4) The maintenance of an action under subsection (3) of this section does not release the landlord from liability under KRS 383.625(2)

Section 5 - That Section 12-55(5) of the Code of Ordinances of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government be and hereby is created to read as follows:

- (5) If a landlord unlawfully removes or excludes the tenant from the premises or willfully diminishes services to the tenant by interrupting or causing the interruption of heat, running water, hot water electric, gas, or other essential service, the tenant may recover possession or terminate the rental agreement and, in either case, recover an amount not more than three (3) months periodic rent and a reasonable attorney's fee. If the rental agreement is terminated the landlord shall return all prepaid rent.

Section 6 - That this Ordinance shall not be construed in a manner so as to conflict with Kentucky's Landlord-Tenant Act, and the sole means of enforcement of this Ordinance shall be as provided in that Act.

Section 7 - That this Ordinance shall become effective on the date of its passage.

PASSED URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CLERK OF URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. _____ - 2025

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 12 OF THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO SECTION 12-2 (C) REALTED TO NUISANCES TO ADD GRAFFITI AS A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND SECTION 12-5 RELATED TO PENALTIES TO REDUCE THE TIME PERIOD IN WHICH TO ASSESS CITATIONS AND CIVIL FINES, AND PROVIDING FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE COST OF TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00), EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE OF COUNCIL.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

Section 1 – That Section 12-2(c) of the Code of Ordinances, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, is hereby amended, so that when amended, the same shall read as follows:

Sec. 12-2. - Nuisances.

- (c) Except as provided in subsection (h) of this section, it shall be unlawful for the owner, occupant, or person having control or management of any premises within the urban county to permit a public nuisance, health hazard, or source of filth to develop thereon through the accumulation or presence of:
 - (1) Junked, wrecked, non-licensed, improperly licensed or inoperative automobiles, vehicles, or machines, or other similar scrap or salvage materials, excluding inoperative farm equipment;
 - (2) One (1) or more mobile or manufactured homes as defined in KRS 227.550 that are junked, wrecked, or inoperative and which are not inhabited;
 - (3) Rubbish, garbage, debris, ashes, trash, or waste of any kind, whether liquid or solid;
 - (4) The excessive growth of weeds, grass and other vegetation as follows:
 - a. Any weeds such as thistle, jimson, burdock, ragweed, cocklebur, poison ivy, poison oak, pokeweed, poison sumac, and poison hemlock and any other weed of a like kind classified by the United States Department of Agriculture as a noxious weed is prohibited and unlawful. Notwithstanding the above, any property known to be a remnant, non-buildable or undevelopable regardless of zoning that is greater than one (1) acre in size shall only be required to have a minimum eight (8) foot buffer maintained in accordance with this section in all areas adjacent to developed properties or within two hundred (200) feet of a structure. This section shall not apply to property for which a current riparian buffer area permit is in effect or lands designated as environmentally sensitive, conservation areas, tree protection areas, greenways and woodlots.
 - b. It shall be unlawful for the owner to permit any weeds, or grass, edible or not, to grow to a height exceeding ten (10) inches anywhere on such premises, including those portions thereof abutting any street, road, alley or other thoroughfare, and in the event such premises are crossed by a sidewalk, ditch, pathway, private roadway, fence or other natural or manmade boundary or divider, including those portions thereof between such boundary or divider and the edge of the thoroughfare; any such weeds or grass exceeding such height are hereby declared to be a nuisance. Notwithstanding the above, any property known to be a remnant, non-buildable or undevelopable regardless of zoning that is

greater than one (1) acre in size shall only be required to have a minimum eight (8) foot buffer maintained in accordance with this section in all areas adjacent to developed properties or within two hundred (200) feet of a structure. This section shall not apply to property for which a current riparian buffer area permit is in effect or lands designated as environmentally sensitive, conservation areas, tree protection areas, greenways and woodlots. This section shall also not apply to any crops, trees, bushes, shrubs, flowers or other ornamental plants or flowers which are maintained in a clearly definable fashion. This section shall also not apply to native plantings for the purpose of intentional naturalization, which includes plantings used for food or fiber, for aesthetic purposes, to attract or promote pollinators, to offset and control soil loss or erosion, to promote storm water control or water conservation, or to improve the soil. Naturalization does not include vegetation abandonment which is defined as the lack of premises management. Management activities include but are not limited to site preparation, planting, and maintenance. Naturalized gardens shall not contain plant species that are categorized as a level one threat by the Kentucky Exotic Plant Pest Council.

- c. It shall be unlawful for the owner or occupant of any premises to permit any tree, brush, hedge or other vegetation to grow in a manner which interferes with normal sidewalk traffic or vehicular traffic within the public right-of-way.
- d. All bushes, shrubs, plants, vines and other vegetation, whether classified as edible or not, must be maintained in a way to prevent the possible collection of trash, refuse, rubbish, garbage or debris and must not present a public safety risk and/or fire risk to the property or adjoining properties. Failure to maintain vegetation as indicated may result in its required removal.
- e. There is hereby exempted from the scope of the provisions of subsections a. and b. above property within the urban county zoned for agricultural uses, except that such exemption shall not apply when the property has been planned for development and a subdivision plat has been filed of record in the office of the county clerk reflecting the property as residential.
- f. Special provisions shall be applied to lots known to be remnants, non-buildable or undevelopable regardless of zoning that are greater than one (1) acre in size that provision a. and b. shall maintain an minimum eight (8) foot buffer along adjacent developed properties or within two hundred (200) feet of a structure in accordance with the provisions above.

(5) Graffiti in the form of any inscription, word, figure, or design marked, etched, scratched, drawn or painted on any surface that damages, mutilates or defaces such surface.

Section 2 – That Section 12-5 of the Code of Ordinances, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, is hereby amended, so that when amended, the same shall read as follows:

Sec. 12-5. - Penalties.

- (a) Every person failing to perform the duties required of him by or to comply with the provisions of section 12-2 shall, for every offense, be fined not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00), and each day's continuance of any such violation shall be a separate offense.
- (b) As an alternative to subsection (a), any owner who violates any provision of section 12-2 and has been previously issued at least one (1) nuisance citation for

a violation or violations on the same property within a Twelve (12) -month period, may also be assessed civil fines of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) no more than one thousand-five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00), pursuant to the civil find guidelines as set forth herein. In addition, the urban county government may assess the administrative cost involved with any inspection(s), in an amount not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).

- (c) Civil Fines assessed for violations of section 12-2 shall be based on the number of citations issued within a Twelve (12) -month period, as follows:

	1	2	3	4	5
Number Of Citations	\$100.00	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00

Section 3 – That this Ordinance shall be effective following passage of Council.

PASSED URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CLERK OF URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

xxxx-25:GET: 4900-4410-8317, v. 1



Division of Code Enforcement 2024 Annual Achievements Presented by Director Oliver Lee Steele





Division of Code Enforcement 2024 Annual Achievements

■ Certification

- Accreditation by the International Accreditation Service.
- All Permanent housing officer are licensed by the State of Kentucky and certified as at least a Residential Building Inspector Trainee.
- Encouraging staff to obtain further certifications.

■ Training

- Developed and implemented the first formal staff exam preparation and training program.
- Conducted in-house training for new HACD staff and Council aids.
- Cross training with LexCall and Code Enforcement staff.
- Holding monthly training for field staff on codes and standard operating procedures.
- Participated in the first and continuing LFUCG mentorship program.





Division of Code Enforcement 2024 Annual Achievements

■ Staff

- Recruited and hired our first bilingual Spanish-speaking female Housing Officer.
- Converted field staff to working 100% in the field.
- Reduced our office footprint by converting 3 office to computer hubs.
- Converted from iPads to laptops.
- First time the division is fully staffed since 2019.

■ Programs

- Housing Repair Assistance Program (HRAP). (ARPA to General fund)
- Sidewalk Program. (Increased funding & implemented sidewalk abatement program.)
- Increased abatement of nuisances and sidewalks to reduce fines against property owners while gaining compliance.
- Increased community outreach and attended town hall meetings.





Division of Code Enforcement 2024 Annual Achievements

- Ongoing Efforts
 - Continued to develop in-house training for certification testing
 - Reviewing code and software updates
 - Reviewing International Accreditation Service standards and goals
 - Reviewing and updating the divisions standard operating procedures.
- 2025 Goals
 - Increase our staff's certification levels to a KY Residential Building Inspector or above.
 - Implement internal training for KY required experience to become a RBI trainee.
 - Increase promotional opportunities & employee retention by reclassifying positions.
 - Providing certification continuing education in-house to reduce costs.





LONG TERM GOALS



Questions?



LEXINGTON



ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Social Services and Public Safety

Referral Item	Current Sponsor	Date Referred	Last Presentation	Status	Legistar File ID
1 Crime Reduction Technology	W. Baxter	September 21, 2021	May 2, 2023		1065-22
2 Assessment and Enforcement of Noise Ordinance	D. Gray	July 5, 2022	August 22, 2023		0840-23
3 Eviction Diversion & Right to Counsel	D. Wu	January 24, 2023	July 2, 2024		0702-24
4 Comprehensive Review of Code Enforcement	D. Gray	June 29, 2023		February 25, 2025	0204-25
5 Coordinated Victim Response Plan	L. Sheehan	May 2, 2023			
6 Villages Model Initiatives for Lexington	S. Lynch	August 20, 2024	October 8, 2024		1008-24
7 Youth Council	D. Gray	August 20, 2024			
8 Homeless Encampment Response and Street Outreach Services for OHPI	J. Reynolds	September 17, 2024		February 25, 2025	0203-25
9 Review of Fayette County Sheriff's Office	D. Gray	October 8, 2024			
10 CASA Update	D. Wu	January 28, 2025		February 25, 2025	0202-25
11 EmpATH Center Update	L. Sheehan	January 28, 2025			
12 Review of Sober Living Ordinance	T. Morton	February 11, 2025			
Annual/Periodic Updates					
13 Substance Use Disorder Intervention (SUDI) Update	J. Reynolds	January 12, 2022	May 14, 2024		0532-24
14 Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention (OHPI) Update	J. Reynolds	June 7, 2022	September 17, 2024		0901-22
15 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Update	D. Gray	February 20, 2018	September 17, 2024		0360-22
16 Office of Affordable Housing Initiatives and Projects Update	D. Gray	August 10, 2021	November 12, 2024		1026-21
17 Recruitment, Retirement, and Retention for Public Safety Update	J. Reynolds/ W. Baxter	September 22, 2020	July 2, 2024		0450-21
18 Community Paramedicine Program Update	J. Reynolds	July 6, 2021	January 28, 2025		0300-23
19 Review of Code Enforcement	J. Reynolds	October 8, 2019	June 13, 2023		0814-22
20 ONE Lexington Programs Update	J. Reynolds	September 25, 2020	January 21, 2025 (Work Session)		0080-23
21 Hope Center Expansion Project Update	S. Lynch	September 12, 2024	November 12, 2024		1139-24
22 Family Services Program Update	J. Reynolds	January 16, 2025	January 28, 2025		0109-25
23 Partners for Youth Program Update	J. Reynolds	January 16, 2025	January 28, 2025		0110-25

Updated 02.11.25, KJT