

April 8, 2025

Buddy Mendes, Chairman Fresno County Board of Supervisors 2281 Tulare Street, #301 Fresno, CA 93721

ATT: Chairman Mendes and Members of the Board

RE: County Administrative Office recommended actions for the Code Enforcement Program

The Board of Directors of the Sunnyside Property Owners Association appreciate the direction from the Board of Supervisors to make functional improvements to the Code Enforcement Program to improve responsiveness, customer service, greater follow through and tracking to ensure violations are remediated in a timely manner.

Quality of life issues are extremely important to Sunnyside residents. It is why we worked with residents in the unincorporated county islands of Mayfair, Tarpey and Fig Garden to promote the Neighborhood Beautification Overlay District Ordinance. Unfortunately nearly twenty-five years later, neighbors are still struggling to maintain stability and order in their neighborhoods.

We want to commend your Board for the recent progress made in code enforcement. The organization under the County Administrative Office has made a difference. The information on the county's website is clear and the violation complaint form is user friendly. However the county is still facing a backlog of violations numbering over 1866 cases dating as far back as 2017. The shear volume of outstanding cases highlights two things; code enforcement matters to county residents and for far too long the county has not provided adequate resources to remedy the violations.

We realize the Board faces some very difficult decisions in the next few months. Revenue is not what was expected and the county faces a deficit of nearly fifteen million in the upcoming 2025-2026 Fiscal Year.

We appreciate the efforts to improve code enforcement and wholeheartedly support the County Administrative Office (CAO) recommendations as presented to the Board on March 11. More code enforcement officers are needed, the database needs updating to allow the public to track progress, and financial deterrents such as levying unpaid administrative penalties on the property tax rolls rather than as liens should be evaluated and implemented. Organization under the CAO will result in a more effective Code Enforcement Program.

As you navigate the budget process, we urge strong consideration to appropriating the necessary funds to further improve code enforcement.

Respectfully,

Sue Williams Corresponding Secretary