

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (45)

MISSION

The City of Detroit Department of Administrative Hearings (DAH) provides quality administrative hearings in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner, with respect for the dignity of individuals and their due process rights.

DESCRIPTION

The DAH is a quasi-judicial tribunal that provides expedient, independent and impartial adjudication of municipal ordinance violations.

The DAH is an innovative approach to enforcing the Detroit City Code as it applies to property maintenance and blight prevention. The Department's focus is to resolve blight violations in an effort to improve the quality of life of Detroit residents. Blight violations have a major impact on the quality of life in Detroit and it operates effectively to handle those violations.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR FY 2009-10

The DAH opened its doors in January 2005 at 561 East Jefferson. Since then, 210,322 blight violation notices have been issued by the enforcing agencies and 200,152 DAH hearings have been held. The total future volume of violations and hearings is unknown, but it is expected to decrease. The decrease is due to the expected deterrent effects of increased enforcement as these efforts continue throughout the city.

The DAH was an integral part of the Blight Enforcement Group that reconfigured the code enforcement process to focus on compliance with Detroit City Codes versus a system geared toward revenue collection.

The Blight Enforcement Working Group accomplished the reconfigured focus toward compliance by the following initiatives:

1. Creation of a "warning" system before the issuance of a blight ticket
2. Amending Chapters 8.5 and 22 of the City Code to:
 - a. Reduce the fine amounts
 - b. Allow for property owners to prove compliance to get a fine waiver; and allow for hearing officers to consider a number of factors in determining the amount of the fine to be assessed.

The DAH implemented a Web Interface Technology Initiative to enhance citizens' access to blight violation information on the City's official website. Additionally, it completed technical development of online web-based and interactive voice response (IVR) systems for automated payments of blight violation notices. It is moving toward implementation of both systems.

The DAH continued implementation of the Community Docket and Judgment Responsibility Program Initiatives. The Community Docket Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Detroit Police Department, neighborhood-based groups and the DAH. Community and neighborhood groups report blight observed in their areas to DPD ticket writers; a specialized DAH docket is created so that all the tickets issued for the reported violations in a particular neighborhood can be heard at the same date and time; and the hearings are held in the evening to enable the community members to attend the hearing on the violations that they reported. The Judgment Responsibility Program Initiative (JRP) is a very successful notification effort

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implemented to increase compliance with DAH orders and judgments. The JRP collection approach was developed by DAH to aggressively focus on collection of delinquent fines owed to DAH.

**PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE FOR
FY 2010-11, FY 2011-12, and BEYOND**

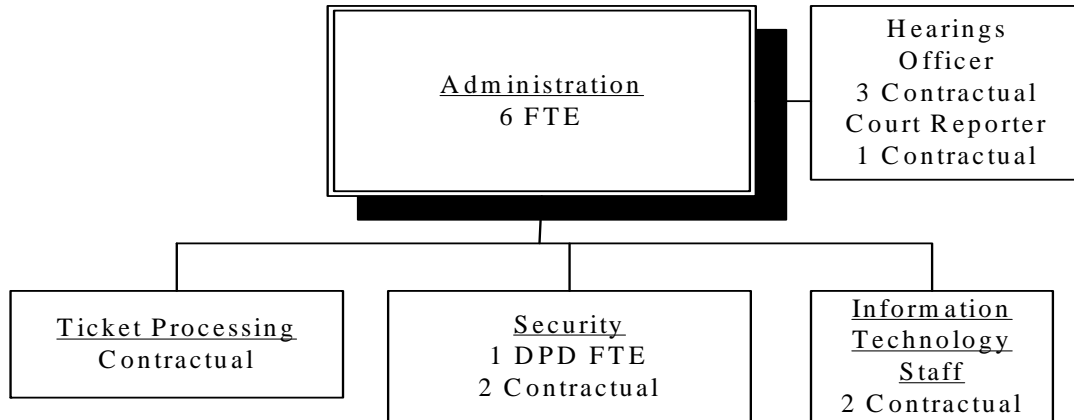
The DAH is working to consolidate all administrative hearings in the City of Detroit for purposes of efficiency, effectiveness and cost savings. The departments with

administrative hearings that may be consolidated into an omnibus administrative hearings bureau include:

1. Buildings and Safety Environmental
2. Department of Public Works
3. Health and Human Services
4. Municipal Parking Department

DAH is relocating to the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center to save funding and provide convenient services to citizens.

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGETS

Type of Performance Measure: List of Measures	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Projection	2010-11 Target
Outputs: Units of Activity directed toward Goals:			
Number of zoning division violations heard	256	256	256
Number of solid waste/illegal dumping division violations heard	8,516	8,516	8,516
Number of property maintenance division violations heard	30,009	30,009	30,009
Outcomes: Results or Impacts of Program Activities			
Average number of days between violation issuance and hearing date	60	60	60
Percent of Decisions and Orders overturned	26%	26%	26%
Percent of Decisions and Orders appealed	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Efficiency: Program Costs related to Units of Activity			
Percent of Orders in delinquency	61%	61%	61%
Percent of cases that are no-show	58%	58%	58%

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EXPENDITURES

	2008-09 Actual Expense	2009-10 Redbook	2010-11 Mayor's Budget Rec	Variance	Variance Percent
Salary & Wages	\$ 341,406	\$ -	\$ 387,185	\$ 387,185	0%
Employee Benefits	211,919	-	298,661	298,661	0%
Prof/Contractual	1,386,625	1	921,362	921,361	0%
Operating Supplies	26,219	-	15,000	15,000	0%
Operating Services	220,773	-	164,038	164,038	0%
Capital Equipment	7,057	-	-	-	0%
Other Expenses	1,498	-	-	-	0%
TOTAL	\$ 2,195,497	\$ 1	\$ 1,786,246	\$ 1,786,245	0%
POSITIONS	6	0	6	6	0%

REVENUES

	2008-09 Actual Expense	2009-10 Redbook	2010-11 Mayor's Budget Rec	Variance	Variance Percent
Fines/Forfeits	\$ 300	-	300	300	0%
Revenues	101,270	-	102,000	102,000	0%
Sales and Charges	154,298	1	851,400	851,399	0%
TOTAL	\$ 255,868	\$ 1	\$ 953,700	\$ 953,699	0%

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