



**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

Denver Environmental Health Department  
Nancy J. Severson, Manager

201 W. Colfax, Dept. 1009  
Denver, CO 80202  
PHONE: 720-865-5365  
FAX: 720-865-5531

[www.denvergov.org/health-environment](http://www.denvergov.org/health-environment)

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (DEH) Report for February, 2008

### ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION

#### New Activities

- Greenprint Denver: Greenprint received a grant from the Governor's Energy Office to provide a pilot insulation and weather-sealing program at selected residences. The DEH Seed Capital program will provide matching funds.
- Air Quality:
  - Ozone and Regional Haze. The Ozone and Regional Haze stakeholder workgroups hosted by the Air Pollution Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) have conducted numerous meetings. DEH is analyzing emissions inventories and modeling reports for both groups. DEH has participated with the Local Government Coalition, which submitted a white paper on ozone recommending actions that have been incorporated by CDPHE for inclusion in the State Implementation Plan.
  - Air Quality Regulation 2 (Odors). Working with the City Attorney's Office and other internal stakeholders, DEH requested party status on Reg. 2 (odors) to the Air Quality Control Commission as a proponent for the City and County of Denver in support of the revisions. The proposed revisions include allowing the Air Quality Control Division to designate any instrument for the use of detecting an odor, and clarifying that the source of an odorous air emission has the responsibility to demonstrate the "best practical treatment, maintenance and control..." for an affirmative defense to a violation. This change is directly attributable to the odor notice of violation issued to Kasel Industries (pig ear manufacturer located at approximately 27<sup>th</sup> & Walnut) by CDPHE and based upon DEH odor observations.
- Alternative Transit: EQ's social marketer collaborated with and gained an agreement from Public Works for needed funding to provide a guaranteed ride home component of commuting options for City employees, which furthers progress on achieving Best Commuter Workplace status for Denver, a Greenprint goal.
- Pollution Prevention: EQ is working with Solid Waste to develop an instructional guide for residents to clean graffiti in a manner that minimizes runoff and protects water quality. EQ and Public Works are exploring a recycling option involving a mobile grinder that could be used for recycling snow plow rubber bits into crumb rubber for beneficial reuse, such as in rubberized asphalt. EQ is also working with Public Works to develop a social marketing program directed at reducing illegal dumping from recreational vehicles into the storm sewer system.
- Lowry Landfill: The dispute resolution related to response cost payments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been successfully concluded and payment made from the escrow

account to EPA. The City and Waste Management successfully recovered \$350,000 in disputed costs and received a commitment to a new cost review process to ensure future response costs are accurate and timely.

### **Update on Key Issues**

- Noise Ordinance: EQ has finalized the draft noise ordinance and will be presenting the ordinance to City Council committee on March 11.
- Environmental Management System (EMS): DEH is working with and has committed to certifying four city agencies (Public Works, General Services, Theatres & Arenas, and DEH) to the ISO 14001 standard by the end of 2008. The Denver Zoo will be developing an EMS this year; and EQ will work with the Zoo to connect the Zoo to city departments. Greenprint will be incorporating EMS principles and DEH will provide an EMS framework for tracking and evaluating progress on Greenprint projects.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH & DECISION SUPPORT (CHDS)**

### **Update on Key Issues**

- Denver Healthy People 2010:
  - Live Well Grant. DEH received funding in the amount of \$267,228 under the Live Well grant to increase opportunities for active living and healthy eating in Denver. This grant contained \$257,928 for Year 3 of Park Hill Thriving Communities grant to increase equal access to healthy eating and active living in the Park Hill neighborhood.
  - Park Hill Thriving Communities Annual Report. On March 25, 2008, Park Hill Thriving Communities will release its Year 2 Report to the Community, which includes information about grant accomplishments to date. This celebration is at the Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. on March 25.
  - Denver Healthy People 2010 Supplemental Funding. DEH received \$9,300 to continue development and begin implementation of Denver's citywide Safe Routes to School Action Plan and for training and development related to active living and healthy eating best practices. The funding cycle for this grant is February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009.
- Mayor's Office of HIV Resources (MOHR):
  - 2008 Grant Award. MOHR received its 2008 grant award from HRSA in the amount of \$7,298,143, highlighting a 3.35% increase over last year's funding level. This amount also reflects a slight increase of about \$7,000 in the Minority AIDS Initiative funding stream.
  - Funding Recommendations. Mayor Hickenlooper approved the funding recommendations submitted by the Grant Application Review Committee. The funding and recommended levels for each HIV service provider are used to contract for HIV services in each of the service areas identified by the HIV Resources Planning Council. Service contracts are now in place with no break in service.

- Decision Support Group (DSG):
  - EMS Program Update. The new EMS program server has been set up and configured. This is being presented via the intranet as a SharePoint site.
  - 311 DEH Implementation. Approval is now secured to proceed with implementing CHDS, EQ and OME into the 311/CRM.

## **OFFICE OF MEDICAL EXAMINER (OME)**

### **New Activities**

- Byers Cemetery Project. Steve Ireland, an OME Investigator, co-presented at the Necrosearch meeting the results of a project on which he is lead investigator. A portion of the Byers, Colorado cemetery has no grave markers or records of graves, yet it is believed to have been used as a burial ground. Using Ground Penetrating Radar and electromagnets, the project team on which Steve is the lead investigator was able to assist the Byers Cemetery Association in delineating areas where human remains potentially have been laid to rest.

### **Update on Key Issues**

- Emergency Preparedness: In February, OME attended a Bomb Blast Modeling Report presentation and the Governor's Emergency Manager Conference.
- Workload: For the month of February, OME performed 58 autopsies and 25 externals.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION DIVISION (PHI)**

### **New Activities**

- Retail Food: The City Attorney's Office is currently reviewing Chapter 23 (Food and Food Handlers) to determine if revisions are needed, within the code itself or in the regulations promulgated pursuant to the code, to clarify that the regulations also apply to wholesale food service operations. This question was raised by a licensee of a wholesale operation when he was instructed during a routine inspection to comply with that portion of the regulations that prohibit bare hand contact with ready to eat foods.
- Residential Health: The city attorney currently assigned to Environmental Court requested 30 days jail time for a defendant who has been in violation of the Housing Code for approximately two years. The defendant's home is uninhabitable and as a result was placarded, yet no improvements have been made. The defendant refuses to comply with the conditions of the placard, and refuses to accept assistance for alternative housing. Denver Police have also responded to the property as a result of suspected illegal activity, and Neighborhood Inspection Services has an active case at the property as a result of the condition of the yard. A number of neighboring residents appeared in court yesterday to testify in support of the City, and the magistrate granted the city attorney's request. If the defendant violates the conditions of the placard after his release, he may be sentenced to 90 days in jail.

## Update on Key Issues

- Retail Food:
  - DNC. The supervisors of the food safety program met with members of Excise and Licenses to coordinate deadlines for accepting applications for the various types of food service licenses available during the Democratic National Convention (DNC). In addition, staff scheduling was developed in cooperation with CDPHE for coverage of the Food Unit Leader and Environmental Investigation Leader positions within DEH emergency operations center during the DNC. All shifts for these two positions will be covered by members of PHI and CDPHE without the need to call on other counties.
  - Food Borne Illness Complaints. There were three food borne illness complaints filed in February. There were no work restrictions or laboratory samples necessary as a result of these investigations.
- Residential Housing: In February, 114 complaints were filed within the Residential Health section, which resulted in four homes being placarded as uninhabitable.

## ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL DIVISION (ACC)

### New Activities

- ACC Leadership Team: The division formally established the ACC Leadership Team comprised of the Division Director and ACC supervisors. The Team will meet weekly to discuss operational issues and staff communications. Based on meetings with staff, the Team identified three areas of highest priorities and the plan to address these areas. The priorities include: Communication, Timely PEPRs, and a Consolidated Policy and Procedure Manual.

### Update on Key Issues

- Federal Pit Bull Lawsuit: The City Attorney's Office will begin deposing plaintiff witnesses.
- Embezzlement Trial: The trial of the ex-ACC employee accused of embezzling over \$100,000 in licensing fees is scheduled to go to begin the week of March 10.
- New Shelter: The Division Director has met with Public Works to begin discussions on the site placement of the shelter and the scope of the planning process. Some ACC employees have toured the site and plans are underway for field trips to the site for remaining staff and DEH management.