

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO**

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

### Code Enforcement Update

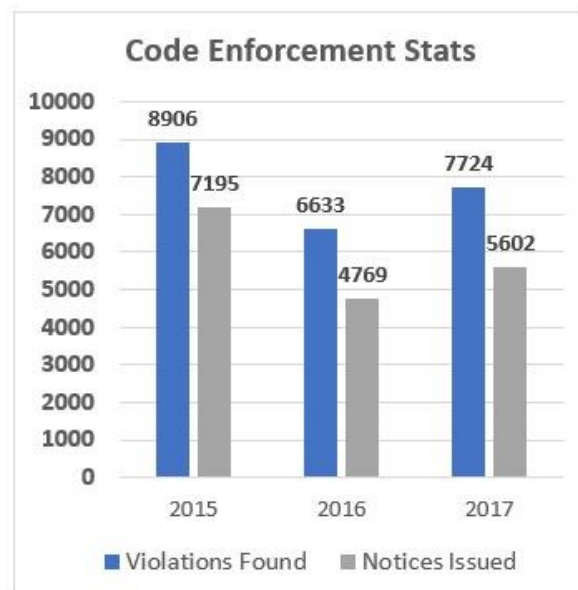
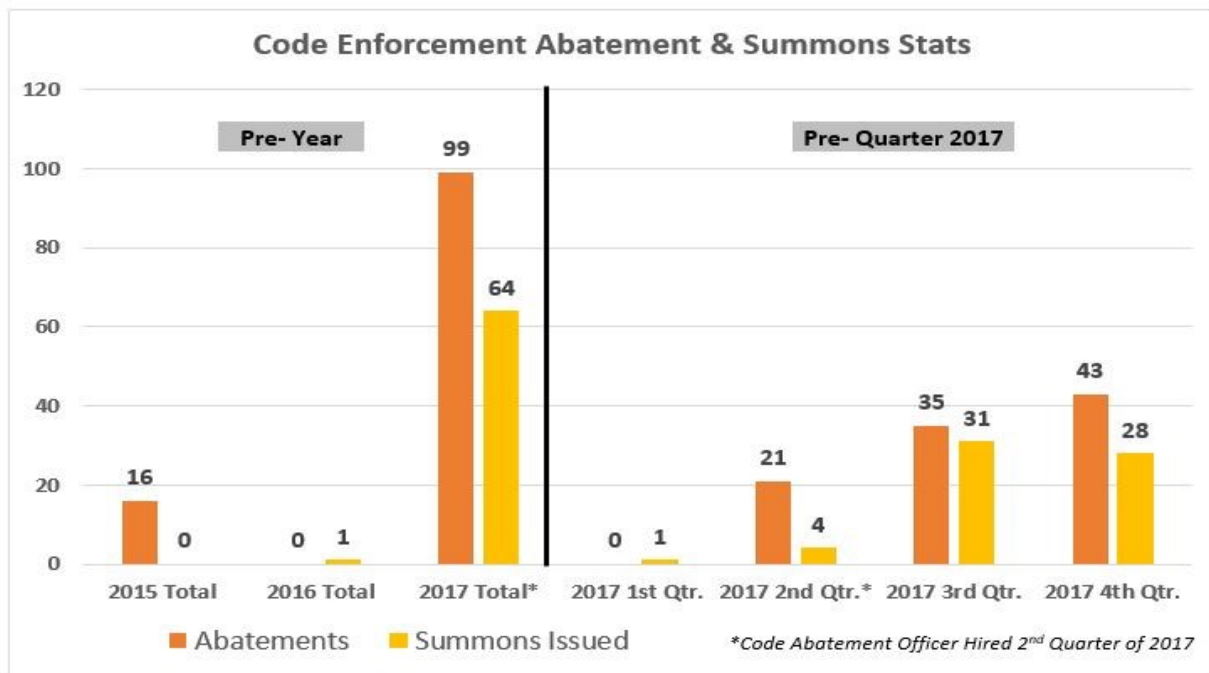
## City of Alamogordo Fire Department

**Alamogordo, NM Tuesday, April 17, 2018** The Code Enforcement Division provides code enforcement for 21 square miles throughout the City of Alamogordo. On a daily basis this Division will work off of citizen complaints that are received through calls taken along with self-initiated complaints when certain areas of Alamogordo need attention. The entire Code Staff are dedicated to their work, truly care about our community, and are definitely the back bone to enforcing and keeping properties maintained according to ordinances adopted by the City of Alamogordo. In 2016 a total of 4769 calls were initiated either by citizen complaints or self initiated. As you look at the graph on the following page, you will see a drop in call volume in 2016 compared to the previous year. This drop in call volume is contributed to staffing deficiencies that have been rectified as we moved into 2017. In addition, on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 the City of Alamogordo hired a Code Abatement Worker who now has the responsibility of cleaning properties that Citizens refuse to take responsibility for. Code Staff will do their best to work with Citizens to gain compliance, but if those citizens refuse to clean their property they could either receive a court summons, or their property could be abated, and be charged for the cost of the abatement. Since 4-10-2017 to current, the Code Abatement Worker has abated a total of one hundred and twenty two (122) properties. Prior to the Code Abatement Worker, when a property need to be abated the City would have to look to contractors to bid on the project and then hire them to take care of the violation which is a much longer and more expensive process. In past years the Code Enforcement Division would issue “Notifications of Violations”, but there was not an avenue to enforce penalties to help persuade some citizens to correct their violation. In 2017 the Code Enforcement Division returned to a previous policy that allowed them to summons citizens into court that refuse to take care of their property. If you refer to the graphs on the following page, you will see that a total of only one (1) summons was issued in 2016 compared to sixty four (64) in 2017. As Code Enforcement Staff continues to be diligent in their work, you will start to see the following benefits: Citizens being held accountable and responsible for their properties, having a clean community you can be proud of, having dilapidated structures throughout our community either repaired or removed, and reaping the benefits of having a safe, and healthy community.

**What are some of the Ordinances that the Code ENFORCEMENT Division currently enforce?**

- Obstruction of sidewalks, 8-07-040,
- Display of address, 8-01-180,
- Elimination of graffiti, 11-06-156,
- Accumulation of garbage, refuse and debris, 14-01-020,
- Garbage refuse; pre collection practices, 14-01-030,
- Abandonment of dangerous containers, 14-01-070,
- Plastic bags for garbage, 14-01-120,
- Outdoor automotive storage, 14-01-140
- Outdoor storage, 14-01-150,
- Placing signs on poles, 3-01-010,
- Garage and yard sales, 17-06-040,
- Trees to be trimmed, 26-01-010,
- Hedges and shrubbery, 26-01-020,
- Unlawful Growth/Accumulation on lots, 26-03-030,
- Offences; nuisances; procedures nonexclusive, 17-01-100
- Water Conservation, 28-03-033

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**Contact for this Release**

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