Fighting Urban Blight in NYS’s Capital Region and Mohawk Valley

Project Update

Research and Practice in Progress Briefing on Local Government in New York 2019

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Four Cities Kick off Effort to Combat Urban Blight with New York Department of State Local Government Efficiency Grant

Build a Shared Information Resource Among NYS Cities
The Community Officials Data Exchange (C.O.D.E)

Local Governments Working Together to Effectively Fight Blight

The C.O.D.E is a dedicated resource for local governments to share code enforcement information for the purposes of informing the prevention, mitigation, and resolution of property blight.

The C.O.D.E brings together data and provides a sharing platform so that local government leaders can:

- Search and link data (owners, agents, landlords, and properties from across local governments)
- Perform analytics and create visualizations
- Learn code enforcement processes in other local governments

The C.O.D.E was envisioned and spearheaded by the Cities of Schenectady, NY, Amsterdam, NY and Gloversville, NY and funded by the New York Department of State.
Combating Blighted Properties

- Blighted properties are costly for NYS communities.
- Currently there is limited to no access to timely and accurate data on properties, property owners and landlords as well as information on how critical programs are carried out in within each jurisdiction.
- There is no way to share this information across jurisdictions so that leaders can use it to inform decision making.
Challenges

There are real challenges associated with obtaining the data needed to inform policy and decision making at the local, regional, and statewide levels.

- Non-standard data collection (i.e. format)
- Half paper/half electronic data collection, management, and storage
- Lack relational and easily searchable and visual data
- Limited information sharing within departments
- Little-to-no information sharing among jurisdictions
- Incomplete critical datasets
Two Main Goals

Build the organizational and technical capability to carry out code enforcement programs and ability to collect, manage, and use data within each city.

Share data across municipalities to:

- Identify problem property owners/actors
- Analyze and run reports of available data
- Build a community of information sharing
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City Functions: 8 Programs Of Work Identified as Critical to Prevent, Mitigate and Resolve Blighted Properties</th>
<th>Program Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Permitting</td>
<td>To identify, approve, track, and monitor changes/enhancements to all structures in the city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code Violation and Enforcement</td>
<td>To identify violations, issue tickets, and prescribe reparations (fees &amp; timeframe for compliance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demolition Management</td>
<td>To identify and manage the properties in need of and ready for demolition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant Property Management</td>
<td>To identify, track, &amp; monitor vacant properties in the city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landlord Registration</td>
<td>To identify, register, and monitor landlords in the city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Unit Certificate</td>
<td>To identify rental units in the city and certify compliance with all city &amp; state codes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreclosure Management</td>
<td>To identify and manage all properties that are ready for the foreclosure process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Assembly Inspections</td>
<td>To identify areas of public assembly, and certify compliance with all city &amp; state codes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Focus on Data-Collection, Management, Sharing and Use

Code Violation/Complaint Categories

- Electrical (system hazards, electrical equipment, installation, receptacles, wiring, etc.)
- Exterior Property (handrails, guardrails, decks, premise identity, sanitation, grading, drainage, etc.)
- Exterior Structure
- Heat
- Illegal Burning/Fire Pits
- Infestation (rats, mice, bugs, etc.)
- Interior Structure
- Junk Vehicle
- Life Safety (fire safety, means of egress, etc.)
- Livestock/Animals
- Mechanical (safety controls, energy conservation devices, mechanical appliances, etc.)

Permit Categories

- Building Residential
- Building Commercial
- Demolition
- Electrical
- Equipment
- Generators
- Hazmat/Mercantile
- Heating/Appliance/HVAC
- Junk Vehicle
- New Commercial
- New Single Family
- Plumbing
- Public Assembly
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C.O.D.E. New York
COMMUNITY OFFICIALS
DATA EXCHANGE

The Community Officials Data Exchange

Search
Search and link data (owners, agents, landlords, and properties from across C.O.D.E members)

Analytics
Perform analytics and create visualizations using data from C.O.D.E members

Resources
Learn how code enforcement processes are carried out in other local governments

Help
Information and help in navigating the C.O.D.E.
Identifying a Problem Actor to Take Action

To identify an Actor (Owner, Agent, Landlord, Contractor)

Search and link by:

- By Name (individual, LLC)
- By Mailing address
- By Property address
- By Legal address

Uses data from jurisdictions that are members of the C.O.D.E.

Link actors who show a connection (properties, mailing address, legal address) so that the jurisdiction can have more information to take action!
Datasets

Current Data Sources
- Real Property Data
- Municipal Code Enforcement Data
- Municipal Vacant Property Data
- Municipal Tax Data
- Open Data Set (NYS LLCs)

In Progress Datasets
- Open Data LLC – other US states
- Regional police and fire
## Municipalities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Filter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amsterdam City NY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloversville City NY</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schenectady City NY</td>
<td>demo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Search

**Enter Name or Address:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contacts (16)</th>
<th>Properties (3)</th>
<th>NY-LLC (19)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eagle 11 LLC</td>
<td>OWNER</td>
<td>PO Box 1694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipality</td>
<td>PrintKey</td>
<td>Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amsterdam City/NY</td>
<td>38-73-1-49</td>
<td>Eagle Property Mgmt. LLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schenectady City/NY</td>
<td>49-24-3-1</td>
<td>Eagle I LLC</td>
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<td>49-24-3-3-50</td>
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<td>Eagle I LLC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>49-50-2-44</td>
<td>Eagle I LLC</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Challenges

- Building baseline technical and organizational capabilities to collect, store and manage data.
- Data standardization.
- Multiple data sources and some incomplete historical data.
- Gaining access to systematic feeds to complete LLC data.
Community Officials Data Exchange (C.O.D.E)  
CHARTER

Article I – Purpose
Section 1:1 Name
The name of the organization is the Community Officials Data Exchange (C.O.D.E)

Section 1:2 Mission
The Community Officials Data Exchange (C.O.D.E) is an organization, with a dedicated platform to share data among governments for the purposes of using owner and property data as well as code enforcement process information to inform both local and statewide decision making in preventing and mitigating blight in the communities throughout our state.
Search and Link Statewide

- Search actors statewide
- Link actors statewide
Dedicated time to developing data collection processes within the municipalities to ensure data quality.

**OWNER INFORMATION**
- Owner full name (individual, LLC, government, bank)
- Owner mailing address
- Name of person responsible for structure
- Contact telephone number for person responsible for building
- Listing of all properties assigned to owner
- Listing of all properties assigned to this responsible party

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**
- Property address
- Property section/block/lot
- Property type
- Tax information
- Property insurance company name
- Property insurance company contact telephone number
- Determination of Vacant
- History of code violations
- Status of current code violations
- History of building permits
- Status of current permits
2019

- C.O.D.E. Functions Completed
- Added Datasets
- Large Pilot
- Statewide Deployment
- Systematic Governance

STATEWIDE SYSTEM

Market and outreach to provide new process to local governments throughout the state to start sharing information to fight blight.

LARGE PILOT

Utilizing vendors existing network of users to pilot shared resource with cities from around the state Test and evaluate.

SMALL PILOT

Building and testing resource with existing cities To develop and test implemented resource and city systems

CATEGORY A – Local Governments that will use Municity as the operating system and be part of the shared resource.

CATEGORY B – Local Governments that will NOT use Municity as the operating system but will provide and access data in the shared resource.

CATEGORY C - State Agencies and non profits that want access to the data in the shared resource (this work is part of the membership model that is not yet developed)
Thank You!