



Tips for Code Enforcement & Protecting Citizens

To protect our citizens' health and safety and to maintain property values, our City Council enacts laws and provisions that cover a wide range of areas. The laws are adopted through ordinances and then incorporated into the Show Low City Code. The

City Code, available online on our website at showlowaz.gov, serves as a guide for enforcement and for the operations of the city. The following is a compilation of information to help you, as a citizen or homeowner, understand the requirements and the permitting process for sheds, fences and foundations; learn what to do about barking dogs if they are a nuisance in your neighborhood; know how to deal with wild animals; and understand how we as a government deal with panhandlers. We have included contact information should you have further questions.

SHEDS, FENCES AND FOUNDATIONS

Our building department employees have the expertise to help homeowners with all sorts of construction-related questions. Here are helpful tips for the top three issues we come across: sheds, fences and foundations. **If you live in a subdivision with CC&Rs (Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions), they often have requirements about sheds and fences. Remember to also review the CC&Rs to make sure you are in compliance.**

Shed Permits and Placement

Thinking of putting a shed on your property? It is common to want one for additional storage. To avoid issues related to its placement, you should know that all sheds must meet minimum required setbacks from property lines and other buildings on your property. Because these setbacks can vary from neighborhood to neighborhood based on the zoning classification, contact the city to determine the minimum setbacks for your property. We offer complimentary shed permits for all sheds less than 200 square feet in size that

have no utility connections. Any sheds larger than 200 square feet or those with utilities connected to them require a building permit. Before placing your shed, call the building department with questions related to sheds or other construction at (928) 532-4050.



Fence Permits and Placement

How about adding a fence for privacy or to beautify your yard? Fences must be built entirely on your property. Fence heights may vary based on your property's location and zoning classification. City staff can help explain the various

requirements, including fencing materials, setbacks, vegetation, view-obscuring and non-obscuring fences. We also offer fence permits at no charge. Call the building department about fence requirements and complimentary permits at (928) 532-4050.

Preventing Foundation Damage

Homeowners take pride in their property by adding landscaping to beautify the yard. Take steps beforehand to avoid damaging the foundation of your home, which can result in very costly repairs. The major culprit comes from not sloping the grade away from the foundation to ensure water flows away from the house when landscaping is watered or irrigated. Water can pool against the foundation and, over time, cause significant damage. If you have questions, call our building department at (928) 532-4050.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT BARKING DOGS

With the warmer weather and influx of summer visitors, we at the city see an increase in barking dog complaints. We urge all citizens to be good neighbors and responsible pet

owners and be aware if your dogs are disturbing your neighbors. Good neighbors make a good community.

Show Low City Code section 6-1-6 states, “Any owner whose animal disturbs the peace and quiet of any person any time of the day or night by barking, howling, crowing, braying, burrowing or by making any other similar objectionable noise in an *excessive, continuous or untimely fashion* [emphasis added] is guilty of a civil violation.”



If this is happening, we encourage you to talk to your neighbor about the dog’s barking first. If you have talked to your neighbor, but the nuisance continues, or if you do not feel you can safely do so, then call (928) 537-4365 at the Police Department and ask for the Animal Control division’s assistance. The Animal Control Officer will provide you with a barking dog packet to complete before any charges are filed. You will need to agree to testify as a witness before charges are filed.

Since the Animal Control Officers do not generally witness the dogs barking, witnesses are needed to prove the case in court. If you have any other questions, you can contact Animal Control at (928) 537-4365.

DEALING WITH WILD ANIMALS

We are fortunate we live in area where we have an abundance of wildlife to enjoy. Some wild animals look so cute and cuddly, it is easy to forget they are exactly that—wild. But interactions between wildlife and humans can be dangerous for a variety of reasons. Wild animals may attack humans or pets without provocation. They may carry and spread diseases that are dangerous to humans and our pets. They may be rabid. They may be frightened and attack you if they feel threatened. They may be protecting their young or protecting a food source and see you as a threat if you approach or get too close.

For this reason, the city has enacted a provision found in City Code section 6-1-14 that punishes a property owner with a civil violation for not taking remedial (corrective)

action (such as securing trash cans, not providing food to the animals, etc.) to avoid contact between bears, coyotes, javelinas and other wild animals. A property owner also can be cited with a civil violation for knowingly or purposely leaving out garbage, refuse debris or other attractants in order to entice wild animals.

A spokesperson from the Arizona Game and Fish Department reiterates the point by saying, “People who love wildlife should understand that feeding wild animals puts them in danger. When wildlife learn to view humans as a food source, they lose their fear of people. It can lead to attacks that end badly for both humans and wildlife.” Echoing the city’s position, the Game and Fish Department urges homeowners to keep small pets indoors or keep a close eye on them when they are outside, eliminate outdoor pet food and water dishes, not fill bird feeders to the brim to discourage rodents (which can attract predators) and close trash containers.

The city asks for your cooperation to secure your trash cans and not feed wild animals. These measures are designed to keep you, your family and your neighbors safe. If you see anyone who may be violating this ordinance, call the Animal Control division at the Police Department at (928) 537-4365.

HOW TO HANDLE PANHANDLERS

Occasionally, our citizens call local officials with concerns about panhandling or individuals begging for money. This practice increases significantly during the summer months as more visitors escape the desert heat.

We understand that dealing with panhandlers can be uncomfortable or annoying, but it is very difficult for a city to ban panhandling on public property. The reason is that several court cases over the years have protected the practice of panhandling in public locations that do not cause a disturbance or obstruct traffic. Panhandling is seen as a legal exercise of one’s freedom of speech, a right protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It culminated in a recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Reed v. Town of Gilbert* that ruled that “any government regulations that infringe upon free speech must be exceedingly narrow.” As a result, it is very hard for any local government to ban panhandling outright on public property. Recently, some cities have adopted aggressive panhandling ordinances that prohibit panhandlers from approaching a citizen in public areas, such as parking lots, ATM machines and similar areas.

If you are approached in an aggressive manner by a panhandler, report it to the Police Department immediately at (928) 537-4365. This will help city staff know if an aggressive panhandling ordinance is needed in Show Low.