



*Clean Land, Safe Water, Healthy Lives*



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Litter Enforcement Month Final Results April 2012

Litter Enforcement Month is a partnership between Regional Law Enforcement Departments, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the Alice Ferguson Foundation.

The objective of Litter Enforcement Month (LEM) is to raise awareness of litter, illegal dumping and related crimes, the laws associated with them, and their effects on our communities, our economy, and the Potomac River. This is accomplished through officer education, public education, and an increase in enforcement efforts of litter and litter-related codes during the month of April.

### **2012 Participating Jurisdictions:**

This year, ten agencies from nine jurisdictions were involved in our efforts.

**Maryland:** Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Maryland National Resources Police, Montgomery County Police Department, and Prince George's County Police Department

**Virginia:** Alexandria Police Department and Code Administration, Arlington County Police Department and Prince William County Police Department

**Other:** District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department and United States Park Police.

### **Results:**

#### **1. Officer Education:**

- **Over 4,000 officers** were encouraged to enforce litter-related codes, including reminders on the protocol for administering litter and litter-related codes.
- **Two officer trainings** were held, reaching 103 officers.
- **Four agencies joined the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Potomac River Watershed.** During the cleanup 14,616 volunteers picked up 524,352 pounds of litter.

#### **2. Public Education:**

- **Press Releases were issued by eight** jurisdictions resulting in 26 media hits.
- **Public outreach** was conducted through a variety of venues including community meetings, posters and signs, websites, social media, and TV and radio PSAs.

#### **3. Enforcement of Litter and Litter-Related Codes**

Littering and illegal dumping citations were tracked during LEM along with other types of citations, notices of violations, and condition reports for litter-related crimes.

**All jurisdictions issued citations for litter or illegal dumping**, with a total of 84 litter and illegal dumping citations issued during April; 45 of them were civil citations and 39 were criminal. There were also 766 other citations, violations and reports issued during LEM, bringing the total up to 850. *See table on next page for details.*

**Highlights:**

- Alexandria Code Administration conducted 266 litter and illegal dumping inspections and 26 hoarding inspections. This is the first Code enforcing agency that has participated and has served as an excellent example for increasing participation from jurisdictions.
- The DC Metropolitan Police Department further enhanced the Fourth District littering pilot, by training approximately 75 new and redistricted officers. Perhaps because of these efforts, their rates of civil and criminal citations for litter and illegal dumping rose dramatically from last year's results.
- Prince William County was the leader for enforcement of graffiti, uncovered hauls, and snipe signs. These are all issues that contribute to the degradation of communities and potential increases in littering.
- Prince Georges County had several litter and litter-related arrests, identified 38 new illegal dumps sites, and participated in three cleanup days during LEM.
- The US Park Police visited over 30 cleanup sites in their parks during the April 14<sup>th</sup> Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. They also issued many camping and illegal dumping citations.

Type of Incident	Total
<b>Citations:</b>	
Littering- Civil	34
Littering- Criminal	21
Illegal Dumping- Civil	11
Illegal Dumping- Criminal	18
<b>Other Citations, Violations and Condition Reports:</b>	
Structural Blight	76
Uncovered Hauls	90
Illegal Tire Piling	1
Hording of Materials	26
Graffiti	38
Abandoned Property	25
Snipe Signs	53
Litter and Illegal Dumping Inspections	266
Other citations and reports	191
<b>Total:</b>	<b>850</b>

*Summary of citations, violations and other reports issued during LEM 2012.*

**Conclusions:**

Participating jurisdictions made great efforts during Litter Enforcement Month 2012 to address the issue of litter in the Potomac Watershed. This work resulted in a striking increase in officer education, public outreach and enforcement from previous years. Every agency educated their officers and the public about litter and litter-related codes and enforced them. These efforts have demonstrated that participating jurisdictions take litter, illegal dumping, and related crimes seriously and that there will be consequences for violators.

In 2013, LEM will be broadened by recruiting more jurisdictions to join our efforts, including non-code enforcement agencies. Participation by these agencies will foster collaboration between agencies that address litter and litter-related crimes from different angles. Next year AFF and partner agencies will also strive to offer more training opportunities before and during LEM to equip officers with the skills and motivation to enforce.

The remarkable efforts of the participating jurisdictions during Litter Enforcement Month 2012 have set the stage for new partners, trainings, and improved enforcement. Enforcement will continue to be an important component in changing behavior and empowering people to take control, take care of their trash.