

## Apartment Enforcement Unit

The City of Houston Council Members passed an ordinance on November 8, 2006. This ordinance was established to reduce or abate criminal activity in apartment communities in order to promote the health, safety, and welfare of apartment residents.

The City Council recognized that it was necessary for the City to apply the police department's resources in accordance with the law enforcement needs of the community at large, and to adjust the application of those resources as necessary to address changes.

As a result of this ordinance being passed, the Apartment Enforcement Unit officially started on February 23, 2007.

The Apartment Enforcement Unit is designed to inform, educate, and assist the owners of apartment communities that have experienced excessive levels of criminal activity on their properties.

In order to deal effectively with the criminal activity on apartment properties, there are **three components** that make up the Apartment Enforcement Unit: the Registration Database, Remedial Action, and the Blue Star Multi-Housing Program.

### DATABASE & REGISTRATION

1. Lists all apartments in the City of Houston
2. Computes a population
3. Tracks Part 1 & Part 2 crime on the property
4. Responsible for registration of ownership
5. Determines and evaluates properties that are FAST Eligible or Remedial Action Eligible.

### REMEDIAL ACTION

1. Enforces ordinance requirements of apartment communities that have excessive levels of criminal activity on their property.
2. Holds meetings with remedial action identified properties.
3. Drafts Remedial Action Plan- a written plan issued by the police to the owner specifying and requiring the implementation of remedial measures.
4. Remedial Inspection- an inspection that is done by officers to determine whether the remedial measures specified in the remedial action plan have been implemented.
5. Enforces & Monitors the Remedial Plan

### BLUE STAR MULTI- HOUSING PROGRAM

The Houston Police Department's Blue Star Multi-Housing Program is designed to be a cooperative effort between apartment managers / owners, apartment residents, and law enforcement to abate crime and to enhance the quality of life for citizens living within multi family communities.

There are three phases that must be completed before a Blue Star designation is awarded.

1st Phase: attend an eight hour managers training.

2nd Phase: have a CPTED Survey done on apartment property, and address the deficiencies found on the property.

3rd Phase: conduct a Safety Social on property for residents.

The awarding of a Blue Star designation means that the apartment community has successfully completed all three phases of the program and has met the minimum standards for certification.

To register your apartment property online or get more information on the city ordinance or Blue Star program, visit our website at:

[http://www.houstontx.gov/police/multi\\_family/](http://www.houstontx.gov/police/multi_family/)