

Operation Clean Up Greenville was authored by Greenville Town Councilman Andy Lemon and Town Attorney Heather Peters in August of 2017. The pair partnered to address unmaintained property in Town which primarily consisted of trash, weeds, and abandoned vehicles. Operation Clean Up Greenville initially cited 7 properties; however, that was quickly expanded upon adding several additional properties to the list as the year carried on.

Attorney Peters, who operates a private practice in Jeffersonville, said, “the new Council members have shifted the focus of the Town. The Council is interested in making Greenville great once again. This effort has been started by Councilman Lemon through his keen eye and unshakeable resolve to make the town look nice.”

Councilman Lemon stated, “It’s up to the Town Council to set the tone at the top for our community. Municipalities can’t enforce an ordinance for some properties and not on others. The primary objective of Operation Clean Up Greenville was to send the message that every resident in our community is on a level playing field. The Town Council didn’t single out a couple of properties but rather, we cited every property in town that was in violation of our ordinance.”

Operation Clean Up Greenville was largely successful but the two didn’t stop there. In January, Lemon and Peters authored an ordinance combating littering in Town. The ordinance was passed unanimously by the Town Council and imposes a minimum \$200 fine for littering and a \$1,000 fine for throwing burning material from a moving vehicle.

The crusade continued with another co-authored ordinance targeting “snipe signs”. A snipe sign, also known as a bandit sign, is a sign companies use for guerilla marketing where the placement of the sign is intended to snipe motorists as they drive by. These signs are usually placed illegally or without proper approval on utility poles or located in an INDOT right-of-way.

“Snipe signs are placed by companies that have no intention of maintaining them. The signs eventually fall apart or blow away and in turn, they become our community’s problem.

Ultimately, the signs become litter”, Lemon said.

The ordinance prohibiting snipe signs was passed by the Town Council at the February meeting by a vote of 4 – 1. The ordinance carries a fine of \$50 per sign with a maximum \$500 penalty. However, the ordinance allows for a maximum penalty of \$500 to be assessed in the event that a snipe sign is installed higher than 5 feet. Lemon specified, “I have personally removed over 60 snipe signs just from within the Town limits. The undertaking of such a project required a ridiculous amount of time. The impetus of our ordinance is to discourage this activity.”

The Council is also looking for ways to beautify the Town. In February, INDOT placed a new Greenville Park sign along Highway 150 in response to a project Councilman Lemon worked on with INDOT. “I’ve asked for a second sign to be placed in the opposing direction. Additionally, I am working with INDOT to remove the No Parking signs along the highway and instead replace them with Indiana Historic Pathway signs. Along our two mile stretch of highway, there are 19 no parking signs and zero signs recognizing our historic location.”

“Nineteen no parking signs in such a short span of highway is a perfect example of over-regulation”, said Matt Uhl, Chairman of the Greenville Historic Preservation Commission. “If the Town acquires Indiana Historic Pathway signs, it will be a wonderful addition to the community highlighting our geographic location near the Buffalo Trace.”