Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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How do I report a Code Enforcement Violation?
To report a code violation you can email the Code Enforcement Division directly at codeenforcement@cityofbell.org or you can also reach Code Enforcement staff at (323) 588-6211 or leave a message after hours at (323) 923-2662. You can remain anonymous if you choose to.

How do I obtain a building permit?
To obtain a building permit you would contact the City of Bell Building & Safety Department at (323) 588-6211 and fill out a building permit application. There are fees due at the time of submittal and differ depending on the project. Planning and other departments may need to review your project prior to your approval. Once approved you will be issued a building permit and can start your project.

Can I have a yard sale on any day I choose?
Yard sales are allowed once a quarter (3 months) and can only take place on Saturday & Sunday. A permit is required along with a fee of $10 dollars and can be obtained at city hall.

How can I get rid of couches and other large items I wish to throw away?
Couches and other bulky item trash can be picked up on the last trash day of the month. Calendars showing the exact day are available at city hall. You can place these items out on the parkway the day before your pick up day. Any sooner than this could result in a Notice of Violation and possible fine.
When can I take my trash cans out for pick up?
Trash cans be taken out for service 24 hours before pick up and must be removed 24 hours after pick up.

Can I store inoperable vehicles on my property?
Vehicles that do not run have to be stored out of view if you wish to keep them on your property. Behind a 6 foot wall or in the garage would suffice. Examples of an inoperable vehicle are as follows but not limited to:

- Missing battery
- Flat tire
- Missing a door or windshield
- Vehicle will not run.

The vehicle has to be operable and road worthy to avoid a violation.

Who maintains the grass on the parkway in front of my house?
Contrary to what you might think, the grass located on the parkway near the curb is the responsibility of the home owner. This area must be trimmed and maintained regularly to avoid dead or overgrown vegetation and to avoid any violation. Trees located in the parkway are maintained by the city.

Can I convert my garage into living quarters?
A garage conversion is not allowed and not suitable for living quarters. Please contact the City of Bell Planning Department for more information at (323) 588-6211.

Can my neighbor keep a rooster or chickens on their property?
Roosters, chickens or any fowl are not allowed per the City of Bell Municipal Code. Contact Code Enforcement at (323) 588-6211 and a Code Enforcement Officer will investigate.

Who do I contact for loud or excessive dog barking?
For loud or excessive dog barking, please contact Animal Control at (562) 940-6898. They can also be contacted for removal of dead animals on the streets.