

CITY OF CHAMBLEE TRESPASS AFFIDAVIT PROGRAM

Purpose and Goal

The purpose of the Trespass Affidavit Program is to provide Chamblee business stakeholders with an opportunity to mitigate the growing problem with after-hours trespassers. The goal is to contact after-hours trespassers, who are likely homeless, offer them services, provide transportation if possible and issue a criminal trespass warning setting in motion the interdiction system available to law enforcement.

Support

Support for the Trespass Affidavit Program comes from multiple units of city government, from city hall to police patrol officers. 2019 showed an increase in visible trespassers in the downtown area that was during a surge in development. While city officials were and remain compassionate toward homeless persons, it became necessary to develop a program to address the needs of property owners and the responsibility to offers services to persons in need. The program has grown from two enrolled properties in early December 2019 to nearly seventy enrolled properties in June 2020.

Approval

The approval process usually begins with a property being identified as under the control of a trusted stakeholder and having issues with after-hours trespassers. Once the program director confirms the stakeholder and the suitability of the property to the program, the program director sends out a solicitation letter to the owner or property manager, along with an affidavit form.

Once the form is completed and notarized and returned to the program director the property is enrolled in the program and signs are delivered to the property owner or manager without charge for installation at their expense.

Implementation

The Chamblee Police Department implemented the Trespass Affidavit Program (TAP) on December 1, 2019, to assist trusted stakeholder property owners and businesses during non-business hours or during their absence from the property. TAP is part of a national trend of local police departments assisting businesses and property owners in their jurisdiction in combating recurring trespassing problems. The owner or legal representative may request this service from the Chamblee Police Department. The Trespass Affidavit gives any Chamblee Police officer the right to act as the owner's representative in warning anyone found in violation of the affidavit to leave, and to arrest violators if they refuse or return. Should you wish to participate in this program or have any questions, contact LT Guy Antinozzi, gantinozzi@chambleega.gov 770-241-4563."

As we implement the program there are a few details of which to inform you:

- Please complete, sign and have notarized the form attached to this message. Scan and email the form back to me, but also send a hard copy to me by mail. We will assign an incident number to your property. This will make it easy for officers to locate an electronic version of the authorization form, without disturbing you after-hours. We will track incidents by this case number and send you an email regarding after-hours incidents or encounters on your property.
- It is recommended that you prominently display signage to indicate that your property participates in TAP. The signs are reflective and sturdy. We will provide you with signs, as appropriate to the size of your property and access points. We expect you will mount these signs in a prominent location. Large properties and those with several access points, will need several signs. A photo of the sign is attached to this message.
- The Trespass Affidavit you sign does not have an end date. However, we will conduct an audit semi-annually by email and request that you confirm your continued participation in the program. If you have a change in leadership or ownership, we expect you will advise the Chamblee Police Department of that change.
- The Chamblee Police Department will respect your right to issue the affidavit. As the owner, property manager or legal designee of the owner you have the authority to participate in the program. Your tenants will not have the authority to override your decision to participate. We recommend you inform your tenants of your participation in this program.
- Should you choose to discontinue participation in the Trespass Affidavit Program at any time, please email me at gantinozzi@chambleega.gov and call the Chamblee Police Department at [770-986-5005](tel:770-986-5005).
- For the foreseeable future, I will coordinate the Trespass Affidavit Program. My contact information is listed below. Contact me anytime with any questions you have.
- When you send me the completed and notarized affidavit, I will contact you to determine the number of signs and delivery.

Thank you very much for your interest and support. We expect this program will make a positive difference. Please contact me with any ideas you have or improvements you recommend.

LT Antinozzi

Appendix

- <https://www.chambleega.com/587/Trespass-Affidavit-Program#:~:text=The%20Trespass%20Affidavit%20gives%20any,if%20they%20refuse%20or%20return.&text=Guy%20Antinozzi%2C%20gantinozzi%40chambleega.,%2C%20404%2D395%2D2447.>



- [file:///chambleega.us/Shares/PD Users/gantinozzi/Desktop/TAP%202020/Trespass%20Affidavit%20Program%20Authorization%20Form.pdf](file:///chambleega.us/Shares/PD%20Users/gantinozzi/Desktop/TAP%202020/Trespass%20Affidavit%20Program%20Authorization%20Form.pdf)