

## **Response to Deck Cover Question**

The City County Inspections Department has further investigated the patio/storm drain cover that was built by Mr. Bob Chapman, property owner of the Trotter Building at 410 West Geer Street.

The wooden platform that was constructed at the rear of the building on Old North Durham Park was built "at-grade" and rests on an existing concrete sidewalk adjacent to the building, on portions of the concrete apron around the storm drain inlet, and on bricks at the outside corners (which were used to level the platform).

This structure is not a deck as described in the Building Code, (and would not meet current Building Code requirements for a deck), and did not require a building permit.

Several other City departments', including Parks and Recreation, Stormwater and Planning were contacted to review this wooden platform drain cover. All advised that the construction of the "patio/demountable storm drain cover" has apparently helped prevent additional occurrences of flooding in the basement area of the adjacent building, which has been caused in the past by the storm drains being backed up.

All of the staff members also agreed that the best solution at this time would be to leave the "patio/demountable storm drain cover" as it is, temporarily, until the City can replace the storm drain pipes and correct the storm drainage issues (the funds for this project were included in the Public Works Department's budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012, so the project will be started within the upcoming fiscal year).

At the completion of the storm drain replacement project, the "patio/demountable storm drain cover" would be removed, since it will no longer be needed to keep debris out of the storm drains.

A sign was installed at the cover indicating it as a temporary demountable storm drain cover and that it is not intended for use as a patio or deck.