

Eveleth Police Department
Code Enforcement Office

INFORMATIONAL SERIES

BLIGHT ENFORCEMENT

This is the final handout in a series of three informational handouts designed to inform the public about many of the changes to the City Code regulating blight and related concerns, that was enacted in April of 2024. In prior editions issues discussed included the unlawful storage of junk property, the unlawful storage of junk vehicles, the failure to maintain the growth of grass, weeds, trees or brush, the unlawful storage of junk vehicles, maintaining the exterior of structures, the outside storage of firewood on residential lots, recreational fire restrictions, and the limitations on the number of vehicles parked outside on residential property. The focus of this handout is to provide information on some of the other regulations, as summarized below.

1. Limitations on Storage of Watercraft on Residential Lots: Section 10.23, Subd. 9F provides that the outside storage of watercraft on residential lots is prohibited unless you meet the following requirements:

- No watercraft exceeding 28 feet in length may be parked or stored anywhere outside on residential property;
- Watercraft that are stored in the front yard or front lot area must be on a paved or graveled parking surface or driveway that is accessed through a properly constructed curb-cut through any existing curbing;
- No more than three watercraft per lawful dwelling unit may be stored anywhere outside on residential property, except as otherwise permitted or required by the City because of non-residential characteristics of the property;
- Watercraft that are not stored on trailers designed for their transportation shall be stored up off of the ground;
- Watercraft shall not be stored in such a fashion that allows the pooling of stagnant water or the growth of mold or vegetation within the watercraft.

2. Nuisances: Section 10.23, Subd. 9H regulates a number of nuisances that impact the public. The term *nuisance* is defined as maintaining or permitting a condition which unreasonably annoys, injures or endangers the safety, health, morals, comfort or repose of members of the public; or creates an obstruction to the free use of property so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property; or interferes with, obstructs or renders dangerous for passage, any street, public right-of-way, or waters used by the public; or, any other act or omission declared by law to be a public nuisance. A person must not act, or fail to act, in a manner that is or causes a nuisance. Subdivision 9H is broken down into the following categories:

- Nuisances Affecting Health;
- Nuisances Affecting Peace and Safety;
- Noise Violations;
- Hourly Restrictions of Certain Operations.

The regulations listed under each of the categories are quite lengthy. For purposes of this informational handout, we will make note of only the most common nuisance activities that regularly need to be addressed. Those are the following prohibited nuisance activities:

- Dense smoke, noxious fumes, gas, soot or cinders in unreasonable quantities;
- All snow and ice that is not removed from public sidewalks within 24 hours after the snow or other precipitation has ceased to fall;
- All trees, hedges, billboards, or other obstructions which prevent people from having a clear view of all traffic approaching at an intersection;
- All wires and limbs of trees that are so close to the surface of a sidewalk or street as to constitute a

- danger to pedestrians or vehicles;
- Any barbed wire fence located less than six feet above the ground and within three feet of a public sidewalk or way;
- Any person participating in a gathering that causes the unreasonable disturbing of the peace, quiet or repose of another person in such a manner as to be plainly audible at the boundary of the real property, building, structure or residence from which the noise originates, or at a distance of 50 feet from the source of the noise. "Plainly Audible" is defined as sound that can be detected by a person using their unaided hearing faculties;
- Any use of property abutting on a public street or sidewalk or any use of a public street or sidewalk that causes large crowds of people to gather, obstructing traffic and the free use of the street or sidewalk, except as permitted by the City;
- The discharging of the exhaust of any internal combustion engine, motor boat, motor vehicle, motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle, snowmobile, or any recreational device, except through a muffler or other device that effectively prevents loud or explosive noises therefrom and complies with all applicable State laws and regulations;
- The use or operation, or permitting the use or operation, of any radio receiving set, television set, musical instrument, music device, paging system, machine, or other device for producing or reproducing sound, in a distinctly and loudly audible manner so as to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of any person nearby;
- The operation of domestic power equipment such as a lawn mower, power hedge clipper, chain saw, garden tiller, edger, drill or similar equipment, except between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on any week day or between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on any weekend or holiday. Snow removal equipment is exempt from this provision;
- Engaging in, or permitting, construction activities involving the use of any kind of electric, diesel, or gas-powered machine or other power equipment, except between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on any weekday, or between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on any weekend or holiday.

In a further effort to address blight and related conditions, the City Council also adopted provisions that empower the Code Enforcement Officer to take the appropriate action necessary to condemn structures that are unsafe, dangerous, unlawful, or unfit for human occupancy, as those terms are defined in Subdivision 16. Additionally, to order the demolition of those structures that meet the criteria of Subdivision 16.

This concludes the final installment of the informational series focusing on the regulations in the newly adopted Blight Code. If you are experiencing a blight issue in your neighborhood, please feel free to report the matter to the Independent Contract Code Enforcement Officer by phone or text at (218) 750-0340, or by email at codeofficer@evelethpd.gov. You may also report the matter to the Police Department at (218) 744-7560, or drop off a written complaint in the drop box at City Hall. Reports can be made anonymously if you would rather not provide your name when making a complaint. Thank you for taking the time to read this informational series and for taking an interest in the betterment of the City of Eveleth.