

Ordinance No. 123188

The City of Seattle – Legislative Department

Council Bill No. 116667

Council Bill/Ordinance sponsored by: *Boyer*

AN ORDINANCE relating to abatement of and penalties, including license suspension or revocation, for public nuisances; repealing Chapter 10.09 of the Seattle Municipal Code entitled "Public Nuisances" and enacting a new Chapter 10.09 entitled "Chronic Nuisance Properties", and amending SMC Subsection 5.55.230A, Subsection 6.02.270A and Section 6.202.230.

Committee Action:

Date	Recommendation	Vote

Related Legislation File: _____

This file is complete and ready for presentation to Full Council.

Date Introduced and Referred: 9.28.09	To: (committee): Public Safety, Human Services & Education
Date Re-referred:	To: (committee):
Date Re-referred:	To: (committee):
Date of Final Action: 11-30-09	Date Presented to Mayor: 12-1-09
Date Signed by Mayor: 12.3.09	Date Returned to City Clerk: 12.4.09
Published by Title Only _____	Date Vetoed by Mayor:
Published in Full Text <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Date Veto Published:	Date Passed Over Veto:
Date Veto Sustained:	Date Returned Without Signature:

Full Council Action:

Date	Decision	Vote
11.30.09	Passed As Amended	8-0 (Excused) Concur

(Handwritten circled mark)

ORDINANCE 123188

AN ORDINANCE relating to abatement of and penalties, including license suspension or revocation, for public nuisances; repealing Chapter 10.09 of the Seattle Municipal Code entitled "Public Nuisances" and enacting a new Chapter 10.09 entitled "Chronic Nuisance Properties", and amending SMC Subsection 5.55.230A, Subsection 6.02.270A and Section 6.202.230.

WHEREAS, RCW 35.22.280 empowers first class cities to define and abate nuisances and impose fines upon persons responsible for creating or allowing nuisances; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council finds that people should be able to enjoy ownership, use and possession of property without the negative impacts caused by chronic nuisance properties; and

WHEREAS, some persons who own or control property in the City of Seattle allow their properties to be used for illegal purposes, with the result that these properties have become chronic nuisance properties; and

WHEREAS, the current provisions of Chapter 10.09 of the Seattle Municipal Code do not provide adequate tools for abating chronic nuisances resulting from the use of properties for illegal purposes; and

WHEREAS, chronic nuisance properties present serious health, safety and welfare concerns and interfere with the quality of life, comfort and solitude of other persons residing in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, chronic nuisance properties cause a financial burden upon the City by the numerous calls for service to the properties because of the illegal activities that repeatedly occur or exist on such properties; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 10.09 of the Seattle Municipal Code entitled "Public Nuisances" is repealed in its entirety and replaced with a new Chapter 10.09 entitled "Chronic Nuisance Properties" to read as follows:



Chapter 10.09 CHRONIC NUISANCE PROPERTIES

SMC 10.09.010 Definitions.

For purposes of this chapter, the following words or phrases shall have the meaning prescribed below:

1. "Abate" means to repair, replace, remove, destroy, or otherwise remedy a condition which constitutes a violation of this chapter by such means and in such a manner and to such an extent as the Chief of Police determines is necessary in the interest of the general health, safety and welfare of the community.

2. "Chief of Police" means the Chief of Police or his or her designees.

3. "Control" means the power or ability to direct or determine conditions, conduct, or events occurring on a property.

4. "Chronic nuisance property" means:

a. a property on which three or more nuisance activities as described in SMC 10.09.010(5) exist or have occurred during any sixty-day period or seven or more nuisance activities have occurred during any twelve-month period, or

b. a property which, upon a request for execution of a search warrant, has been the subject of a determination by a court two or more times within a twelve-month period that probable cause exists that illegal possession, manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance or related offenses as defined in RCW Chapter 69.50 has occurred on the property.

5. "Nuisance activity" includes:

a. a "most serious offense" as defined in ch. RCW 9.94A;

b. a "drug related activity" as defined in RCW 59.18.130;



1 c. any of the following activities, behaviors or criminal conduct:

2 1. Assault, Fighting, Menacing, Stalking, Harassment or Reckless
3 Endangerment, as defined in SMC Chapter 12A.06;

4 2. Promoting, advancing or profiting from prostitution as defined in
5 Chapter 9A.88 RCW;

6 3. Prostitution, as defined in SMC 12A.10.020;

7 4. Permitting Prostitution, as defined in SMC 12A.10.060;

8 5. Obstructing pedestrian or vehicular traffic, as defined in SMC
9 12A.12.015(4);

10 6. Failure to Disperse, as defined in SMC 12A.12.020;

11 7. Weapons violations, as defined in SMC Chapter 12A.14;

12 8. Drug Traffic Loitering, as defined in SMC 12A.20.050(B); or

13 9. Gang related activity, as defined in RCW 59.18.030(16).

14
15
16 6. "Owner" means any person who, alone or with others, has title or interest in any
17 property.

18 7. "Person" means an individual, group of individuals, corporation, partnership,
19 association, club, company, business trust, joint venture, organization, or any other legal or
20 commercial entity or the manager, lessee, agent, officer or employee of any of them.

21
22 8. "Person in charge" of a property means the owner and, if different than the owner,
23 any other person in actual or constructive possession of a property, including but not limited to, a
24 lessee, tenant, occupant, agent, or manager of a property under his or her control.



1 9. "Property" means any land and that which is affixed, incidental or appurtenant to land,
2 including but not limited to any business or residence, parking area, loading area, landscaping,
3 building or structure or any separate part, unit or portion thereof.

4 10. "RCW" means the Revised Code of Washington.

5 11. "SMC" means Seattle Municipal Code.

6 **SMC 10.09.020 Violation.**

7
8 A. Any property within the City of Seattle which is a chronic nuisance property is in
9 violation of this Chapter and subject to its remedies;

10 B. Owners and other persons in charge who permit property to be a chronic nuisance
11 property shall be in violation of this chapter and subject to its remedies; and

12 C. An owner who fails to comply with SMC 10.09.035 is in violation of this chapter and
13 is subject to penalties pursuant to SMC 10.09.050D.

14 **SMC 10.09.030 Declaration of Chronic Nuisance Property and Procedure.**

15
16 A. The Chief of Police may declare that a property is a chronic nuisance property, as
17 defined in this chapter, when there are specific facts and circumstances documenting (1) the
18 occurrence of three or more nuisance activities on a property within sixty days or seven or more
19 nuisance activities within a twelve month period, or (2) activity on a property as described in
20 SMC 10.09.010(4)(b). The Chief of Police shall provide written notice of this declaration to the
21 persons in charge of the property. The notice shall be sent by first class mail or personally
22 served, and a copy shall be sent by certified mail. The notice shall contain:

- 23
24 1. the street address or a legal description sufficient for identification of the
25 property;
26



1 2. a declaration that the Chief of Police has determined the property has become
2 a chronic nuisance property with a concise description of the nuisance activities
3 that exist or that have occurred;

4 3. a notice that the owner and other persons in charge of the property are subject
5 to monetary penalties as set forth in SMC 10.09.050.

6 4. a demand the owner and other persons in charge respond to the Chief of
7 Police within seven days of service of the notice to discuss a course of action to
8 correct the nuisance;

9 5. a notice that, if the person in charge does not respond to the Chief of Police as
10 required in this section, or if the matter is not voluntarily corrected to the
11 satisfaction of the Chief of Police, the City may file an action to abate the
12 property as a chronic nuisance property pursuant to SMC 10.09.060 and/or take
13 other action against the property or person in charge.
14
15

16 B. When a notice is issued pursuant to this section to a person in charge, other than an
17 owner or an owner's agent, who has permitted a property to become a chronic nuisance property,
18 a copy of such notice shall also be sent by first class mail or personally served on the owner of
19 the property, and a copy shall be sent by certified mail.
20

21 C. If the owner or person in charge responds as required by the notice issued pursuant to
22 SMC 10.09.030A and agrees to a course of action to abate the nuisance activities, a written
23 correction agreement conforming to the requirements of SMC 10.09.040 shall be executed.

24 D. If (1) the agreed course of action does not result in the abatement of nuisance
25 activities to the satisfaction of the Chief of Police within thirty days of issuance of the notice
26



1 pursuant to SMC 10.09.030A, or within such longer period as permitted by the Chief of Police in
2 writing or (2) the person in charge fails to respond as required by the notice, the Chief of Police
3 may refer the matter to the City Attorney for initiation of proceedings pursuant to SMC
4 10.09.060.

5 **SMC 10.09.035 Owner Cooperation.**

6 An owner who receives a copy of a notice pursuant to SMC 10.09.030B describing a
7 chronic nuisance property permitted by a person in charge other than the owner or the owner's
8 agent, shall promptly take all reasonable steps requested in writing by the Chief of Police to
9 assist in abatement of the nuisance property. Such reasonable steps may include the owner
10 taking all acts and pursuing all remedies, including pursuing eviction of the person in charge,
11 that are (1) available to the owner pursuant to any lease or other agreement, and (2) consistent
12 with state and local laws, including but not limited to RCW 59.18.580, the Victim Protection
13 Limitation on Landlord's Rental Decisions, and SMC 22.206.160C, the Seattle Just Cause
14 Eviction Ordinance.
15

16 **SMC 10.09.040 Correction Agreement.**

17 A. A correction agreement is a contract between the City and the person in charge of the
18 chronic nuisance property in which such person agrees to promptly take all lawful and
19 reasonable actions, which shall be set forth in the agreement to abate the nuisance activities
20 within a specified time and according to specified conditions. The agreement shall be signed by
21 the person in charge and, if different, the owner. The agreement shall include the following:
22

- 23 1. The name and address of the persons in charge of the property;
24
25
26
27
28



- 1 2. The street address or a description sufficient for identification of the property,
- 2 building, structure, or land upon or within which the nuisance is occurring;
- 3 3. A description of the nuisance activities;
- 4 4. The necessary corrective action to be taken, and a date or time by which
- 5 correction must be completed;
- 6 5. An agreement by the person in charge that the City may inspect the property as
- 7 may be necessary to determine compliance with the correction agreement;
- 8 6. An agreement by the person in charge that the City may abate the nuisance and
- 9 recover its costs and expenses and monetary penalties pursuant to this chapter
- 10 from the person in charge for the nuisance if the terms of the correction agreement
- 11 are not met; and
- 12 7. When a person in charge, other than an owner or an owner's agent, has
- 13 permitted a property to be a chronic nuisance property, an agreement by the
- 14 owner to promptly take all acts and pursue all remedies requested by the Chief of
- 15 Police pursuant to SMC 10.09.035.

18 **SMC 10.09.050 Penalties.**

19 A. Except as provided in this section, in addition to any other sanction or remedial
20 procedure that may be available, the person in charge is subject to a penalty of up to \$500 dollars
21 per day from the date of the notice issued pursuant to SMC 10.09.030A until the Chief of Police
22 confirms that the property is no longer a chronic nuisance property.
23

24 B. If the agreed course of action results in the abatement of nuisance activities to the
25 satisfaction of the Chief of Police within thirty days of the notice issued pursuant to SMC
26



1 10.09.030A, or such longer period allowed by the Chief of Police pursuant to SMC 10.09.030D,
2 the matter shall not be referred to the City Attorney and the person in charge shall not be subject
3 to any penalty pursuant to this Chapter.

4 C. An owner who fails to comply with SMC 10.09.035 is subject to a civil penalty of up
5 to \$25,000.

6 **SMC 10.09.060 Commencement of Action--Enforcement.**

7
8 Upon referral pursuant to SMC 10.09.030, the City Attorney may initiate an action in any
9 court of competent jurisdiction to abate a chronic nuisance property, to impose penalties pursuant
10 to this chapter, to seek alternative remedies under city or state laws and seek any other relief
11 authorized by law.

12 **SMC 10.09.070 Burden of Proof**

13
14 In an action against a person in charge to abate a chronic nuisance property or to recover
15 penalties authorized by this chapter, the City shall have the burden of proof to show by a
16 preponderance of the evidence that the property is a chronic nuisance property pursuant to this
17 chapter. In an action against an owner to recover penalties authorized by SMC 10.09.050D, the
18 City shall have the additional burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the owner
19 failed to comply with SMC 10.09.035. Copies of police incident reports and reports of other city
20 departments documenting nuisance activities shall be admissible in such actions. Additionally,
21 evidence of a property's general reputation and the reputation of persons residing in or
22 frequenting the property shall be admissible in such actions.
23

24 **SMC 10.09.080 Remedies.**

25
26 A. If the Court determines a property is a chronic nuisance property pursuant to this
27



1 chapter the court may order any of the following: (1) order the person in charge to immediately
2 abate nuisance activity from occurring on the property, (2) order that the Chief of Police shall
3 have the right to inspect the property to determine if the court's orders have been complied with,
4 (3) impose a penalty of up to \$500 per day against the person in charge for each day from the
5 date the notice pursuant to SMC 10.09.030A was issued until the Chief of Police confirms that
6 the property is no longer a chronic nuisance property, (4) make any other order that will
7 reasonably abate nuisance activities from occurring on the property, including authorizing the
8 City to take action to abate nuisance activities from occurring upon the property if other court
9 orders are not complied with or do not abate nuisance activity on the property and providing that
10 the costs of such City action are to be paid for by the person in charge of the property.
11

12 B. If the court finds that an owner failed to take all reasonable steps requested in writing
13 pursuant to SMC 10.09.035, the court may impose a civil penalty up to \$25,000.
14

15 **SMC 10.09.085 Additional remedies**

16 A. In addition to the remedies authorized by SMC 10.09.080, if as part of its order
17 abating a chronic nuisance property, the court orders a person in charge to cease renting or
18 leasing a property, the court may order the person in charge to pay relocation assistance not to
19 exceed \$3,300 to any tenant (1) who must relocate because of the order of abatement, and (2) the
20 court finds not to have caused or participated in nuisance activities at the property.
21

22 B. For purposes of this section, SMC 10.909.085, the term "tenant" shall have the
23 meaning as set forth in SMC 22.210.030.M.
24
25
26
27
28



1 **SMC 10.09.090 Suspension or Revocation of Business License**

2 In addition to any other remedy that is authorized by this chapter or other laws, upon the
3 finding by a court that a property is a chronic nuisance property pursuant to this chapter, the
4 person in charge is subject to the suspension or revocation of a business license or other license
5 at such property issued pursuant to Titles 5 and 6 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

6
7
8 Section 2. SMC 5.55.230A is amended as follows:

9 **SMC 5.55.230 Revocation of, or refusal to renew business license.**

10 A. The Director, or his or her designee, has the power and authority to revoke or refuse to
11 renew any business license or amusement device license issued under the provisions of this
12 chapter. The Director, or his or her designee, shall notify such licensee in writing by certified
13 mail of the revocation of, or refusal to renew, his or her license and on what grounds such a
14 decision was based. The Director may revoke or refuse to renew any license issued under this
15 chapter on one or more of the following grounds:

- 16
17 1. The license was procured by fraud or false representation of fact.
18 2. The licensee has failed to comply with any provisions of this chapter.
19 3. The licensee has failed to comply with any provisions of SMC Chapters 5.32, 5.40,
20 5.45, 5.48 or 5.52.
21 4. The licensee is in default in any payment of any license fee or tax under Title 5 or
22 Title 6.
23 5. The property at which the business is located has been determined by a court to be a
24 chronic nuisance property as provided in SMC Chapter 10.09.
25
26



1 The period of revocation or non-renewal shall be at least one year, and the licensee or any person
2 (as defined in SMC Section 5.30.040.F) in which the licensee is a principal shall not again be
3 licensed during such period.

4
5 Section 3. SMC 6.02.270A is amended as follows:

6 **SMC 6.02.270 Denial, revocation or refusal to renew license -- Generally.**

7
8 A. In addition to other penalties provided by law, the Director may deny, revoke, or
9 refuse to renew any license issued under the provisions of subtitle I of Title 6 at any time:

10 1. Upon a finding that the license was procured by fraud, or false representation of fact,
11 or for the violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the provisions of this subtitle by
12 the person holding such license, or any of his/her servants, agents, or employees, while
13 acting within the scope of their employment; or

14
15 2. Upon the conviction of the person holding such a license of a felony or misdemeanor
16 involving moral turpitude or an intent to defraud, or the conviction of any agents or
17 employees of any felony, or misdemeanor involving an attempt to defraud committed
18 while acting within the scope of their employment; or

19
20 3. If the licensee, any of his/her servants, or agents or employees, while acting
21 within the scope of their employment:

22 a. violate any law or ordinance relating to:

23 1) the sale or possession of intoxicating liquor;

24 2) the use, possession, or sale of narcotic drugs;



1 3) discrimination against any person because of religion, race, age,
2 political ideology, creed, ancestry, color, national origin, sex, sexual
3 orientation, gender identity, marital status, or the presence of any sensory,
4 mental or physical handicap; or

5 4) public morality and decency; or

6 b. with respect to the licenses specified in Section 6.02.190:

7 1) conducts the business or activity for which such license was issued in a
8 disorderly or improper manner; or

9 2) violates any statute of the state or ordinance of the City relating to the
10 business or activity for which such license was issued; or

11 c. is of unfit character to conduct the business or activity; or

12 4. If the purpose for which the license was issued is being abused to the detriment of the
13 public; or

14 5. If such license is being used for a purpose different from that for which it was issued;
15 or

16 6. If the licensee is in default in any payment of any fee or tax required under Title 5 or
17 Title 6 of the Seattle Municipal Code((-)); or

18 ~~((4))~~7. ~~((The))~~ If the property at which the business is located has been determined by a
19 court to be a chronic nuisance property as provide in SMC Chapter 10.09.

20 No license issued under this subtitle shall be revoked, denied or refused to be renewed by the
21 Director except in accordance with the procedure provided in this Subtitle I of Title 6.



1
2 Section 4. SMC 6.202.230 is amended as follows:

3 **SMC 6.202.230 License -- Denial, revocation, or refusal to renew -- Grounds.**

4 A license may be denied, revoked, or not renewed for violation of any ordinance or law
5 that regulates licensed activity in order to further the public interest in public health, safety, and
6 welfare. A license may also be denied, revoked, or not renewed upon a finding that any applicant
7 or licensee, or any owner, officer or agent thereof:
8

9 A. Has omitted to disclose any material fact necessary to make a statement not
10 misleading, in any application for the license; or

11 B. Has charges pending against her/him or has been convicted of a crime or offense that
12 directly relates to the activity for which the license is required, and the time elapsed since the
13 date of conviction or release from jail or prison, whichever is more recent, is less than ten years;
14 or has been convicted of several crimes including at least one within the last ten years; provided,
15 however, that any licensee whose license is revoked because of charges pending against her/him
16 may engage in the activity for which the license is required, pending a final decision on the
17 charges; or
18

19 C. Has been subject to an adverse finding in any judgment or order which directly relates
20 to the activity for which the license is required, in any judicial or administrative proceeding in
21 which fraud, deceit, coercion, breach of trust, unfair method of competition, unfair or deceptive
22 trade act or practice, or assertion of unconscionable contractual provisions, or other similar act,
23 practice, or conduct, on the part of the licensee-applicant is proven, and the time elapsed since
24 the judgment or order is less than ten years; or
25
26



1 D. Has violated or failed to comply with any applicable provisions of this Code or rule or
2 regulation prescribed under this subtitle; provided, that failure to obtain a license shall not be
3 grounds for license denial; or

4 E. Is in default in any payment of any fee or tax required under Title 5 or Title 6 of the
5 Seattle Municipal Code; or

6 F. Has been subject to an adverse finding in any judgment or order, in any judicial or
7 administrative proceeding for violation of any provision of a City ordinance or rule or regulation
8 prescribed thereunder pertaining to fire, building, health, sanitation, zoning, weights and
9 measures, consumer protection, environmental protection, or any other ordinance or law and that
10 is applicable to the licensed activity or licensed premises; or

11 G. Has been determined to have discriminated against any person because of race, color,
12 age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, political ideology, creed, religion,
13 ancestry, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical handicap, in the
14 course of licensed activity, in violation of a City ordinance, law, rule or regulation prescribed
15 thereunder; or

16 H. Has violated or failed to comply with any final order of the Director or Hearing
17 Examiner; or

18 I. Has failed to complete the application for a license as required by this Code; or

19 J. Has failed to obtain a license or permit required by state or other law necessary to
20 engage in the licensed activity; or

21 K. Has failed to comply with RCW Chapters 49.12 and 28A.28, and rules and regulations
22 promulgated pursuant thereto, regarding employment of minors; or



1 L. Any licensee has permitted or authorized his/her agent to violate or fail to comply with
2 any provision of this Code((-)); or

3 ~~((L))~~M. The property at which the business is located has been determined by a court to
4 be a chronic nuisance property as provided in SMC Chapter 10.09.

5
6 Section 5. The Chief of Police (Chief) and the City Attorney shall provide an annual
7 report on the implementation of this ordinance. The report shall list each instance in which the
8 Chief declared a property to be a chronic nuisance property and provided written notice to the
9 persons in charge of the property. For each instance, the report shall describe:
10

11 A. The location and use of the property (i.e., whether residential or commercial, and if
12 residential the number of units, and if commercial, the size and nature of the commercial use).

13 B. The nuisance activities on which the declaration was based.

14 C. The administrative and legal process resulting from the notice, including:

15 (1) whether the notice resulted in a written correction agreement;

16 (2) whether the notice resulted in the abatement of nuisance activities to the
17 satisfaction of the Chief; and, if not,
18

19 (3) whether the Chief referred the matter to the City Attorney for initiation of
20 proceedings; and, if so,
21

22 (4) whether the City Attorney initiated proceedings; and, if so,

23 (5) whether a court determined the property to be a chronic nuisance property;

24 and, if so,
25
26
27
28



1 (6) what orders the court made, including penalties, other orders to abate the
2 nuisance activities, or relocation assistance to tenants; and

3 (7) whether the City revoked any business licenses on the property.

4 D. A summary of the consequences of the declaration to date, including actions taken by
5 persons in charge to abate the nuisance activities, whether these included the eviction of tenants,
6 and whether the nuisance activities appear to be permanently abated.


7
8 The report shall also include brief assessments by the Chief and the City Attorney on the
9 overall effectiveness of the ordinance in reducing the problems resulting from chronic nuisance
10 properties.

11 The Chief and City Attorney shall provide the report to the City Council in February of
12 each year on the chronic nuisance property declarations in the prior calendar year. Any
13 declarations not fully resolved by the end of the calendar year shall be described again the
14 following year's report.
15

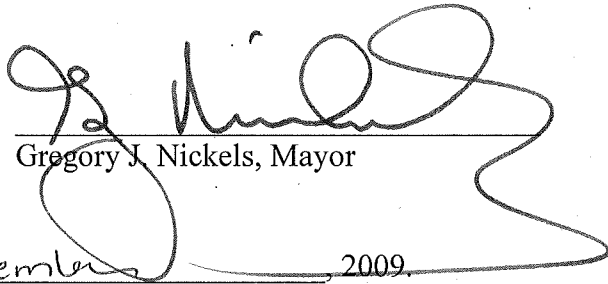
16
17 Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after
18 its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days
19 after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28




1 Passed by the City Council the 30th day of November, 2009, and
2 signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this
3 30th day of November, 2009.

4
5 
6 President pro tem of the City Council

7 Approved by me this 3rd day of December, 2009.

8
9
10 
11 Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

12 Filed by me this 4th day of December, 2009.

13
14
15 
16 City Clerk

17 (Seal)



FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	DOF Analyst/Phone:
Legislative	Peter Harris / 684-8368	n.a.

Legislation Title:

AN ORDINANCE relating to abatement of and penalties, including license suspension or revocation, for public nuisances; repealing Chapter 10.09 of the Seattle Municipal Code entitled "Public Nuisances" and enacting a new Chapter 10.09 entitled "Chronic Nuisance Properties", and amending SMC Subsection 5.55.230A, Subsection 6.02.270A and Section 6.202.230.

• **Summary of the Legislation:**

This ordinance replaces the existing City nuisance ordinance (SMC 10.09) with an ordinance that defines chronic nuisance properties primarily by the repeated occurrence of illegal activity, such as prostitution, weapons violations, gang activity and illegal drug trafficking. It holds property owners responsible along with any persons in charge on site. If the Chief of Police cannot obtain correction of the chronic nuisance, he or she may refer the case to the City Attorney for action in court. The court may impose penalties of up to \$500 per day against the persons in charge of the property and up to \$25,000 against an owner who fails to take reasonable steps to correct the nuisance. If the court finds that the property is a chronic nuisance, the City may suspend the business license or other license at the property.

- **Background:** *(Include brief description of the purpose and context of legislation and include record of previous legislation and funding history, if applicable):*

The current nuisance ordinance has not been effective for abating chronic nuisances resulting from the repeated use of properties for illegal activity.

For other forms of nuisances, including but not limited to those resulting from noise, liquor law violations, or land use or building code violations, the City retains the ability to take action pursuant to RCW 7.48.

- *Please check one of the following:*

This legislation does not have any financial implications. *(Stop here and delete the remainder of this document prior to saving and printing.)*

This ordinance does not have any financial implications that may be estimated with confidence now. We expect that enforcement actions under the new ordinance will generally require the same resources in the Law Department and Police Department as current enforcement efforts under SMC 10.09. However, to the extent the new ordinance leads to more active nuisance property abatement, the increased enforcement will demand more effort from these two



Peter Harris
LEG chronic nuisance FISC v1.docx
9/11/09
Version #1

departments. If the new ordinance results in significantly more enforcement actions, more Police and Law Department resources may be required.



1
2 **ORDINANCE _____**

3 AN ORDINANCE relating to abatement of and penalties, including license suspension or
4 revocation, for public nuisances; repealing Chapter 10.09 of the Seattle Municipal Code
5 entitled "Public Nuisances" and enacting a new Chapter 10.09 entitled "Chronic
6 Nuisance Properties," and amending SMC Subsection 5.55.230A, Subsection 6.02.270A
7 and Section 6.202.230.

8 WHEREAS, RCW 35.22.280 empowers first class cities to define and abate nuisances and
9 impose fines upon persons responsible for creating or allowing nuisances; and

10 WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council finds that people should be able to enjoy ownership, use
11 and possession of property without the negative impacts caused by chronic nuisance
12 properties; and

13 WHEREAS, some persons who own or control property in the City of Seattle allow their
14 properties to be used for illegal purposes, with the result that these properties have
15 become chronic nuisance properties; and

16 WHEREAS, the current provisions of Chapter 10.09 of the Seattle Municipal Code do not
17 provide adequate tools for abating chronic nuisances resulting from the use of properties
18 for illegal purposes; and

19 WHEREAS, chronic nuisance properties present serious health, safety and welfare concerns and
20 interfere with the quality of life, comfort and solitude of other persons residing in the
21 neighborhood; and

22 WHEREAS, chronic nuisance properties cause a financial burden upon the City by the numerous
23 calls for service to the properties because of the illegal activities that repeatedly occur or
24 exist on such properties; NOW, THEREFORE,

25 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

26 Section 1. Chapter 10.09 of the Seattle Municipal Code entitled "Public Nuisances" is
27 repealed in its entirety and replaced with a new Chapter 10.09 entitled "Chronic Nuisance
28 Properties" to read as follows:



Chapter 10.09 CHRONIC NUISANCE PROPERTIES

SMC 10.09.010 Definitions.

For purposes of this chapter, the following words or phrases shall have the meaning prescribed below:

1. "Abate" means to repair, replace, remove, destroy, or otherwise remedy a condition which constitutes a violation of this chapter by such means and in such a manner and to such an extent as the Chief of Police determines is necessary in the interest of the general health, safety and welfare of the community.

2. "Chief of Police" means the Chief of Police or his or her designees.

3. "Control" means the power or ability to direct or determine conditions, conduct, or events occurring on a property.

4. "Chronic nuisance property" means:

a. a property on which three or more nuisance activities as described in SMC 10.09.010(5) exist or have occurred during any sixty-day period or seven or more nuisance activities have occurred during any twelve-month period, or

b. a property where within a twelve-month period, three or more violations of occupant load provisions of the Seattle Fire Code occur; or

c. a property which, upon a request for execution of a search warrant, has been the subject of a determination by a court two or more times within a twelve-month period that probable cause exists that illegal possession, manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance or related offenses as defined in RCW Chapter 69.50 has occurred on the property.

5. "Nuisance activity" includes:



- a. a “most serious offense” as defined in RCW 9.94A.030;
- b. a “drug related activity” as defined in RCW 59.18.130;
- c. any of the following activities, behaviors or criminal conduct:
 1. Assault, Fighting, Menacing, Stalking, Harassment or Reckless Endangerment, as defined in SMC Chapter 12A.06;
 2. Promoting, advancing or profiting from prostitution as defined in Chapter 9A.88 RCW;
 3. Prostitution, as defined in SMC 12A.10.020;
 4. Permitting Prostitution, as defined in SMC 12A.10.060;
 5. Obstructing pedestrian or vehicular traffic, as defined in SMC 12A.12.015;
 6. Failure to Disperse, as defined in SMC 12A.12.020;
 7. Weapons violations, as defined in SMC Chapter 12A.14;
 8. Drug Traffic Loitering, as defined in SMC 12A.20.050(B); or
 9. Gang related activity, as defined in RCW 59.18.030(16).

6. “Owner” means any person who, alone or with others, has title or interest in any property.

7. “Person” means an individual, group of individuals, corporation, partnership, association, club, company, business trust, joint venture, organization, or any other legal or commercial entity or the manager, lessee, agent, officer or employee of any of them.



1 8. "Person in charge" of a property means the owner and, if different than the owner,
2 any other person in actual or constructive possession of a property, including but not limited to, a
3 lessee, tenant, occupant, agent, or manager of a property under his or her control.

4 9. "Property" means any land and that which is affixed, incidental or appurtenant to land,
5 including but not limited to any business or residence, parking area, loading area, landscaping,
6 building or structure or any separate part, unit or portion thereof.

7 10. "RCW" means the Revised Code of Washington.

8 11. "SMC" means Seattle Municipal Code.

9
10 **SMC 10.09.020 Violation.**

11 A. Any property within the City of Seattle which is a chronic nuisance property is in
12 violation of this Chapter and subject to its remedies;

13
14 B. Owners and other persons in charge who permit property to be a chronic nuisance
15 property shall be in violation of this chapter and subject to its remedies; and

16 C. An owner who fails to comply with SMC 10.09.035 is in violation of this chapter and
17 is subject to penalties pursuant to SMC 10.09.050D.

18 **SMC 10.09.030 Declaration of Chronic Nuisance Property and Procedure.**

19 A. The Chief of Police may declare that a property is a chronic nuisance property, as
20 defined in this chapter, when there are specific facts and circumstances documenting (1) the
21 occurrence of three or more nuisance activities on a property within sixty days or seven or more
22 nuisance activities within a twelve month period, or (2) activity on a property as described in
23 SMC 10.09.010(4) (b) or (c). The Chief of Police shall provide written notice of this declaration
24
25
26
27
28



1 to the persons in charge of the property. The notice shall be sent by first class mail or personally
2 served and shall contain:

- 3 1. the street address or a legal description sufficient for identification of the
4 property;
- 5 2. a de clarification that the Chief of Police has determined the property has become
6 a chronic nuisance property with a concise description of the nuisance activities
7 that exist or that have occurred;
- 8 3. a notice that the owner and other persons in charge of the property are subject
9 to monetary penalties as set forth in SMC 10.09.050.
- 10 4. a demand the owner and other persons in charge respond to the Chief of
11 Police within seven days of service of the notice to discuss a course of action to
12 correct the nuisance.
- 13 5. a notice that, if the person in charge does not respond to the Chief of Police as
14 required in this section, or if the matter is not voluntarily corrected to the
15 satisfaction of the Chief of Police, the city may file an action to abate the
16 property as a chronic nuisance property pursuant to SMC 10.09.060 and/or take
17 other action against the property or person in charge.
18
19
20

21 B. When a notice is issued pursuant to this section to a person in charge, other than an
22 owner or an owner's agent, who has permitted a property to become a chronic nuisance property,
23 a copy of such notice shall also be sent by first class mail or personally served on the owner of
24 the property.
25
26
27



1 C. If the owner or person in charge responds as required by the notice issued pursuant to
2 SMC 10.09.030A and agrees to a course of action to abate the nuisance activities, a written
3 correction agreement conforming to the requirements of SMC 10.09.040 shall be executed.

4 D. If (1) the agreed course of action does not result in the abatement of nuisance
5 activities to the satisfaction of the Chief of Police within thirty days of issuance of the notice
6 pursuant to SMC 10.09.030A, or within such longer period as permitted by the Chief of Police in
7 writing or (2) the person in charge fails to respond as required by the notice, the Chief of Police
8 may refer the matter to the City Attorney for initiation of proceedings pursuant to SMC
9 10.09.060.
10

11 **SMC 10.09.035 Owner Cooperation.**

12 An owner who receives a copy of a notice pursuant to SMC 10.09.030B describing a
13 chronic nuisance property permitted by a person in charge other than the owner or the owner's
14 agent, shall promptly take all reasonable steps requested in writing by the Chief of Police to
15 assist in abatement of the nuisance property. Such reasonable steps may include the owner
16 taking all acts and pursuing all remedies, including pursuing eviction of the person in charge,
17 that are (1) available to the owner pursuant to any lease or other agreement, and (2) consistent
18 with state and local laws, including SMC 22.206.160C.
19
20

21 **SMC 10.09.040 Correction Agreement.**

22 A. A correction agreement is a contract between the City and the person in charge of the
23 chronic nuisance property in which such person agrees to promptly take all lawful and
24 reasonable actions, which shall be set forth in the agreement to abate the nuisance activities
25
26
27
28



1 within a specified time and according to specified conditions. The agreement shall be signed by
2 the person in charge and, if different, the owner. The agreement shall include the following:

- 3 1. The name and address of the persons in charge of the property;
- 4 2. The street address or a description sufficient for identification of the property,
5 building, structure, or land upon or within which the nuisance is occurring;
- 6 3. A description of the nuisance activities;
- 7 4. The necessary corrective action to be taken, and a date or time by which
8 correction must be completed;
- 9 5. An agreement by the person in charge that the City may inspect the property as
10 may be necessary to determine compliance with the correction agreement;
- 11 6. An agreement by the person in charge that the City may abate the nuisance and
12 recover its costs and expenses and monetary penalties pursuant to this chapter
13 from the person in charge for the nuisance if the terms of the correction agreement
14 are not met; and
15 7. When a person in charge, other than an owner or an owner's agent, has
16 permitted a property to be a chronic nuisance property, an agreement by the
17 owner to promptly take all acts and pursue all remedies requested by the Chief of
18 Police pursuant to SMC 10.09.035.

19
20
21
22 **SMC 10.09.050 Penalties.**

23 A. Except as provided in this section, in addition to any other sanction or remedial
24 procedure that may be available, the person in charge is subject to a penalty of up to \$500 dollars
25
26
27
28



1 per day from the date of the notice issued pursuant to SMC 10.09.030A until the Chief of Police
2 confirms that the property is no longer a chronic nuisance property.

3 B. If the agreed course of action results in the abatement of nuisance activities to the
4 satisfaction of the Chief of Police within thirty days of the notice issued pursuant to SMC
5 10.09.030A, or such longer period allowed by the Chief of Police pursuant to SMC 10.09.030D,
6 the matter shall not be referred to the City Attorney and the person in charge shall not be subject
7 to any penalty pursuant to this Chapter.
8

9 C. An owner who fails to comply with SMC 10.09.035 is subject to a civil penalty of up
10 to \$25,000.

11 **SMC 10.09.060 Commencement of Action--Enforcement.**

12 Upon referral pursuant to SMC 10.09.030, the City Attorney may initiate an action in any
13 court of competent jurisdiction to abate a chronic nuisance property, to impose penalties pursuant
14 to this chapter, to seek alternative forms of abatement under city or state laws and/or seek any
15 other relief authorized by law.
16

17 **SMC 10.09.070 Burden of Proof**

18 In an action against a person in charge to abate a chronic nuisance property or to recover
19 penalties authorized by this chapter, the City shall have the burden of proof to show by a
20 preponderance of the evidence that the property is a chronic nuisance property pursuant to this
21 chapter. In an action against an owner to recover penalties authorized by SMC 10.09.050D, the
22 City shall have the additional burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the owner
23 failed to comply with SMC 10.09.035. Copies of police incident reports and reports of other city
24 departments documenting nuisance activities shall be admissible in such actions. Additionally,
25
26
27
28



1 evidence of a property's general reputation and the reputation of persons residing in or
2 frequenting the property shall be admissible in such actions.

3 **SMC 10.09.080 Remedies.**

4 A. If the Court determines a property is a chronic nuisance property pursuant to this
5 chapter the court may order any of the following: (1) order the person in charge to immediately
6 abate nuisance activity from occurring on the property, (2) order that the Chief of Police shall
7 have the right to inspect the property to determine if the court's orders have been complied with,
8 (3) impose a penalty of up to \$500 per day against the person in charge for each day from the
9 date the notice pursuant to SMC 10.09.030A was issued until the Chief of Police confirms that
10 the property is no longer a chronic nuisance property, (4) make any other order which will
11 reasonably abate nuisance activities from occurring on the property, including authorizing the
12 City to take action to abate nuisance activities from occurring upon the property if other court
13 orders are not complied with or do not abate nuisance activity on the property and providing that
14 the costs of such City action are to be paid for by the person in charge of the property.
15
16

17 B. If the court finds that an owner failed to take all reasonable steps requested in writing
18 pursuant to SMC 10.09.035, the court may impose a civil penalty up to \$25,000.

19 C. Penalties imposed by a court under this Chapter against an owner are a specific lien
20 upon the real property declared to be a chronic public nuisance.
21

22 **SMC 10.09.090 Suspension or Revocation of Business License**

23 In addition to any other remedy that is authorized by this chapter or other laws, upon the
24 finding by a court that a property is a chronic nuisance property pursuant to this chapter, the
25
26
27



1 person in charge is subject to the suspension or revocation of a business license or other license
2 at such property issued pursuant to Titles 5 and 6 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

3
4 Section 2. SMC 5.55.230A is amended as follows:

5 **SMC 5.55.230 Suspension or revocation of business license.**

6 A. The Director, or his or her designee, shall have the power and authority to suspend or
7 revoke any business license or amusement device license issued under the provisions of this
8 chapter. The Director, or his or her designee, shall notify such licensee in writing by certified
9 mail of the suspension or revocation of his or her license and the grounds therefore. Any license
10 issued under this chapter may be suspended or revoked based on one or more of the following
11 grounds:
12

- 13
- 14 1. The license was procured by fraud or false representation of fact.
 - 15 2. The licensee has failed to comply with any provisions of this chapter.
 - 16 3. The licensee has failed to comply with any provisions of SMC Chapters 5.32, 5.40,
17 5.45, 5.48 or 5.52.
 - 18 4. The licensee is in default in any payment of any license fee or tax under Title 5 or
19 Title 6.
 - 20 5. The property at which the business is located has been determined by a court to be a
21 chronic nuisance property as provided in SMC 10.09.090.
- 22

23
24 Section 3. SMC 6.02.270A is amended as follows:

25 **SMC 6.02.270 Denial, revocation or suspension of license -- Generally.**



1 A. In addition to other penalties provided by law, the Director may deny, revoke, or
2 suspend any license issued under the provisions of this subtitle at any time(~~(, where the same~~
3 was))):

4 1. Where the license was p((P))ro cured by fraud, or false representation of fact, or
5 for the violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the provisions of this subtitle
6 by the person holding such license, or any of his/her servants, agents, or
7 employees, while acting within the scope of their employment; or

8 2. Upon t((F))he conviction of the person holding such a license of a felony or
9 misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or an intent to defraud, or the conviction
10 of any agents or employees of any felony, or misdemeanor involving an attempt
11 to defraud committed while acting within the scope of their employment; or

12 3. If the licensee, any of his/her servants, or agents or employees, while acting
13 within the scope of their employment, violate any law or ordinance relating to the
14 sale or possession of intoxicating liquor, the use, possession, or sale of narcotic
15 drugs, discrimination against any person because of religion, race, age, political
16 ideology, creed, ancestry, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender
17 identity, marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical
18 handicap, or violate any law or ordinance relating to public morality and decency,
19 or with respect to the licenses specified in Section 6.02.190 where the business or
20 activity for which such license was issued has been conducted in a disorderly or
21 improper manner, or in violation of any statute of the state or ordinance of the
22 City, or where the person conducting such business or activity is of unfit character
23
24
25
26
27
28



1 to conduct the same, or where the purpose for which the license was issued is
2 being abused to the detriment of the public, or where such license is being used
3 for a purpose different from that for which it was issued. No license shall be
4 revoked or suspended except in accordance with the procedure provided in this
5 subtitle.

6 4. The property at which the business is located has been determined by a court
7
8 to be a chronic nuisance property as provide in SMC 10.09.090.

9
10 Section 4. SMC 6.202.230 is amended as follows:

11 **SMC 6.202.230 License Denial, suspension or revocation -- Grounds.**

12 A license may be suspended, denied or revoked for violation of any ordinance or law
13 which regulates licensed activity in order to further the public interest in public health, safety,
14 and welfare. A license may also be denied, suspended, or revoked upon a finding that:

15
16 A. Any applicant or licensee, or any owner, officer or agent thereof has omitted to
17 disclose any material fact necessary to make a statement not misleading, in any application for
18 the license; or

19
20 B. Has charges pending against her/him or has been convicted of a crime or offense
21 which directly relates to the activity for which the license is required, and the time elapsed since
22 the date of conviction or release from jail or prison, whichever is more recent, is less than ten
23 (10) years; or has been convicted of several crimes including at least one (1) within the last ten
24 (10) years; or



1 C. Has been subject to an adverse finding in any judgment or order which directly relates
2 to the activity for which the license is required, in any judicial or administrative proceeding in
3 which fraud, deceit, coercion, breach of trust, unfair method of competition, unfair or deceptive
4 trade act or practice, or assertion of unconscionable contractual provisions, or other similar act,
5 practice, or conduct, on the part of the licensee-applicant is proven, and the time elapsed since
6 the judgment or order is less than ten (10) years; or
7

8 D. Has violated or failed to comply with any applicable provisions of this Code or rule or
9 regulation prescribed under this subtitle; provided, that failure to obtain a license shall not be
10 grounds for license denial; or
11

12 E. Has been subject to an adverse finding in any judgment or order, in any judicial or
13 administrative proceeding for violation of any provision of a City ordinance or rule or regulation
14 prescribed thereunder pertaining to fire, building, health, sanitation, zoning, weights and
15 measures, consumer protection, environmental protection, or any other ordinance or law and
16 which is applicable to the licensed activity or licensed premises; or
17

18 F. Has been determined to have discriminated against any person because of race, color,
19 age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, political ideology, creed, religion,
20 ancestry, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical handicap, in the
21 course of licensed activity, in violation of a City ordinance, law, rule or regulation prescribed
22 thereunder; or
23

24 G. Has violated or failed to comply with any final order of the Director or Hearing
25 Examiner; or
26

27 H. Has failed to complete the application for a license as required by this Code; or
28



1 I. Has failed to obtain a license or permit required by state or other law necessary to
2 engage in the licensed activity; or

3 J. Has failed to comply with RCW Chapters 49.12 and 28A.28, and rules and regulations
4 promulgated pursuant thereto, regarding employment of minors; or

5 K. Any licensee has permitted or authorized his/her agent to violate or fail to comply with
6 any provision of this Code.

7
8 L. The property at which the business is located has been determined by a court to be a
9 chronic nuisance property as provided in SMC 10.09.090.

10
11 Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after
12 its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days
13 after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.
14

THIS VERSION IS NOT ADOPTED



1 Passed by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2009, and signed by
2 me in open session in authentication of its passage this
3 ____ day of _____, 2009.

4
5
6 _____
President _____ of the City Council

7
8 Approved by me this ____ day of _____, 2009.

9
10 _____
11 Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

12
13 Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2009.

14
15 _____
16 City Clerk

17 (Seal)

18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
THIS VERSION IS NOT ADOPTED



123188
1064

STATE OF WASHINGTON – KING COUNTY

--SS.

248283
CITY OF SEATTLE, CLERKS OFFICE

No.

Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

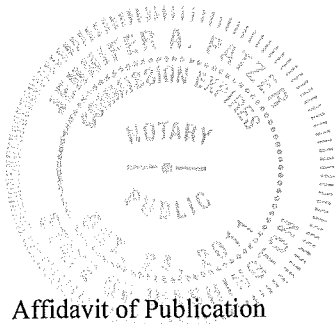
The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT:123188 ORDINANCE

was published on

12/15/09

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$ 884.38, which amount has been paid in full.



Subscribed and sworn to before me on
12/15/09 _____

Notary public for the State of Washington,
residing in Seattle

Affidavit of Publication

State of Washington, King County

City of Seattle

ORDINANCE 123188

AN ORDINANCE relating to abatement of and penalties, including license suspension or revocation, for public nuisances; repealing Chapter 10.09 of the Seattle Municipal Code entitled "Public Nuisances" and enacting a new Chapter 10.09 entitled "Chronic Nuisance Properties", and amending SMC Subsection 5.55.230A, Subsection 6.02.270A and Section 6.202.230.

WHEREAS, RCW 35.22.280 empowers first class cities to define and abate nuisances and impose fines upon persons responsible for creating or allowing nuisances; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council finds that people should be able to enjoy ownership, use and possession of property without the negative impacts caused by chronic nuisance properties; and

WHEREAS, some persons who own or control property in the City of Seattle allow their properties to be used for illegal purposes, with the result that these properties have become chronic nuisance properties; and

WHEREAS, the current provisions of Chapter 10.09 of the Seattle Municipal Code do not provide adequate tools for abating chronic nuisances resulting from the use of properties for illegal purposes; and

WHEREAS, chronic nuisance properties present serious health, safety and welfare concerns and interfere with the quality of life, comfort and solitude of other persons residing in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, chronic nuisance properties cause a financial burden upon the City by the numerous calls for service to the properties because of the illegal activities that repeatedly occur or exist on such properties; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 10.09 of the Seattle Municipal Code entitled "Public Nuisances" is repealed in its entirety and replaced with a new Chapter 10.09 entitled "Chronic Nuisance Properties" to read as follows:

Chapter 10.09 CHRONIC NUISANCE PROPERTIES

SMC 10.09.010 Definitions.

For purposes of this chapter, the following words or phrases shall have the meaning prescribed below:

1. "Abate" means to repair, replace, remove, destroy, or otherwise remedy a condition which constitutes a violation of this chapter by such means and in such a manner and to such an extent as the Chief of Police determines is necessary in the interest of the general health, safety and welfare of the community.
2. "Chief of Police" means the Chief of Police or his or her designees.
3. "Control" means the power or ability to direct or determine conditions, conduct, or events occurring on a property.

4. "Chronic nuisance property" means:

- a. a property on which three or more nuisance activities as described in SMC 10.09.010(5) exist or have occurred during any sixty-day period or seven or more nuisance activities have occurred during any twelve-month period, or
- b. a property which, upon a request for execution of a search warrant, has been the subject of a determination by a court two or more times within a twelve-month period that probable cause exists that illegal possession, manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance or related offenses as defined in RCW Chapter 69.50 has occurred on the property.

5. "Nuisance activity" includes:

- a. a "most serious offense" as defined in ch. RCW 9.94A;
- b. a "drug related activity" as defined in RCW 69.18.130;
- c. any of the following activities, behaviors or criminal conduct:
 1. Assault, Fighting, Menacing, Stalking, Harassment or Reckless Endangerment, as defined in SMC Chapter 12A.06;
 2. Promoting, advancing or profiting from prostitution as defined in Chapter 9A.88 RCW;
 3. Prostitution, as defined in SMC 12A.10.020;
 4. Permitting Prostitution, as defined in SMC 12A.10.060;
 5. Obstructing pedestrian or vehicular traffic, as defined in SMC 12A.12.015(4);
 6. Failure to Disperse, as defined in SMC 12A.12.020;
 7. Weapons violations, as defined in SMC Chapter 12A.14;
 8. Drug Traffic Loitering, as defined in SMC 12A.20.050(B); or
 9. Gang related activity, as defined in RCW 59.18.030(16).

6. "Owner" means any person who, alone or with others, has title or interest in any property.

7. "Person" means an individual, group of individuals, corporation, partnership, association, club, company, business trust, joint venture, organization, or any other legal or commercial entity or the manager, lessee, agent, officer or employee of any of them.

8. "Person in charge" of a property means the owner and, if different than the owner, any other person in actual or constructive possession of a property, including but not limited to, a lessee, tenant, occupant, agent, or manager of a property under his or her control.

9. "Property" means any land and that which is affixed, incidental or appurtenant to land, including but not limited to any business or residence, parking area, loading area, landscaping, building or structure or any separate part, unit or portion thereof.

10. "RCW" means the Revised Code of Washington.

11. "SMC" means Seattle Municipal Code.

SMC 10.09.020 Violation.

A. Any property within the City of Seattle which is a chronic nuisance property is in violation of this Chapter and subject to its remedies;

B. Owners and other persons in charge who permit property to be a chronic nuisance property shall be in violation of this chapter and subject to its remedies; and

C. An owner who fails to comply with SMC 10.09.035 is in violation of this chapter and is subject to penalties pursuant to SMC 10.09.050D.

SMC 10.09.030 Declaration of Chronic Nuisance Property and Procedure.

A. The Chief of Police may declare that a property is a chronic nuisance property, as defined in this chapter, when there are specific facts and circumstances documenting (1) the occurrence of three or more nuisance activities on a property within sixty days or seven or more nuisance activities within a twelve month period, or (2) activity on a property as described in SMC 10.09.010(4)(b). The Chief of Police shall provide written notice of this declaration to the persons in charge of the property. The notice shall be sent by first class mail or personally served, and a copy shall be sent by certified mail. The notice shall contain:

1. the street address or a legal description sufficient for identification of the property;
2. a declaration that the Chief of Police has determined the property has become a chronic nuisance property with a concise description of the nuisance activities that exist or that have occurred;
3. a notice that the owner and other persons in charge of the property are subject to monetary penalties as set forth in SMC 10.09.050.
4. a demand the owner and other persons in charge respond to the Chief of Police within seven days of service of the notice to discuss a course of action to correct the nuisance;
5. a notice that, if the person in charge does not respond to the Chief of Police as required in this section, or if the matter is not voluntarily corrected to the satisfaction of the Chief of Police, the City may file an action to abate the property as a chronic nuisance property pursuant to SMC 10.09.060 and/or take other action against the property or person in charge.

B. When a notice is issued pursuant to this section to a person in charge, other than an owner or an owner's agent, who has permitted a property to become a chronic nuisance property, a copy of such notice shall also be sent by first class mail or personally served on the owner of the property, and a copy shall be sent by certified mail.

C. If the owner or person in charge responds as required by the notice issued pursuant to SMC 10.09.030A and agrees to a course of action to abate the nuisance activities, a written correction agreement conforming to the requirements of SMC 10.09.040 shall be executed.

D. If (1) the agreed course of action does not result in the abatement of nuisance activities to the satisfaction of the Chief of Police within thirty days of issuance of the notice pursuant to SMC 10.09.030A, or within such longer period as permitted by the Chief of Police in writing or (2) the person in charge fails to respond as required by the notice, the Chief of Police may refer the matter to the City Attorney for initiation of proceedings pursuant to SMC 10.09.060.

SMC 10.09.035 Owner Cooperation.

An owner who receives a copy of a notice pursuant to SMC 10.09.030B describing a chronic nuisance property permitted by a person in charge other than the owner or the owner's agent, shall promptly take all reasonable steps requested in writing by the Chief of Police to assist in abatement of the nuisance property. Such reasonable steps may include the owner taking all acts and pursuing all remedies, including pursuing eviction of the person in charge, that are (1) available to the owner pursuant to any lease or other agreement, and (2) consistent with state and local laws, including but not limited to RCW 59.18.580, the Victim Protection Limitation on Landlord's Rental Decisions, and SMC 22.206.160C, the Seattle Just Cause Eviction Ordinance.

SMC 10.09.040 Correction Agreement.

A. A correction agreement is a contract between the City and the person in charge of the chronic nuisance property in which such person agrees to promptly take all lawful and reasonable actions, which shall be set forth in the agreement to abate the nuisance activities within a specified time and according to specified conditions. The agreement shall be signed by the person in charge and, if different, the owner. The agreement shall include the following:

1. The name and address of the persons in charge of the property;
2. The street address or a description sufficient for identification of the property, building, structure, or land upon or within which the nuisance is occurring;
3. A description of the nuisance activities;
4. The necessary corrective action to be taken, and a date or time by which correction must be completed;
5. An agreement by the person in charge that the City may inspect the property as may be necessary to determine compliance with the correction agreement;
6. An agreement by the person in charge that the City may abate the nuisance and recover its costs and expenses and monetary penalties pursuant to this chapter from the person in charge for the nuisance if the terms of the correction agreement are not met; and
7. When a person in charge, other than an owner or an owner's agent, has permitted a property to be a chronic nuisance property, an agreement by the owner to promptly take all acts and pursue all remedies requested by the Chief of Police pursuant to SMC 10.09.035.

SMC 10.09.050 Penalties.

A. Except as provided in this section, in addition to any other sanction or remedial procedure that may be available, the person in charge is subject to a penalty of up to \$500 dollars per day from the date of the notice issued pursuant to SMC 10.09.030A until the Chief of Police confirms that the property is no longer a chronic nuisance property.

B. If the agreed course of action results in the abatement of nuisance activities to the satisfaction of the Chief of Police within thirty days of the notice issued pursuant to SMC 10.09.030A, or such longer period allowed by the Chief of Police pursuant to SMC 10.09.030D, the matter shall not be referred to the City Attorney and the person in charge shall not be subject to any penalty pursuant to this Chapter.

C. An owner who fails to comply with SMC 10.09.035 is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$25,000.

SMC 10.09.060 Commencement of Action--Enforcement.

Upon referral pursuant to SMC 10.09.030, the City Attorney may initiate an action in any court of competent jurisdiction to abate a chronic nuisance property, to impose penalties pursuant to this chapter, to seek alternative remedies under city or state laws and seek any other relief authorized by law.

SMC 10.09.070 Burden of Proof

In an action against a person in charge to abate a chronic nuisance property or to recover penalties authorized by this chapter, the City shall have the burden of proof to show by a preponderance of the evidence that the property is a chronic nuisance property pursuant to this chapter. In an action against an owner to recover penalties authorized by SMC 10.09.050D, the City shall have the additional burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the owner failed to comply with SMC 10.09.035. Copies of police incident reports and reports of other city departments documenting nuisance activities shall be admissible in such actions. Additionally, evidence of a property's general reputation and the reputation of persons residing in or frequenting the property shall be admissible in such actions.

SMC 10.09.080 Remedies.

A. If the Court determines a property is a chronic nuisance property pursuant to this

chapter the court may order any of the following: (1) order the person in charge to immediately abate nuisance activity from occurring on the property, (2) order that the Chief of Police shall have the right to inspect the property to determine if the court's orders have been complied with, (3) impose a penalty of up to \$500 per day against the person in charge for each day from the date the notice pursuant to SMC 10.09.030A was issued until the Chief of Police confirms that the property is no longer a chronic nuisance property, (4) make any other order that will reasonably abate nuisance activities from occurring on the property, including authorizing the City to take action to abate nuisance activities from occurring upon the property if other court orders are not complied with or do not abate nuisance activity on the property and providing that the costs of such City action are to be paid for by the person in charge of the property.

B. If the court finds that an owner failed to take all reasonable steps requested in writing pursuant to SMC 10.09.035, the court may impose a civil penalty up to \$25,000.

SMC 10.09.085 Additional remedies

A. In addition to the remedies authorized by SMC 10.09.080, if as part of its order abating a chronic nuisance property, the court orders a person in charge to cease renting or leasing a property, the court may order the person in charge to pay relocation assistance not to exceed \$3,300 to any tenant (1) who must relocate because of the order of abatement, and (2) the court finds not to have caused or participated in nuisance activities at the property.

B. For purposes of this section, SMC 10.09.085, the term "tenant" shall have the meaning as set forth in SMC 22.210.030.M.

SMC 10.09.090 Suspension or Revocation of Business License

In addition to any other remedy that is authorized by this chapter or other laws, upon the finding by a court that a property is a chronic nuisance property pursuant to this chapter, the person in charge is subject to the suspension or revocation of a business license or other license at such property issued pursuant to Titles 5 and 6 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Section 2. SMC 5.55.230A is amended as follows: SMC 5.55.230 Revocation of, or refusal to renew business license.

A. The Director, or his or her designee, has the power and authority to revoke or refuse to renew any business license or amusement device license issued under the provisions of this chapter. The Director, or his or her designee, shall notify such licensee in writing by certified mail of the revocation of, or refusal to renew, his or her license and on what grounds such a decision was based. The Director may revoke or refuse to renew any license issued under this chapter on one or more of the following grounds:

1. The license was procured by fraud or false representation of fact.
2. The licensee has failed to comply with any provisions of this chapter.
3. The licensee has failed to comply with any provisions of SMC Chapters 5.32, 5.40, 5.45, 5.48 or 5.52.
4. The licensee is in default in any payment of any license fee or tax under Title 5 or Title 6.
5. The property at which the business is located has been determined by a court to be a chronic nuisance property as provided in SMC Chapter 10.09.

The period of revocation or non-renewal shall be at least one year, and the licensee or any person (as defined in SMC Section 5.30.040.F) in which the licensee is a principal shall not again be licensed during such period.

Section 3. SMC 6.02.270A is amended as follows:

SMC 6.02.270 Denial, revocation or refusal to renew license -- Generally.

A. In addition to other penalties provided by law, the Director may deny, revoke, or refuse to renew any license issued under the provisions of subtitle I of Title 6 at any time:

1. Upon a finding that the license was procured by fraud, or false representation of fact, or for the violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the provisions of this subtitle by the person holding such license, or any of his/her servants, agents, or employees, while acting within the scope of their employment; or
2. Upon the conviction of the person holding such a license of a felony or misdemeanor or involving moral turpitude or an intent to defraud, or the conviction of any agents or employees of any felony, or misdemeanor involving an attempt to defraud committed while acting within the scope of their employment; or
3. If the licensee, any of his/her servants, or agents or employees, while acting within the scope of their employment:
 - a. violate any law or ordinance relating to:
 - 1) the sale or possession of intoxicating liquor;
 - 2) the use, possession, or sale of narcotic drugs;
 - 3) discrimination against any person because of religion, race, age, political ideology, creed, ancestry, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical handicap; or
 - 4) public morality and decency; or
 - b. with respect to the licenses specified in Section 6.02.190:
 - 1) conducts the business or activity for which such license was issued in a disorderly or improper manner; or
 - 2) violates any statute of the state or ordinance of the City relating to the business or activity for which such license was issued; or
 - c. is of unfit character to conduct the business or activity; or
4. If the purpose for which the license was issued is being abused to the detriment of the public; or
5. If such license is being used for a purpose different from that for which it was issued; or
6. If the licensee is in default in any payment of any fee or tax required under Title 5 or Title 6 of the Seattle Municipal Code(-); or

(4)7. ((The) If the property at which the business is located has been determined by a court to be a chronic nuisance property as provided in SMC Chapter 10.09.

No license issued under this subtitle shall be revoked, denied or refused to be renewed by the Director except in accordance with the procedure provided in this Subtitle I of Title 6.

Section 4. SMC 6.202.230 is amended as follows:

SMC 6.202.230 License -- Denial, revocation, or refusal to renew -- Grounds.

A license may be denied, revoked, or not renewed for violation of any ordinance or law that regulates licensed activity in order to further the public interest in public health, safety, and welfare. A license may also be denied, revoked, or not renewed upon a finding that any applicant or licensee, or any owner, officer or agent thereof:

- A. Has omitted to disclose any material fact necessary to make a statement not misleading, in any application for the license; or
- B. Has charges pending against her/him or has been convicted of a crime or offense that directly relates to the activity for which the license is required, and the time elapsed since the date of conviction or release from jail or prison, whichever is more recent, is less than ten years; or has been convicted of several crimes including at least one within the last ten years; provided, however, that any licensee whose license is revoked because of charges pending against her/him may engage in the activity for which the license is required, pending a final decision on the charges; or

C. Has been subject to an adverse finding in any judgment or order which directly relates to the activity for which the license is required, in any judicial or administrative proceeding in which fraud, deceit, coercion, breach of trust, unfair method of competition, unfair or deceptive trade act or practice, or assertion of unconscionable contractual provisions, or other similar act, practice, or conduct, on the part of the licensee-applicant is proven, and the time elapsed since the judgment or order is less than ten years; or

D. Has violated or failed to comply with any applicable provisions of this Code or rule or regulation prescribed under this subtitle; provided, that failure to obtain a license shall not be grounds for license denial; or

E. Is in default in any payment of any fee or tax required under Title 5 or Title 6 of the Seattle Municipal Code; or

F. Has been subject to an adverse finding in any judgment or order, in any judicial or administrative proceeding for violation of any provision of a City ordinance or rule or regulation prescribed thereunder pertaining to fire, building, health, sanitation, zoning, weights and measures, consumer protection, environmental protection, or any other ordinance or law and that is applicable to the licensed activity or licensed premises; or

G. Has been determined to have discriminated against any person because of race, color, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, political ideology, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical handicap, in the course of licensed activity, in violation of a City ordinance, law, rule or regulation prescribed thereunder; or

H. Has violated or failed to comply with any final order of the Director or Hearing Examiner; or

I. Has failed to complete the application for a license as required by this Code; or

J. Has failed to obtain a license or permit required by state or other law necessary to engage in the licensed activity; or

K. Has failed to comply with RCW Chapters 49.12 and 28A.28, and rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, regarding employment of minors; or

L. Any licensee has permitted or authorized his/her agent to violate or fail to comply with any provision of this Code(-); or

((E))M. The property at which the business is located has been determined by a court to be a chronic nuisance property as provided in SMC Chapter 10.09.

Section 5. The Chief of Police (Chief) and the City Attorney shall provide an annual report on the implementation of this ordinance. The report shall list each instance in which the Chief declared a property to be a chronic nuisance property and provided written notice to the persons in charge of the property. For each instance, the report shall describe:

A. The location and use of the property (i.e., whether residential or commercial, and if residential the number of units, and if commercial, the size and nature of the commercial use).

B. The nuisance activities on which the declaration was based.

C. The administrative and legal process resulting from the notice, including:

- (1) whether the notice resulted in a written correction agreement;
- (2) whether the notice resulted in the abatement of nuisance activities to the satisfaction of the Chief; and, if not,
- (3) whether the Chief referred the matter to the City Attorney for initiation of proceedings; and, if so,
- (4) whether the City Attorney initiated proceedings; and, if so,
- (5) whether a court determined the property to be a chronic nuisance property; and, if so,
- (6) what orders the court made, including penalties, other orders to abate the nuisance activities, or relocation assistance to tenants; and
- (7) whether the City revoked any business licenses on the property.

D. A summary of the consequences of the declaration to date, including actions taken by persons in charge to abate the nuisance activities, whether these included the eviction of tenants, and whether the nuisance activities appear to be permanently abated.

The report shall also include brief assessments by the Chief and the City Attorney on the overall effectiveness of the ordinance in reducing the problems resulting from chronic nuisance properties.

The Chief and City Attorney shall provide the report to the City Council in February of each year on the chronic nuisance property declarations in the prior calendar year. Any declarations not fully resolved by the end of the calendar year shall be described again the following year's report.

Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days after presentation, it shall take

effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

Passed by the City Council the 30th day of November, 2009, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 30th day of November, 2009.

Richard Conlin

President of the City Council

Approved by me this 3rd day of December, 2009.

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Filed by me this 4th day of December, 2009.

Publication ordered by the City Clerk

Date of publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, December 15, 2009.

12/15(248283)