

## ***Public Nuisance Ordinance #67600***

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This ordinance exists as an effort to aid in stabilizing communities within the City of St. Louis, by establishing a procedure for the abatement of public nuisances on occupied residential and commercial properties.

By definition, a nuisance is defined by this ordinance as “a continuing act or physical condition which is made, permitted, allowed or continued by any person or legal entity, their agents or servants or any person or legal entity who aids therein which is detrimental to the safety, welfare or convenience of the inhabitants of the City or a part thereof, or any act or condition so designated by statute or ordinance”.

A public nuisance exists when a property is used for two or more incidents within a 12 month period for the following:

- Prostitution;
- Illegal gambling;
- Illegal sale, manufacture, storing, possession, distribution or use of narcotics or other controlled substances or precursors;
- The illegal sale, manufacture, storing, possession, distribution or use of drug paraphernalia or precursors;
- The illegal sale, distribution or consumption of alcoholic beverages;
- Illegal sale, storing, possession, use or distribution of a firearm(s), weapons or explosive devices;
- Violation of municipal, state or federal business licensing regulations;
- Commission of any offense which is punishable by imprisonment of ninety days or more;
- Maintaining or permitting a condition or engaging in an activity which unreasonably annoys, injures or endangers the safety, health, morals or repose of any inhabitant of the City of St. Louis or a part thereof;
- Any other condition or activity that may constitute a felony, misdemeanor or ordinance violation under federal, state or municipal law which is detrimental to the safety, welfare or convenience of the inhabitants of the City of St. Louis or a part thereof.

Any property as defined above is determined to be a public nuisance per this ordinance, the owner or controller of the property will be sent a Cease and Desist Letter, giving the property owner or controller thirty (30) days in which to set forth reasonable abatement measures. Owner occupants or tenants must immediately cease all nuisance behavior. Failing to do so may result in owner occupants or tenants of residential buildings receiving a summons for “engaging in a nuisance” or “maintaining a nuisance.” Any owner of residential or commercial units shall be issued a summons for “failure to abate a nuisance.” If found guilty, the resulting fines would be anywhere between \$100 and up to \$500.

Failure to abate a public nuisance could also result in an Administrative Hearing, which could result in the problem property or problem unit of a property being closed and boarded for a period of up to one year.