

ORDINANCE NO.: 2019-099

*Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 8, Environmental Health and Sanitation, Article II, Nuisances, Sec. 8-31 Nuisance - Definitions (b) Nuisances affecting public health*

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council this 3rd day of December, 2019, that the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 8, Environmental Health and Sanitation, Article II, Nuisances, Sec. 8-31 Nuisance - Definitions (b) (9), is amended to read as follows

**Sec. 8-31. Nuisance-Definitions.**

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended:

*Abate* means repair, replace, remove, destroy or otherwise remedy the condition in question by such means, in such time, in such a manner and to such an extent as the enforcement officer or hearing committee shall determine to be in the best interest of the public, taking into account all facts and circumstances.

*Business days* means Monday at 9:00 am through Friday at 5:00 pm.

*Citation* means a charge or formal written accusation of violation of a municipal, state or federal law, regulation or ordinance, including any violations of the International Property Maintenance Code as adopted by the City of Columbia.

*Conviction* means a person has been found by a court of competent jurisdiction to have violated a municipal, state or federal law, regulation or ordinance, including any violations of the International Property Maintenance Code as adopted by the City of Columbia.

*Delinquent arrearage* means any funds or monies owed to the City of Columbia which were due to be paid on a date prior but have not been paid when due, provided, this shall not include arrearages which are the subject of a repayment plan or abatement agreement entered into with the City of Columbia.

*Enforcement officer* means a law enforcement officer, code enforcement official or city employee or official as may be designated in writing by the city manager or chief of police to enforce the provisions of this division.

*Ghost gun* means a homemade firearm which was created or assembled without a serial number.

*Graffiti* means any unauthorized inscription, word, figure, painting or other defacement that is written, marked, etched, scratched, sprayed, drawn, painted, or engraved on or otherwise affixed to any surface of public or private property by any graffiti implement, to the extent that the graffiti was not authorized in advance by the owner or occupant of the property, or, despite advance authorization.

*Hearing board* means the Property Maintenance Board of Appeals.

*Industrial wastes* means all liquid and water-borne solid, liquid or gaseous wastes resulting from industrial manufacturing, food processing operation, processing any natural resource or mixture of such wastes with water or domestic sewage.

*Notice* means a written document informing the citizen of the nature of the violation.

*Person* means any landlord, property owner, manager, lessee, tenant, or individual, group, association, corporation, partnership, trust, estate or receiver having the capacity to sue or be sued.

*Premises* mean any building, lot parcel, real estate, or land or portion of land whether improved or unimproved, occupied or unoccupied, including adjacent parking.

*Public nuisance* means as determined by an enforcement officer based upon the facts and circumstances found after reasonable inquiry, investigation or upon citizen report, those conditions or events which constitute an unreasonable interference with rights of the public in general, and where, in a public place, or where the public congregates, or where the public is likely to come within the range of influence through the senses, a person unlawfully does an act or omits to perform a duty, which act or omission does any one or more of the following:

(1) Annoys, injures, subverts or endangers the public's order, economy, resources, safety, health, welfare, comfort, repose or offends public decency;

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(2) Unlawfully interferes with, obstructs or tends to obstruct, or renders dangerous for passage any waters or public places or way;

*Structure* means anything constructed, built or planted upon, any edifice or building of any kind or any piece of work artificially built up or composed of parts joined together in some definite manner, which structure requires location on the ground or is attached to something having a location on the ground.

(b) *Nuisances affecting public health.* The following are hereby declared to be nuisances affecting public health:

(1) All decayed or unwholesome food products or food waste not properly contained either inside or outside for more than 24 hours before pickup;

(2) Any violations of the smoking provisions of Division 5 of Chapter 8 of Article IV of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, provided, however, the remedies under that section are exclusive and remedies contained herein for nuisances are not available;

(3) All pools of stagnant water or vessels holding stagnant water in which mosquitoes can breed, excluding required retention ponds;

(4) Swimming pools which violate any of the requirements of Section 5-1 of the City of Columbia Code of Ordinances;

(5) Any violations of Chapter 4 of the City of Columbia Ordinances as it relates to animal or animal waste;

(6) Any violation of the International Property Maintenance Code, as adopted by the City of Columbia, which related to sewage or leaks of sewage;

(7) Deliberate placement or discharge of into any part of a storm water drainage system of: untreated sewage, sewage solids, process wastewater, refuse, explosive or combustible liquid, solid or gas, oils, greases, industrial water or other polluted water except where a federal, state or local permit for connections, discharge or disposal has been obtained prior to the event; or waters or wastes containing toxic or poisonous wastes to constitute a hazard to humans, plants or animals or to cause corrosion, discoloration or deposition on real or personal property; or any solid or viscous substances in such quantities or of such size capable of causing obstruction to the flow in the storm water drainage system or other interference with the proper operation of the drainage system of the city.

(8) All structures in violation of the International Property Maintenance Code or Chapter 5 of City of Columbia Ordinances, as adopted and all structures, for a period of 90 days, which remain unoccupied and boarded up, and whose exterior finish is destroyed, decayed, dilapidated or deteriorated in violation of the International Property Maintenance Code, as adopted.

(9) Any act, structure, device, or location which is used for the manufacture, assembly, storage, warehousing, distribution or sale of one or more ghost guns.

The rest and remainder of this section shall remain unchanged.

Requested by:

Mayor Benjamin

  
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Mayor

Approved by:

Cherisa Wilson  
City Manager

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Introduced:

Final Reading: