



Legislation Text

File #: 35363, Version: 1

Fiscal Note

No additional appropriation is required. The Ordinance will extend the sunset and maintain current practice.

Title

Reenacting Section 25.10 of the Madison General Ordinances to reenact the nuisance house party ordinance and extend the sunset date of said ordinance.

Body

DRAFTER'S ANALYSIS: This proposal extends the sunset date of the nuisance house party ordinance until October 8, 2014. Because the ordinance expired as of August 31, 2014, this is accomplished by reenacting the ordinance with a new sunset date.

The Common Council of the City of Madison do hereby ordain as follows:

Section 25.10 entitled "Nuisance Party Prohibited" of the Madison General Ordinances is reenacted to read as follows:

"25.10 NUISANCE PARTY PROHIBITED.

- (1) Findings. The Madison Common Council finds that there are parties occurring on premises located throughout the city, which are unsafe and are public nuisances to our community. These parties involve large amounts of alcohol beverages that are illegally sold and/or provided to individuals in attendance, including underage individuals. These parties often result in excessive noise levels, dangerous overcrowding of the premise and excessive consumption of alcohol, as well as other law violations.
- (2) Nuisance parties create a substantial risk to the health and safety of the community and disrupt the peace and tranquility of the neighborhood. This ordinance provides a method for Police to quickly and efficiently abate a nuisance party and provides penalties to those responsible for hosting the parties.
- (3) Definitions. For purposes of this section:
 - (a) "Nuisance Party" means a social gathering at which alcohol is present and/or consumed, that, by reason of the conduct of persons in attendance, results in violations of the Madison General Ordinances ("MGO") and/or Wisconsin State Statutes ("Wis. Stat.") and is one in which such violations occur at the site of the social gathering or on neighboring public or private property. Such violations must be associated with or substantially relate back to the social gathering occurring at a specific address. The determination that a gathering is a nuisance party shall be based upon the totality of the circumstances and consideration of all the facts, the context and reasonable suspicion that the activities pose a danger to the public health, safety and welfare. In making the determination, the police may use the following law violations as evidence of a nuisance party:
 1. Selling, offering for sale or giving away of any intoxicating liquors or fermented malt beverages without a license as provided in Sec. 38.05(1), MGO or Wis. Stat. § 125.04(1).
 2. Procuring for or furnishing alcohol beverages to underage person as provided in Sec. 38.031, MGO or Wis. Stat. § 125.07(1)(a)1.
 3. Procuring for, selling, dispensing or giving away alcohol beverages to a person who is intoxicated as provided in Sec. 38.04(1)(a)1, MGO or Wis. Stat. § 125.07(2)1.
 4. Possessing or consuming alcohol beverages from an open container on a public

- street or alley as provided in Sec. 38.07(7), MGO.
5. Knowingly permit or fail to take action to prevent the illegal consumption of alcohol by an underage person as provided in Sec. 38.031, MGO or Wis. Stat. § 125.07(a)(a)3.
6. The production or creation of noises disturbing the peace, as prohibited by Sec. 24.04, MGO.
7. Violation of fire codes due to overcrowding as provided in Sec. 34.01, MGO.
8. Throwing of stones or other missiles or other items as provided in Sec. 25.21, MGO.
9. Obstructing stairways and entrances to buildings as provided in Sec. 24.07, MGO.
10. Obstruction of streets and sidewalks as provided in Sec. 10.23(1), MGO.
11. Disorderly conduct as provided in Sec. 24.02, MGO or Wis. Stat. § 947.01.
12. Depositing human waste as provided in Sec. 7.321, MGO.
13. Damage to property as provided in Sec. 23.06, MGO or Wis. Stat. § 943.01.
14. Unlawful depositing of trash or litter as provided in Sec. 7.32, MGO.
15. Battery as provided in Sec. 24.05, MGO or Wis. Stat. § 940.19.
16. Endangering safety by use of a dangerous weapon as provided in Wis. Stat. § 941.20.
17. Recklessly endangering safety as provided in Wis. Stat. § 941.30.
- (b) "Person" means any natural person, agent, association, firm, partnership, corporation or other entity capable of owning, occupying or using property in the City of Madison.
- (c) "Premise" means a place of abode, a residence, a house or multiple dwelling unit for rooming houses, and associated common areas, yards and parking lots. In the case of multiple dwelling units, "premises" as used in this section, may consist of any single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one (1) or more persons, including provisions for living sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.
- (4) Duty to Control Premise. Any person who is an owner, occupant, tenant, or otherwise has rightful possession or possessory control, individually or jointly with others, of any premise, who either sponsors, conducts, hosts, invites, or permits a social gathering or party on said premise which is or becomes a nuisance party, as defined in sub. (2)(a) of this ordinance, and which nuisance is either the intentional result of, or within the reasonable expectations of, the person or persons having such possessory control, is deemed to be a violation of this section.
- (5) Order to Cease and Disperse. All participants at any social gathering declared by a police officer to be a nuisance party shall immediately cease participating in that nuisance activity and disperse immediately upon such order of a police officer, and all persons not residing at the premise shall leave immediately. Any person who fails or refuses to obey such an order shall be guilty of a violation of this section.
- (6) Notice of Nuisance Party Declaration.
 - (a) Within ten (10) days of a Nuisance Party Declaration, the police department shall send the premise owner and tenants a Notice of Nuisance Party Declaration. A copy of the notice shall be sent to the alderperson of the district in which the premise is located. The notice shall set forth the date, place, names of occupants/tenants involved, nature of the violation and shall inform the premise owner and tenants of the necessity to take action to prevent future nuisance parties at the premise. The Notice shall require the premise owner and tenants to contact the Madison Police Department District Captain or his/her designee and the City Attorney or designee and schedule a meeting within ten (10) days after receipt of the Notice. The Notice shall be given by first class mail using the premise owner's address that is on file with the City of Madison Assessor's records and shall be mailed to the tenants at the nuisance party address.

1. Prior to notice to the premise owner, all police reports relating to the incident shall be reviewed by the District Captain or his/her designee to determine whether the facts alleged support declaring a social gathering a “nuisance” given the totality of the circumstances.
 2. A premise owner(s) and/or tenant(s) who contact and meet with the District Captain and City Attorney pursuant to a Notice of Nuisance Party Declaration shall not be subject to a forfeiture for “Allowing a Nuisance Party” for a first nuisance party declaration. Failure to make contact and meet with the Police Department and the City Attorney shall result in a forfeiture for each premise owner and tenant pursuant to sub. (7) of this ordinance.
 3. If the premise owner meets as set forth in sub. 2., the premise owner shall present an acceptable abatement plan to abate future nuisance party activity at the premise and shall provide written detail as to what measures the premise owner plans to take regarding the abatement of future nuisance party activity. If a premise owner is actively and in good faith working with the District Captain and the City Attorney to abate nuisance party activity, the premise owner shall not be subject to further forfeiture actions under this ordinance.
- (b) If a subsequent nuisance party is declared at the same premise within a six- (6) month period and the same occupant(s)/tenant(s) are responsible for the second nuisance party, the police department shall send the premise owner and tenants a second notice of nuisance party ordinance violation within ten (10) days of the party and the premise owner and tenants may be charged with violating this ordinance and may be subject to the forfeiture stated in sub. (7) of this ordinance. A copy of the nuisance party declaration notice shall be sent to the alderperson of the district in which the premise is located.
1. Prior to a premise owner or tenant being charged with a violation of sub. (b), all police reports relating to the incident shall be reviewed by the District Captain or his/her designee to determine whether the facts alleged support charging the premise owner given the totality of the circumstances. In making a charging decision against the premise owner, the District Captain and the City Attorney shall also consider the good faith efforts of the premise owner in trying to abate the nuisance party activity and if the District Captain and City Attorney are satisfied that the premise owner is diligently working toward abating such activity, no charges shall be filed against the premise owner for allowing a second nuisance party.
 2. A premise owner shall be prohibited from delegating or otherwise assigning any forfeiture assessed against the premise owner under this subsection to any occupant/tenant of the premises where the violation occurred. Such delegation or assignment shall result in an additional violation of this section and subject the premise owner to further forfeiture action under sub. (6) of this ordinance.
- (c) If a third or subsequent party is declared at the same premise within a six- (6) month period and the same occupant(s)/tenant(s) are responsible for the third or subsequent nuisance party, the District Captain or his/her designee shall send the premise owner a third notice of Nuisance Party Declaration within ten (10) days of the party, and the premise owner may be charged with violating this ordinance and may be subject to the forfeiture stated in sub. (7) of this ordinance. A copy of the nuisance party declaration notice shall be sent to the alderperson of the district in which the premise is located.
1. Prior to a premise owner being charged with a violation of sub. (c), all police reports relating to the incident shall be reviewed by the District Captain or his/her designee to determine whether the facts alleged support charging the premise owner given the totality of the circumstances.
 2. A premise owner shall be prohibited from delegating or otherwise assigning any

forfeiture assessed against the premise owner under this subsection to any occupant/tenant of the premise where the violation occurred. Such delegation or assignment shall result in an additional violation of this section and subject the premise owner to further forfeiture action under sub. (7) of this ordinance.

- (7) Penalty. Any person violating this section may be subject to a forfeiture of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5000) for each violation.
- (8) Severability. The provisions of this section are severable. If any provision of this section is held to be invalid or unconstitutional or if the application of any provision of this section to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such holding shall not affect the other provisions or applications of this section which can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provisions or applications. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Common Council that this section would have been adopted had any invalid or unconstitutional provision or applications not be included herein.
- (9) Annual Review. The effect of this ordinance shall be reviewed every year. In addition to any public feedback, a report shall be prepared by City staff, including the Alcohol Policy Coordinator and the Police Department and shared with the following committees: Alcohol License Review Committee; Landlord and Tenant Issues Committee; Public Safety Review Committee and the Common Council. This review will be due December 1st of each year, with the first report due December 1st, 2012. This report will include:
 - (a) information regarding house parties dispersed by the police;
 - (b) number of citations issued relating to house parties;
 - (c) the average and maximum fines imposed for a house party; and
 - (d) number of parties deemed a nuisance under this ordinance.This information should be organized by police districts. In addition, the report should include any qualitative information gathered by City staff on the subject of house parties in Madison that may be relevant to the various committees and Common Council.
- (10) This section shall expire and be of no legal effect on October 8, 2014, unless extended by the Common Council prior to the expiration date."