

April 9, 2025

**To:** Mayor and Members of City Council

202500719

**From:** Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

**Subject: Ordinance – Recovery of Cost Related to Nuisances**

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Attached is an Ordinance captioned:

**MODIFYING** the provisions of Title XVI, “Neighborhood Quality of Life Uniform Code,” and Title XV, “Code Compliance and Hearings,” of the Cincinnati Municipal Code by **ORDAINING** new Section 1601-95, “Cost of Abating a Public Nuisance,” and **AMENDING** Section 1501-27, “Civil Proceedings,” to provide additional remedies to recover costs of abating public nuisances or enforcement.

The city departments enforcing ordinances to protect the public from nuisances work to have the people responsible for creating the nuisances abate them. These nuisances include demolition of unsafe buildings, weed cutting, litter clean up, graffiti removal and other nuisances harmful to communities. When a violator will not timely abate a nuisance having exhausted available enforcement remedies, the city must step in to abate the nuisance and face collecting the costs. This ordinance clarifies the methods and legal remedies the city may use to recover costs when the people responsible for nuisances refuse to pay for municipal abatement voluntarily.

It is important for the City of Cincinnati to summarily abate nuisances timely to minimize the harm to neighborhoods when owners fail to comply. This ordinance will give the city the options to more effectively hold the offenders responsible for the high costs of abatement. The ability to see that those individual violators rather than the public pay abatement costs will serve as a deterrent to repeat violations. And higher rates of recovery of abatement costs and associated expenses will help ensure resources are available to cover the rising costs of municipal nuisance abatement in the future.

The Administration recommends passage of this Ordinance.

CC: Art Dahlberg, Buildings and Inspections Director  
William “Billy” Weber, Assistant City Manager