



Nuisance Ordinance Subcommittee

- The Subcommittee was formed in Sep. 2024 to address issues related to neighborhood safety and quality of life.
- Committee members
 - Vice Mayor Garlid, Chair
 - Mayor Woods
 - Councilmember Chin





Nuisance Ordinance Subcommittee

- The Subcommittee has held four open meetings with the City Attorney, Police, and Code Compliance.
- Discussions resulted in strengthening the nuisance and loud party ordinances:
 - Shortened time between violations to close loopholes.
 - Increased fines.
 - Specific language to hold responsible the tenant and property owner.
 - Clarity on what has a negative community impact.





Nuisance Ordinance Subcommittee

What do these changes mean for the community?

- The updated nuisance ordinance introduces several critical improvements aimed at reducing the burden of excessive calls for service on the Tempe Police Department (TPD) and Tempe Fire Medical Rescue (TFMR) while holding habitual violators accountable. These changes ensure enhanced public safety, streamlined enforcement, and improved property management practices.





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Key Enhancements and Benefits

1. Increased Accountability for Chronic Nuisance Properties:

- The ordinance establishes Community Impact Properties and High-Risk Community Impact Properties, defining thresholds for excessive police and fire service calls.
- Property owners and businesses with repeated nuisance violations may now be required to enter into Security Agreements or Security Plans, ensuring corrective action to mitigate ongoing issues.
- This prevents the continued drain on police and fire resources caused by repeat offenders.

2. Stronger Fines for Habitual Violators:

- The ordinance raises fines for nuisance parties and unlawful gatherings, aligning them closer with the true cost of public safety responses.
- Progressive penalty structures ensure that repeat offenders face higher financial consequences, discouraging continued violations.

3. Enhanced Enforcement of Quality-of-Life Crimes:

- Strengthened language that enables TPD to cite property owners, tenants, and businesses responsible for repeated community disturbances.
- Expanded definitions of nuisance activities include violent crimes, drug offenses, and obstruction of emergency services, giving law enforcement broader authority to intervene.





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Key Enhancements and Benefits

4. Reducing Avoidable Calls for Fire and Medical Services:

- The ordinance now penalizes licensed healthcare facilities that generate excessive emergency calls due to improper staffing.
- TFMR resources are often diverted to facilities that fail to meet state-mandated staffing requirements, leading to unnecessary 911 calls.
- Fines for "Unreasonable Medical Calls for Service" ensure that healthcare facilities properly staff their operations rather than relying on emergency responders to fill staffing gaps.

5. Expanded Authority for Immediate Action on Public Safety Threats:

- The Chief of Police, and /or designee, now have increased discretion to designate properties as high-risk, mandating corrective action without waiting for prolonged violation histories.
- The ordinance includes abatement procedures, allowing the city to take immediate corrective measures when a property poses an imminent danger.





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Key Enhancements and Benefits

6. **Stronger Coordination Between Law Enforcement and Property Owners:**
 - The ordinance emphasizes early intervention, providing property owners an opportunity to address violations before fines escalate.
 - Through the use of Security Plans and Security Agreements, TPD can now require landlords to provide tenant information when nuisance violations occur, increasing transparency and enforcement effectiveness.

7. **Rights to Appeal:**
 - The Tempe Municipal Court has been added to the appellate process to ensure the ordinance was applied correctly and, in the case of Nuisance Parties and Unlawful Gatherings, any previous proceedings were fair.





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Conclusion: A Balanced Approach to Keeping Neighborhoods Safer

- The updated ordinance balances public safety, property rights, and community welfare.
- It empowers TPD and TFMR with stronger enforcement tools while encouraging proactive compliance from property owners.
- These changes ultimately reduce avoidable emergency calls, improve response efficiency, and enhance quality of life for residents.





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Timeline

- Public Meetings: March 4
- Neighborhood Advisory Commission: March 5
- Comment online: March 4-16 tempe.gov/Forum
- Subcommittee Meeting: March 20
- Council Work Study Session: April 3
- Ordinance requires two public hearings:
 - Council Meeting: April 10
 - Council Meeting: May 1
- Ordinance changes take effect: June 1

