



City of Cleveland Memorandum
Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

TO: Michael D. Polensek, Chair
Safety Committee

FROM: Dornat A. Drummond, Director
Department of Public Safety

DATE: March 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Ordinance No. 228-2025 to amend Sections 630.01 and 630.02 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, as amended by Ordinance No. 574-18, passed May 14, 2018, relating to criminal activity nuisances declared and action to abate nuisances and cost of enforcement

If approved by Council, Ordinance No. 228-2025 would amend Sections 630.01 and 630.02 of the Codified Ordinances relating to criminal activity nuisances declared and action to abate nuisances and cost of enforcement.

The following summary outlines the proposed amendments to Sections 630.01 Criminal Activity Nuisances Declared and 630.02 Action to Abate Nuisances; Costs of Enforcement to strengthen the City's ability to address and abate nuisance activity.

Purpose of the Changes

The goal of these amendments is to ensure that effective action can be taken against properties associated with repeated nuisance activities that threaten public safety and quality of life in our neighborhoods.

Key Amendments to Section 630.01 – Criminal Activity Nuisances Declared

- Probable Cause Determination: Clarifies that an arrest or citation is not required to determine probable cause that a nuisance activity occurred. Explicitly states that police personnel may rely upon witness statements.
- Expanded Definitions: Introduces "person associated with the property" to enters, patronizes, or visits; or attempts to enter, patronize or visit; or waits to enter, patronize, or visit a property or person present on a property, including any officer, director, customer, agent, employee, or independent contractor of an owner.
- Expanded List of Nuisance Activities: Now includes:
 - All drug offenses under Ohio Revised Code 2925.



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- Equipment and safety violations under Sections 437.19 (Horn, Sirens, and Warning Devices) and 437.20 (Muffler; Muffler Cutout; Excessive Smoke, Gas or Noise) of the Codified Ordinances.
- Reckless operation offenses under Section 433.07 (Street Racing, Stunt Driving, and Street Takeover Prohibited) of the Codified Ordinances

Key Amendments to Section 630.02 – Action to Abate Nuisances; Costs of Enforcement

- Title Updates: Changes references to “Cuyahoga County Auditor” to “Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office.”
- Nuisance Declaration Process Adjustments:
 - If three or more nuisance activities occur within a six-month period, the Director of Public Safety will issue written notice warning that the property is at risk of being declared a nuisance.
 - The property owner must submit an abatement plan within 10 days. Failure to do so results in a \$100/day fine until a plan is submitted.
 - The Director has the discretion to declare the property a nuisance if another nuisance incident occurs at least 13 days—but no more than six months—after the notice.

The updated language provides flexibility for the Director to assess the legitimacy of reported nuisances to prevent individuals from abusing the system and to not discourage property owners from reporting criminal activity that is occurring on their property.