

CITY OF LYNN

Notice: Lynn City Council Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 5:15PM in the Council Chambers on the following Ordinance: **ESTABLISHING A PROBLEM PROPERTY TASK FORCE.**

Section 1:00 **Establishment.**

There is hereby established an advisory panel to be known as the Problem Properties Task Force, the members of which shall meet and share information concerning various properties in the City of Lynn as more fully outlined herein. The panel shall advise the Mayor and Council or his/her/their designee(s) of the actions taken by various City Departments and public agencies to address problems associated with such property and each member of the panel may use the information about such property in order to better enforce the laws, ordinances, codes or regulations that fall within such member's jurisdiction.

Section 2:00 **Composition.**

a. **Chair.** The Task Force shall be chaired by a member of the Chief of the Department of Inspectional Services.

b. **Members.** Members of the Task Force shall be:
The Chief of the Inspectional Services or his/her designee (Chair);
The Mayor or his/her designee;
One Member of the Lynn City Council as elected by a majority vote of the Lynn City Council or their designee;
The Police Chief or his/her designee;
The Fire Chief or his/her designee;
The City Solicitor or his/her designee;
The Executive Director of the Lynn Housing Authority or his/her designee;
The Principal Planner or his/her designee;
The Director of Community Development or his/her designee;
The Public Health Director or his/her designee;
The Parking Director or his/her designee;
The Collector-Treasurer or his/her designee;
The City of Lynn Code Enforcement Officer or his/her designee.

c. **Meetings.** The Task Force shall have regular meetings in City Hall and may meet at other locations in the City. Emergency meetings shall be held at the call of the Chair.

d. **Records.** Upon the effective date of this Ordinance, each member of the Task Force shall make a diligent search of the records of his or her department and gather all records of multiple calls from the public concerning specific addresses in the last twelve (12) month period. Such records shall be forwarded to the Chair or his/her designee, who shall establish master files for each address forwarded containing all records concerning that address. Such files may be kept in electronic form. Notwithstanding the forgoing, the Police Chief shall not forward any record that is part of a criminal investigation.

e. **Problem property definition.** A problem property shall be defined as:

1. Any property to which the Police Department has been dispatched or caused to respond not fewer than four (4) times within the preceding twelve (12) month period for any incident involving any criminal offense including but not limited to disturbing the peace, trespassing, underage drinking or assault or violation of any city ordinance involving unreasonable or excessive noise; or
2. Any property concerning which the Lynn Police Department has received not fewer than four (4) complaints for noise within the preceding twelve (12) month period; or
3. Any property that the Inspectional Services Department or the Public Health Division, thereof, has received not fewer than four (4) complaints within the preceding twelve (12) month period for noxious, noisome or unsanitary conditions; or
4. The Lynn Fire Department has received not fewer than four (4) sustained complaints within the preceding twelve (12) month period for dangerous and hazardous conditions. Provided, however, that the designation of a property as a problem property shall be made by the Problem Property Task Force taking into consideration the nature of the complaints, the number of dwelling units at the property, and the nature of the property.

f. **Heightened scrutiny.** Upon review of each file, the members of the Task Force may determine that a particular property warrants heightened scrutiny by the agency or agencies that they head.

1. In the case of properties in or around which recurring criminal activity has occurred in the preceding twelve (12) months, the Lynn Police Chief shall consider the appropriate police action to protect the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the property and the public and all other enforcement actions permitted by law.
 2. In the case of properties which have had multiple building and/or sanitary code violations in the preceding twelve (12) months, the Inspectional Services Chief and the Director of the Public Health Division shall, as appropriate, consider whether to expedite code enforcement proceedings and all other enforcement actions permitted by law.
 3. In the case of properties which have had recurring violations of noise regulations in the preceding twelve (12) months, the Lynn Police Department shall coordinate with the Law Department to institute proceedings for injunctive relief.
 4. In the case of properties which have had multiple fire code violations in the preceding twelve (12) months, the Fire Department Chief shall, as appropriate, consider any action necessary to protect the public from all dangerous and hazardous conditions and other enforcement actions permitted by law.
 5. Properties that meet the definition of a problem property set forth in paragraph (e) are subject to designation as "problem properties".
- g. **Notice of inclusion.** The Chair of the Task Force shall cause to be performed such duties as may be prescribed by Ordinance or Home Rule Petition, including notifying a property owner of the designation of his or her property as a problem property, and notifying a property owner of the intention to impose charges to recover the cost of public health and safety expenses related to that property.
- h. **Reports.** The Chair of the Task Force shall issue a quarterly report to the Mayor and City Council on the actions undertaken by the agencies represented by its members on problem properties.

Section 3:00 Severability.

If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid or unenforceable by any court, such a holding does not invalidate or render unenforceable any other provision of the chapter, and the rest of the chapter shall remain in full force and effect.

This meeting is closed to the public but will be televised live on the Lynn Community Television (LCTV) and also streamed on LCTV Facebook page. The public is welcome to call in "live" any questions or concerns at 781-586-6783 or 781-586-6773.

PER ORDER:

Janet Rowe, City Clerk