

ARTICLE III. NUISANCE PARTIES AND UNLAWFUL GATHERINGS

Sec. 5-30. Purpose.

(a) The city finds and determines that the control of nuisance parties on private property is necessary when such continued activity is determined to be a threat to the peace, health, safety or general welfare of the public. Often police response is required at a nuisance party in response to complaints in order to disperse uncooperative participants or enforce criminal laws. The response of police officers to a location constitutes a drain of personnel and resources which may leave other areas of the city without minimal levels of police protection, all of which creates a significant hazard to the safety of the police officers and to the public in general.

(b) The city finds and determines it is a public nuisance for any responsible person(s) or social hosts to permit, allow, or host an unlawful gathering at his or her place of residence (or other private real property under his or her ownership or control) where spirituous liquor is served to, or is in the possession of, or consumed by, any minor, or where illegal drugs are in the possession of, or consumed by, any person. When unlawful gatherings occur, the city finds and determines that early intervention through substance use education for the responsible person is desirable.

(Ord. No. 94.29, 12-8-94; Ord. No 2011.56, 11-3-11; Ord. No. 2013.30, 6-13-13)

Sec. 5-31. Definitions.

For the purpose of this article, the following terms shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them herein unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) *Juvenile* means a minor under the age of eighteen (18) years.
- (2) *Minor* means any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years.
- (3) *Owner* means any owner, as well as an agent of an owner acting on behalf of the owner to control or otherwise regulate the occupancy of use of the property.
- (4) *Premises* mean the property that is the site of a nuisance party or an unlawful gathering. For residential properties, a premise can mean the dwelling unit, units or other common areas where the nuisance party or the unlawful gathering occurs.
- (5) *Nuisance party* means an assembly of persons for a social activity or for a special occasion in a manner which constitutes a substantial disturbance of the quiet enjoyment of private or public property. This includes, but is not limited to, excessive noise or traffic, obstruction of public streets by crowds or vehicles, public drunkenness, the service of alcohol to minors, fights, disturbances of the peace and litter.
- (6) *Police service fee* means the fee as shown by a schedule adopted by the city council with the recommendation of the police chief to offset the cost of services provided by the police department in response to the nuisance party or unlawful gathering.
- (7) *Responsible person* means any persons in attendance including any owner, occupant,

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tenant, or tenant's guest or any sponsor, host or organizer of the social activity or special occasion constituting the nuisance party or unlawful gathering. If such a person is a juvenile, the term "responsible person" includes, in addition to the juvenile, the juvenile's parents or guardians. Responsible person does not include owners or persons in charge of premises where an unlawful gathering or nuisance party takes place if the persons in attendance obtained use of the property through illegal entry or trespassing.

(8) *Special security assignment* means the police services provided during any call in response to complaints or other information regarding nuisance party or unlawful gatherings.

(9) *Spirituous liquor* shall have the same meaning as defined in A.R.S. §4-101(31).

(10) *Unlawful gathering* means a party, gathering, or event where spirituous liquor is served to, or is in the possession of, or consumed by, any minor, or where illegal drugs are in the possession of, or consumed by, any person, regardless of whether it would otherwise qualify as a nuisance party.

(Ord. No. 94.29, 12-8-94; Ord. No. 2003.29, 10-30-03; Ord. No. 2011.56, 11-3-11; Ord. No. 2013.30, 6-13-13)

Sec. 5-32. Nuisance party.

(a) When any police officer responds to any nuisance party and that police officer determines that there is a threat to the public peace, health, safety or general welfare, the police officer shall issue a written notice to any responsible person(s). The responsible person(s) will be assessed a police service fee for special security assignments relating to nuisance parties as provided in Appendix A. The police officer or other police employee shall provide the notice of the violation to the responsible person(s) and the landlord or owner in any of the following manners:

- (1) Personal service to any responsible person(s) being cited at the nuisance party.
- (2) As to the resident(s) of the premise, posting of the notice on the door of the premises of the nuisance party.
- (3) As to the landlord or owner, notification of the posting of the notice of the nuisance party shall be mailed to the property owner at the address shown on the Maricopa County property tax assessment records. Notification shall be made by certified mail. The return receipt will service as evidence of service.

A. Upon request, the landlord must provide the names of any and all occupants listed on the leasing documents at any location where the police department responds to a nuisance party.

(b) If, after written notice of the violation as provided in subsection (a), a second or subsequent police response or responses is necessary to the same location or address for a nuisance party within ninety (90) days of the first response, such response shall be deemed a second response and subject to the police service fee as provided in Appendix A. If, after written

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notice of the violation as provided in subsection (a), a third response is necessary to the same location or address for a nuisance party within ninety (90) days of the second response, such response shall be deemed a third response and subject to the police service fee as provided in Appendix A.

(c) On any response to a nuisance party, the responsible person(s) may be assessed a fee commensurate with the next level fee for a nuisance party, if any of the following factors are found:

- (1) Minor in possession;
- (2) Minor in consumption;
- (3) Illegal drugs;
- (4) Weapons; or
- (5) Felonious conduct.

(Ord. No. 94.29, 12-8-94; Ord. No. 2003.29, 10-30-03; Ord. No. 2011.56, 11-3-11; Ord. No. 2013.30, 6-13-13)

Sec. 5-33. Unlawful gatherings.

(a) When any police officer responds to any unlawful gathering and that police officer determines that there is a threat to the public peace, health, safety or general welfare, the police officer shall issue a written notice to any responsible person(s). The responsible person(s) will be assessed a police service fee for special security assignments relating to unlawful gatherings as prescribed in Appendix A.

(b) A police service fee may be imposed on any police response to an unlawful gathering. For any first response, the responsible person may be eligible for substance use education class in lieu of the police service fee assessment.

(Ord. No. 94.29, 12-8-94; Ord. No. 2003.29, 10-30-03; Ord. No. 2011.56, 11-3-11; Ord. No. 2013.30, 6-13-13)

Sec. 5-34. Fees, billing; and appeal.

(a) The police service fee for special security assignments arising out of nuisance parties and unlawful gatherings shall be progressive depending on the number of repeat unlawful gatherings, and shall be established by city council (see Appendix A).

(b) The amount of such police service fees charged shall be deemed a joint and several debt to the city of any and all responsible persons, whether they received the benefit of such special security assignment services or not. If the responsible person(s) for the nuisance party or unlawful gathering is a juvenile, then the parents or guardians of that juvenile will also be jointly and severally liable for the costs incurred for police services. Any person owing money due for the police service fee shall be liable in an action brought in the name of the city for recovery of such amount, including reasonable attorney fees.

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(c) If a responsible person is the person who owns the property where a nuisance party or unlawful gathering takes place, the owner will not be charged the police service fee unless:

- (1) The owner was present at or had knowledge of the nuisance party or unlawful gathering and took no reasonable action to prevent the nuisance party or unlawful gathering; or
- (2) If the owner had been sent a notice from the city that a nuisance party or unlawful gathering had taken place on the premises, and a subsequent nuisance party or unlawful gathering with the same responsible person, persons, sponsors or hosts occurs within ninety (90) days of the mailing of such notice to the owner; or
- (3) If the owner/landlord fails to provide the names of the occupants listed on the leasing documents where the unlawful gathering or nuisance party occurs.

(d) The city shall waive part or all of a police service fee charged against the owner of the property where a nuisance party or unlawful gathering takes place if the owner provides proof that they did not have an adequate period of time to prevent the nuisance party or unlawful gathering that triggered the fee, or that they have taken reasonable action to prevent the occurrence of future disturbances at the property.

(e) The city does not waive its right to seek reimbursement for costs through any other legal remedies or procedures.

(f) The chief of police or his designee shall cause appropriate billings for the special security assignment to be made to the responsible person(s), which shall include the name and address of the responsible person(s), the date and time of the incident and the police services performed, and such other information as may be desired.

(g) Any responsible person(s) who wishes to dispute the determination that they are liable for the police service fee may appeal to the police commander assigned to that geographical location. If the responsible person is unsuccessful they may submit a request for an administrative review hearing in writing no more than ten (10) days after the unsuccessful appeal to the commander. The city and the responsible person(s) disputing the fee shall be given notice of the hearing and an opportunity to be heard. The hearing officer shall establish rules of administration and procedure to ensure the fair and orderly conduct of hearings held pursuant to this section.

(Ord. No. 94.29, 12-8-94; Ord. No. 2003.29, 10-30-03; Ord. No. 2013.13, 6-13-13)

Sec. 5-35. Other remedies.

Nothing in this article shall be construed as affecting the ability to initiate or continue concurrent or subsequent criminal prosecution for any violation of the provisions of the city code or state law arising out of the circumstances necessitating the application of this article.

(Ord. No. 94.29, 12-8-94)