

## Informational Only: Public/Chronic Nuisance Ordinance Overview

**Property owners are legally responsible for properly maintaining/managing their properties.** If a public/chronic nuisance exists, under Fond du Lac City Ordinance Chapter 476, the property owner may be subject to the following:

- 1) Citation(s) for Maintaining a Public Nuisance, with fines up to **\$1321.00** per incident for each day the nuisance continues.
- 2) Bill(s) for police services at the property due to failure to eliminate the nuisance activity. If not paid, the bill amounts may be assessed as a special charge against the premises.
- 3) Additional legal action against the owner/property by the City through Circuit Court.

### **Billing Property Owners**

The second section of Chapter 476 allows the city to recover the costs of police services from the property owner under certain circumstances. The procedure is as follows:

- 1) The property is deemed a chronic nuisance.
- 2) The owner is notified via a formal letter, sent certified mailed, and is ordered to appear for an abatement hearing on a given date/time.
- 3) If the owner does not make a bona fide effort to follow the abatement plan, the City of Fond du Lac may bill the owner for any additional nuisance police calls to that property.

**Deeming a property a chronic nuisance:** A property may be deemed a chronic nuisance when there have been three or more separate police responses resulting in enforcement action (citation, or arrest) due to the following types of violations within any 12-month period:

- Harassment
- Disorderly conduct
- Battery
- Lewd & lascivious behavior
- Prostitution
- Theft
- Possession of stolen property
- Arson
- Inspection-related calls in which the police department responds
- Illegal drug activity
- Gambling
- Animal violations
- Trespassing
- Weapons violations
- Noise violations
- Execution of warrants
- Alcohol violations
- Obstructing/resisting

It should further be noted that **calls generated by the property owner are exempt and will not be counted.**

### **Working with Property Owners**

The City of Fond du Lac and the Fond du Lac Police Department strive to work cooperatively with property owners in resolving problems at properties. Legal action as mentioned above is only used when there is no other resolution to a situation. Please do not hesitate to contact one of your District Police Officers for your area.