

TOWN OF WATERTOWN
BLIGHT ORDINANCE
Ord. No. 02-06-17-301

The Code entitled the "Code of Ordinances, Town of Watertown, Connecticut," as adopted by Ord. No. 10-06-03-252 on October 6, 2003, and subsequently amended by the Town Council, and published by Municipal Code Corporation, is hereby amended by adding to Section 6 *Buildings and Building Regulations*, to be entitled Blight Regulations and to be numbered Article V as adopted on October 19, 2015, Ord No. 10-19-15-293.

- **Sec. 6-153. - Definitions.**

The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this article:...

Blight Enforcement Task Force: The Blight Enforcement Task Force shall be appointed by the Town Manager to enforce all provisions of this article. The Blight Enforcement Task Force is hereby authorized to take such enforcement actions as are specified in this article. In general, the Blight Enforcement Task Force shall be made up of (add: *the Town Manager*), a police officer, the building official, the public health official, the fire marshal, the zoning enforcement officer and the Town Attorney.

- **Sec. 6-160. - Enforcement.**

(a) If the corrective actions specified in the warning notice letter are not taken, the (add: *police officer member of the*) Task Force shall issue a written citation to the owner and any occupant....

- **Sec. 6-161. - Hearing.**

~~(a) — An owner or an occupant may request a hearing after receiving a citation. Said owner or occupant must make his/her request for a hearing within ten (10) days of issuance of the citation. Said request shall be made in writing to the following: Citation Hearing Officer(s), Town of Watertown 424 Main Street, Watertown, CT 06795.~~

~~(b) The citation hearing officer(s) are designated to conduct hearings in accordance with section 7-152c, subsections (a) through (f) of the Connecticut General Statutes, when requested by an owner/occupant who has been cited under this article.~~

~~(c) — Any cited person who wishes to admit liability without requesting a hearing may pay the full amount of the fines, penalties, costs or fees admitted to in person or by mail to the Task Force. Such payment shall be inadmissible in any proceeding, civil or criminal, to establish the conduct of such person or other person making the payment. Any person who does not deliver or mail written demand for a hearing within ten (10) days of the citation shall~~

~~be deemed to have admitted liability, and the Task Force or his/her designee shall certify such person's failure to respond. The citation hearing board shall thereupon enter and assess the fines, penalties, costs or fees provided for by the applicable ordinances and shall follow the procedures set forth in section 7-152c(f) of the Connecticut General Statutes.~~

~~(d) — Any person who requests a hearing shall be given written notice of the date, time and place for a hearing to be held within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the original request notice. The citation hearing officer(s) may grant a postponement or continuance for good cause. An original or certified copy of the citation and notice shall be filed and retained by the Task Force.~~

~~(e) — Pending the hearing before the citation hearing officer(s), no further enforcement activity as contemplated by subsections 6-163(b) or (c) of this article shall occur until either a hearing is held and the citation hearing officer(s) assesses fines, penalties, costs and/or fees or until the petitioner fails to appear for a scheduled hearing and the citation hearing officer(s) assesses fines, penalties, costs and/or fees. This section shall not preclude the accrual of fines during the period from the issuance of the notice until a hearing is held.~~

Insert: Any person against whom a citation is issued pursuant to this ordinance shall be entitled to a hearing in accordance with Section 1-12 of the Code of Ordinances.

- **Sec. 6--162. - Appointment of citation hearing officer(s).**

The citation hearing (change officer to: *officer(s)*) shall be appointed as provided under section 1-12 of the Watertown Code of Ordinances.

- **Sec. 6-163. - Penalties for offenses; prejudgment lien.**

(a) The owner of premises where a violation of any of the provisions of this article shall exist or who shall maintain any building or premises in which such violations exist may:

(1) Be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each violation. Each day that a violation exists after a citation as described in section 6-160 of this article is given to the owner shall constitute a new violation, and a fine may be imposed for each such violation; (change: and to and/or ...)

- **Sec. 6-164. - Appeals; special consideration.**

(a) Any person aggrieved by any order, requirement or decision of the citation hearing board may take an appeal in accordance with section 7-152c(g) of the Connecticut General Statutes (add: and Section 1-12(h) of the Code of Ordinances)....

Except as modified and amended herein, all of the provisions of this chapter shall remain in full force and effect.

This ordinance shall take effect twenty-one days after publication pursuant to Charter Section 307.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 7th day of February, 2017.

Thomas L. Winn, Chairman

Introduced: 1-16-2017

Date of Council Public Hearing: 2-06-2016

Date of Approval of Ordinance by Town Council: 2-06-2017

Date of Publication: 2-16-2017 (Town Times)

Effective Date of Ordinance: 3-09-2017