

**TO:** Mayor Robinson and City Council

**FROM:** Jeffrey L. McCormick, Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** Nuisance Property Ordinance Enforcement

**DATE:** May 11, 2017

**BACKGROUND**

Last fall the initial dealing with nuisance property was moved from the Public Works Department to the Police Department. The Police Department has always done the enforcement, if they did not comply with Public Works notice.

However, now the Police Department handles the initial complaint, notice of non-compliance and enforcement if necessary. We have worked to create a notice for non-compliance and the process to be used and when/how the follow-up will be conducted. The objective was to ensure the process is applied consistently regardless of which officer is assigned.

I would like to receive some direction from the City Council in two areas on how you wish the Police Department to approach Ordinance enforcement of nuisances. This guidance is similar to the direction the Police Department received from the City Council regarding the enforcement of winter parking restrictions.

- What approach for nuisance Ordinance violation would the City Council want the Police Department to take: officer initiated or response to citizen complaints?
- What community standard should be utilized to determine if a property is in compliance with the Ordinance?

Relating to the second question Lt. Berg and I discussed using a one-block area around a residence, a larger area or section of the city or the city as a whole. We came to the conclusion that this decision was best made by the City Council to ensure that we are following their wishes, in the procedures we use to ensure consistency in dealing with properties around the City.

**REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

Direction from the City Council regarding the two questions to help the Police Department be consistent in the application of Ordinance enforcement for nuisance properties.