

"Nuisance Parties and Unlawful Gatherings" Potential Questions, Key Messages

Why is the city proposing this new ordinance?

The City of Scottsdale believes that nuisance parties on private property can be a threat to the peace, health, safety or general welfare of the public. Often police and other first responder response is required at a nuisance party in response to complaints of disturbances, the need to disperse uncooperative participants, the need to enforce criminal laws or city ordinances and/or the provision of other emergency services. The response of police officers and other city personnel to a nuisance party location is a drain of personnel and resources which may leave other areas of the City without minimal levels of police and public safety protections, all of which creates a significant hazard to the safety of the police and other city personnel and to the public in general.

Doesn't the city have an existing ordinance that covers this?

No, the City does not have an existing ordinance that specifically addresses this issue in this manner.

Is this ordinance only applicable to rentals?

No, this ordinance is applicable to all private residences whether they are long term rentals, short term rentals, or owner occupied.

What are some of the major points of the ordinance?

1. Nuisance party is defined as 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.
2. Unlawful gathering is defined as 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.
3. Assessment of service fees on a sliding scale for police response to nuisance party and unruly gathering calls including in some cases assessment of such fees on landlords.
4. Civil prosecution of occupants and/or owners for holding nuisance parties or unruly gatherings including in some cases prosecution of landlords.

When will the ordinance go into effect if the City Council adopts it?

If the City Council adopts the ordinance, it will not go into effect for 30 days.