

**CITY OF ST. GEORGE**

**BY COUNCILMEMBER EDMONDS:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-018**

TO ENACT TITLE 12, CHAPTER 9 RELATIVE TO  
KEEPING AND LETTING A DISORDERLY PLACE AND  
TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS

WHEREAS, R.S. 33:361 vests municipalities governed by the Lawrason Act “with all powers, rights, privileges, immunities, authorities, and duties ... possessed in accordance with all constitutional and statutory provisions” and authorizes them “to exercise any power and perform any function necessary, requisite, or proper for the management of its affairs not denied by law”; and

WHEREAS, the keeping or letting of a disorderly place negatively impacts the public health, safety and welfare of the area residents and negatively impacts area businesses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the St. George City Council, State of Louisiana that Chapter 9 of Title 12 is hereby enacted to reach as follows:

**Section 1. Enactment**

**Sec. 12:901. Definitions**

- (a) *Disorderly place* means a residential, commercial or vacant building or premise used habitually for any illegal purpose. A building or premise shall be presumed to be a disorderly place when law enforcement officers have on more than one occasion in the preceding 12-month period, cited or arrested any individual for or executed any search warrant for any crime involving alcohol consumption, controlled substances, excessive noise, human trafficking, illegal discharge of a firearm, possession or storing of contraband or stolen things, prostitution or violence.
- (b) *Keeping a disorderly place* is knowingly engaging in, encouraging, or failing to implement measures to deter or prevent activities at a building or premise involving alcohol consumption, controlled substances, excessive noise, human trafficking, illegal discharge of a firearm, possession or storing of contraband or stolen things, prostitution or violence.
- (c) *Letting a disorderly place* is leasing or authorizing another to use any residential, commercial or vacant building or premise knowing the individual or entity intends to or is likely to be keeping a disorderly place or continuing to lease or authorize another to use any building or premise after obtaining knowledge the individual or entity intends to or is keeping a disorderly place.

**Sec. 12:903. Responsibilities of property owners**

- (a) Property owners are responsible for maintaining order within the buildings and upon the

premises, whether occupied or vacant. After notice of the keeping or letting a disorderly place, property owners shall take such action necessary to prohibit, deter and prevent any activity from occurring which poses a threat to the public health, safety and welfare of area residents, interferes with the security or peaceful enjoyment of neighboring properties or requires intervention of law enforcement.

- (b) Keeping or letting a disorderly place is declared a nuisance requiring property owners to take all necessary actions to abate the nuisance.

**Sec. 12:905. Abatement**

- (a) Upon determination by the Code Enforcement Officer that a building or premise is a disorderly place constituting a nuisance, the City shall notify each owner of the disorderly place at their mailing address on the last property tax assessment and shall notify the occupant of the property, if any, at the property address or by placing a notice at the property.
- (b) If violations are not abated, the City shall be authorized to take action to abate the violation including issuing an order to close and vacate the property for a period of up to one year. The close and vacate order shall be posted conspicuously at the disorderly place. A close and abate or shall not constitute an act of possession, ownership or control by the City. A close and vacate order shall be rescinded upon sufficient proof of appropriate abatement measures.
- (c) If the property owner fails to comply with the order to close and vacate, the Code Enforcement Officer may revoke the certificate of occupancy and seek any other relief afforded by law.

**Sec. 12:907. Civil penalties**

Noncompliance with any provision of this Chapter may be enforced pursuant to the administrative procedures set forth in Title 4 of the Code of Ordinances. Noncompliance with any provision of this Chapter shall be subject to a fine of up to \$500 per occurrence. Each day on noncompliance shall constitute a separate occurrence.

**Section 2. Conflicts.** This Ordinance shall supersede any ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance.

**Section 3. Severability.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or provision of this Ordinance is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such declaration of invalidity shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole, or parts thereof, other than the part declared invalid. The remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected by the declaration of invalidity and shall remain in force and effect.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This Ordinance affecting the public health, safety and welfare shall be effective upon approval of the mayor or upon expiration of the delay for this Ordinance to be vetoed, if not vetoed.

This Ordinance having been submitted to a vote on April 22, 2025, the vote thereon was as follows:  
Ayes: Cook, Edmonds, Himmel, Monachello; Nays: None; Absent: Heck

Introduced to the City Council on April 8, 2025.

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Lorraine Beaman, City Clerk

Delivered to Mayor on April 25, 2025.

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Lorraine Beaman, City Clerk

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dustin Yates, Mayor

Received from Mayor on \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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Lorraine Beaman, City Clerk

Ordinance published in The Advocate on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.