

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
ORDINANCE 2016-1

SHORT TITLE: An ordinance to amend the Administrative Code;
 Chapter 7. Health, Sanitation, Nuisances
 Article II. Nuisances
 Added: Division 7. Certain Nuisances Within School and Licensed Day
 Care Zones
 Added: §§ 7-150 - §§ 7-153

That the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Springfield, Vermont is hereby amended by adding DIVISION 7 and Sections 7-150 to 7-153 which reads as follows:

DIVISION 7. CERTAIN NUISANCES WITHIN SCHOOL AND LICENSED
DAY CARE ZONES

Sec. 7-150 Be it found, declared and ordained as follows:

- (a) That the quality and character of the areas which are proximate to Schools and licensed day care centers are of special concern to the Springfield Community for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to the following:
 - 1. Such areas are areas frequented by children and vulnerable adults;
 - 2. Such areas are areas frequently surveyed by persons interested in investing in the community, or becoming a resident of the community.
- (b) That the Federal and State governments have found it to be in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare to prohibit certain persons who have been found guilty of certain crimes from residing in or near such areas, and enhance certain penalties for drug activity in school zones.
- (c) In recognition of the increased pedestrian traffic, especially that of children, the Town and the State have provided for decreased speed limits within such areas all in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the community.
- (d) That there have been several studies linking the existence of dilapidated buildings, buildings which are poorly maintained, or having other signs of blight such as broken windows, boarded up windows, graffiti, haphazard use of flake board or plywood to replace siding or windows to crime or less than wholesome activities.
- (e) That there has been local input from real estate professionals which indicates that run down neighborhoods located near schools have a disproportionate adverse effect on the value of property throughout the community.
- (f) That it is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the community that a high priority be assigned to cleaning up and requiring appropriate exterior maintenance of structures within a school zone.

Sec. 7-151 Prohibition.

No owner or occupant of land within a School or Licensed Day Care Zone within Springfield shall cause, allow or suffer any structure within said zone to become Blighted or Dilapidated and/or Ill-maintained or Ill-repaired.

Sec. 7-152 Definitions.

- (a) For purposes of this section, Blighted, Dilapidated, Ill-maintained or Ill-repaired shall include, but not be limited to the following:
- (1) Broken windows not repaired within fourteen days by replacing the glass window;
 - (2) Graffiti not promptly removed;
 - (3) Use of any unfinished building material such as tyvek, plywood or flake board or metal roofing as an exterior veneer not in keeping with the remainder of the structure's veneer, or to board up broken doors or windows, except on a temporary basis not exceeding 14 days;
 - (4) Failure to maintain surfaces which were designed to be protected from the elements by continuous roofing, paint, stain or siding.
 - (5) Use of porches or decks visible from the sidewalk or street for storage of trash, or junk;
 - (6) Failure to keep the structure secure from the elements or the use of tarps to secure the structure from the elements except on a temporary basis not to exceed fourteen days.
- (b) For purposes of this section a School or Licensed Day Care Zone is defined to mean: within 500 feet of the property boundary of a public or accredited private School or Licensed Day Care Center.

Sec. 7-153 Penalty and Enforcement.

A violation of this ordinance shall be a civil matter which may be enforced in the Vermont Judicial Bureau or in the Windsor County Superior Court, at the election of the Town Administrative Officer.

- (a) Violations enforced in the Judicial Bureau shall be in accordance with the provisions of 23 V.S.A. §§ 1974a and 1977 et seq. A civil penalty of not more than \$500.00 per violation.
1. A municipal ticket will be issued 15 days after written notification of violation is mailed by the Town Administrative Officer if the violation has not been corrected in accordance with this ordinance. Each day that the violation continues shall constitute a separate violation of this ordinance.

2. For purposes of issuing the municipal ticket or enforcement in the Judicial Bureau, the Town Administrative Officer or the Town Constable shall be designated enforcement officer(s). Said designee(s) shall issue tickets and may be the appearing officer at any hearing.
- (b) Violations enforced in the Superior Court shall be in accordance with the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure. The Town of Springfield may pursue all appropriate injunctive relief. In addition, a civil penalty of not more than \$800.00 per violation may be imposed for violation of this ordinance.
1. A civil action may be initiated in the Superior Court within [30 days] after written notification of violation is mailed by the Town Administrative Officer if the violation has not been corrected in accordance with this ordinance. Each day that the violation continues shall constitute a separate violation of this ordinance.