

**CITY OF SPRINGFIELD  
ORDINANCE # 2025-014**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD IN WASHINGTON COUNTY,  
KENTUCKY REGULATING GENERAL NUISANCES**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that the health, safety and welfare of its citizens require the regulation of general nuisances; and

**WHEREAS**, KRS 65.8840 authorizes municipalities to adopt an ordinance for the abatement of nuisances, owner liability and enforcement procedures;

**WHEREAS**, through the Establishment of a Code Enforcement Board through Ordinance 2025-012 in conjunction with this ordinance, Ordinance 2014-003 should be repeated in its entirety.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Springfield as follows:

**SECTION 1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this ordinance is to define and prohibit general nuisances to protect the health, safety and enjoyment of property by residents within the City. Violations of this ordinance shall be deemed a public nuisance.

**SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS**

- A. **Nuisance**- any condition that is offensive, unhealthy, hazardous, or interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property and/or those offenses which are known to the common law and statutes of Kentucky as public nuisances.
- B. **Code Enforcement Board**- An administrative body created and acting under the authority of the Local Government Code Enforcement Act, KRS 65.8801 to 65.8839.
- C. **Graffiti**- Any display of words, letters, numbers, design or symbols scrawled, by hand or otherwise, in any ink, paint, chalk, dye or any other medium on any building or structure, with or without the consent or authority of the owner thereof, and which is within view from any public property or right of way.
- D. **Junk Vehicle** - Any motor vehicle that is: (1) unlicensed or unregistered; (2) inoperable; or (3) in a state of disrepair such that it cannot be lawfully operated on public roads, including but not limited to vehicles with flat or missing tires, broken or missing windows, missing engine or transmission, missing doors or body panels, or visible rust deterioration.

**SECTION 3. PROHIBITED NUISANCES**

- A. Accumulation of trash, garbage, debris, rubbish or discarded materials.
- B. The placing or permitting to remain anywhere in the city any garbage or other material subject to decay for more than 96 consecutive hours, except in tightly-covered metal or plastic container or as part of a compost operation.

- C. Depositing or permitting to fall from any vehicle any garbage, rubbish, debris on any public street or highway in the city.
- D. The hauling of garbage in any type vehicle other than a packer-type garbage truck approved by the Code Official or the County Solid Waste Officer.
- E. Failure to dispose of any dead animals, fowl and reptiles within six hours after discovery of same by the owner or possessor of the premises.
- F. Overgrown weeds, grass, or vegetation exceeding 5 inches in height.
- G. Any offensive odor, noise, smoke, or dust that impacts neighboring properties.
- H. Any attractive nuisance that may pose danger to children or the public.
- I. The occurrence, existence or continuation of any graffiti.
- J. Anybody except an officer of the law to fire or discharge any gun, pistol or firearms including .22 rifles and BB guns, within the City Limits of the City of Springfield.
- K. Anybody littering, tossing or throwing debris of any nature or description onto the streets, alleys, branches, drainage ditches, or other public places of the City of Springfield, Kentucky or sweeping or moving excessive dirt and debris from the sidewalks onto any roadway or other City property.
- L. Any junk vehicle, as defined herein, that is visible from any public street or neighboring property. An exception shall be made for vehicles actively undergoing repair for a period of up to thirty (30) days upon written request to the Code Enforcement Officer. Only one such exemption shall be granted per vehicle per calendar year.

#### **SECTION 4. EXCEPTIONS**

The following shall not be subject to this ordinance or constitute a nuisance:

- A. Licensed and properly zoned auto repair or salvage businesses.
- B. Temporary mechanical breakdowns (not exceeding 3 days).
- C. An exception shall be made for vehicles actively undergoing repair for a period of up to thirty (30) days upon written request to the Code Enforcement Officer. Only one such exemption shall be granted per vehicle per calendar year.

#### **SECTION 5. CIVIL OFFENSE**

A violation of any provision of this Ordinance shall constitute a civil offense. Each day that a violation continues shall be considered a separate civil offense. Enforcement and penalties shall be administered in accordance with KRS 65.8801–65.8839 and any other applicable provisions of Kentucky law.

#### **SECTION 6. ENFORCEMENT**

Enforcement of this ordinance shall be the responsibility of the City of Springfield Code Enforcement Board and the City of Springfield Code Enforcement Officer.

**SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY**

The provisions of this ordinance are severable. The invalidity of any provision shall not affect the validity of any other provision.

**SECTION 8. REPEAL OF PRIOR ORDINANCES**

City Ordinance 2014-003, along with all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, is hereby repealed.

**SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance shall become effective upon its second reading, passage, and publication as required by law.

	YES	NO
Daniel Bishop	_____	_____
Joann Ellery	_____	_____
Michael Hale	_____	_____
Carolyn Hardin	_____	_____
John Pettus	_____	_____
Lance Smith	_____	_____

First Reading: December 8, 2025  
Second Reading:  
Published in the Springfield Sun:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Chris Essex  
City of Springfield

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Hart, City Admin./ Clerk