

Questions & Answers on the proposed Property Maintenance Code for the City of Negaunee

1. What properties classes are proposed under this code?

Answer: Business and commercial properties.

2. Are rental houses considered commercial properties under this code?

Answer: Yes.

3. Does the code cover the internal spaces of a building?

Answer: No, this proposed code only covers on exterior blight elimination, including surfaces of any structures or outbuildings. There are no provisions within the code that allow interior inspections.

4. Is the city required to deal with all blighted properties at the same time?

Answer: No, Michigan law does not require this. Staff availability and time and funding will dictate enforcement capabilities.

5. How will the city determine what properties to deal examine first?

Answer. The city will start with the most dangerous and blighted buildings.

6. How much time will some be given to correct their property maintenance violations?

Answer: For emergencies-24hrs, general hazardous conditions-10 days, and not more than 120 days for all others unless extended by the Diversionary Team.

7. What is the Diversionary Team?

Answer: The Diversionary Team is a group of residents appointed by the Mayor that help to determine if the properties brought before them are in violation of the proposed code. In addition, they work with the property owner to set deadlines for repairs to their building. Property owners that work with this team will not be fined nor go to court as long as they stay are in the diversion program.

8. What if a property is too far gone, then what?

Answer: This is strictly opinion, the Diversion Team will give advice, but the property owner will have the final say on how they want to handle the abatement of their violations.

9. Who pays for abatement?

Answer: Property owners will be responsible for fixing their blighted property. If the property owner refuses to make necessary corrections, the city will take legal action to recoup costs through legal means.

10. What are the fines associated with blight?

Answer: Fines will accrual every fifteen (15) days; however, our first attempt will be to work with a property owner through the diversion program to prevent fines and to keep these cases out court.

11. What about junk cars?

Answer: Junk cars will primarily be covered under current codes found with the City of Negaunee's Code of Ordinances.

12. What about weeds and grass length?

Answer: Weeds and grass length will primarily be covered under current codes found with the City of Negaunee's Code of Ordinances.

13. What about trash/junk?

Answer: Trash/junk length will primarily be covered under current codes found with the City of Negaunee's Code of Ordinances.

14. Who will enforce the proposed Property Maintenance Code?

Answer: The proposed Property Maintenance Code will be enforced by the Planning & Zoning Department of the City of Negaunee.

15. Will the inspector have training?

Answer: Yes, the inspector will receive training on property maintenance.

16. When will this law go into effect?

Answer: Tentatively, this law will go in effect, June 1, 2019.