

**INGHAM TOWNSHIP
INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN
PUBLIC NUISANCE ORDINANCE**

Ordinance No. 2025-1

At a duly scheduled meeting of the Township Board of Ingham Township, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Ingham Township Hall on August 20, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Township Board Member D. Harns moved to introduce the following Ordinance, which motion was seconded by Township Board Member LaGrow:

An ordinance to promote the health, safety, and welfare, by providing for the regulation, prevention, reduction, or elimination of the blight or potential blight in the Township, defining and prohibiting blight; declaring certain acts, apparatus, accumulations, violations, and activities as public nuisances per se; providing the procedure for abatement of public nuisances, enforcement of this ordinance, and recovery of costs incurred by Ingham Township; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance.

INGHAM TOWNSHIP, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

SECTION 1: TITLE: This ordinance shall be known and cited as the Ingham Township Public Nuisance Ordinance.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

1. “Abate” or “Abatement” means demolition, removal, repair, maintenance, construction, reconstruction, replacement, and reconditioning of structures, appliances, appurtenances or equipment as well as removal, transportation, purchase, disposal and treatment of refuse or other substance or media capable of causing a nuisance and the use of mechanical means to control, eradicate, and eliminate the nuisance conditions.
2. “Building Materials” means lumber, bricks, concrete or cinder blocks, plumbing materials, electrical wiring or equipment, heating ducts or equipment, shingles, mortar, concrete or cement, nails, screws, or any other materials used in constructing any structure.
3. “Junk” means all rubbish, refuse, waste material, and garbage, including, but not limited to: organic refuse; food wastes; drug paraphernalia; ashes; dead animals; fish; animal bones; hides; rotten soap; parts of machinery or motor vehicles; dismantled, partially dismantled, inoperable, neglected or unused motor homes, trailers, campers or watercraft; grease; tallow; offal; shell; food containers or wrappings; cans; bottles; jars; crockery; garbage; rot; discarded or abandoned furniture or materials, including camping and picnic gear and equipment; cartons; boxes; crates; rags; clothing; bedding; floor covering; wallpaper; sweepings; waste paper; newspapers or magazines; discarded appliances; excrement; construction debris and building materials; yard debris or rubbish including, but not limited to, grass clippings,

clippings from hedges or shrubs, or detached tree branches or other brush; industrial waste; and unclean or noxious fluids or gases.

4. "Public Nuisance" means whatever injures, or endangers the safety, health, welfare, of the public; offends public decency; interferes with, obstructs, or renders dangerous any street, highway, navigable lake, or stream; or in any way renders the public insecure in life or property, and is hereby declared to be a public nuisance. Public nuisances shall include, but shall not be limited to, whatever is forbidden by any provision of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3: PUBLIC NUISANCE PROHIBITED; PUBLIC NUISANCES PER SE: Public Nuisances are prohibited in the Township. No person shall commit, create, or maintain any public nuisance. The following acts, apparatus, accumulations, violations, and activities within the Township are hereby prohibited as public nuisances *per se*, unless otherwise permitted by the Township Zoning Ordinance:

1. No person shall maintain or permit to remain on premises owned or occupied by him or her; or throw, place, or leave; or permit the throwing, placing, or leaving on the premises of another any of the following substances: junk, garbage, discarded furniture, appliances and household goods, building materials, construction debris, tires, or mobile home components in any of the following locations:
 - a. Any public street, highway, lane, road, alley, public place, square, sidewalk, or any lands within the boundaries of the Township owned by the Township or other municipal corporation.
 - b. Any river, lake, stream, or other body of water.
 - c. Any private place or premises where in the opinion of the Township Supervisor, Zoning Administrator, Ordinance Enforcement Officer, or their agent, the specified substances constitute a dangerous condition or are detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare or offend aesthetic sensibilities or may cause sickness or attract flies, insects, rodents, or vermin.
2. Leaving, keeping, storing or maintaining a junk motor vehicle on any premises, unless such vehicle is completely enclosed; within a lawful building, completely concealed behind an opaques fence, or not able to be seen from the road or any property line. For purposes of this Ordinance, a junk motor vehicle is any vehicle that is self-propelled or intended to be self-propelled, or any portion of such a vehicle, that:
 - a. Is subject to registration under the Michigan Vehicle Code, MCL 257.1, *et seq.*, and has not been registered or does not display an unexpired and valid license plate for the vehicle; or
 - b. Has remained on a premises for a period of thirty (30) days or more, and does not have an engine in running condition, four (4) inflated tires, and a battery, or is incapable of safe operation on the streets and highways as required by the Michigan Vehicle Code; or

- c. For any reason, including dismantling, disrepair or otherwise, is not operable, not repairable, cannot be started, or is unable to be propelled under its own power.

Junk motor vehicles, for purposes of this Ordinance, shall not include vehicles lawfully kept as stock in trade by a state-licensed dealer in motor vehicles.

3. Leaving, keeping, storing or maintaining an abandoned vehicle on any private or public property within the Township. For purposes of this Ordinance, an abandoned vehicle is either:
 - a. A vehicle that has remained on private property without the consent of the owner; or
 - b. A vehicle that has remained on public property for a period of not less than 72 hours.

In addition to the procedures allowed by this Ordinance for the abatement and removal of public nuisances, an abandoned vehicle may be disposed of as provided for in the Michigan Vehicle Code, MCL 257.252a0, *et seq.*

4. The outdoor storage of mobile homes (other than those which are legally used and occupied for dwelling purposes), truck bodies, or semi-trailers with or without wheels, either as vacant units or storage units
5. Allowing the excessive growth of weeds or grass to a height greater than ten (10) inches on average, in any of the following places:
 - a. Any lots with a building within platted subdivisions; and
 - b. Any vacant lots within platted subdivisions in which buildings have been erected upon sixty percent or more of the lots included in that subdivision; and
 - c. On parcels of land along all improved streets to a depth of 165 feet or the depth of the ownership, whichever is less.

This subsection 5 does not apply to the following parcels:

- d. Land used for agricultural purposes, including weeds in fields devoted to growing any small grain crops such as wheat, oats, barley or rye.
 - e. Portions of lots used for flower gardens, shrubbery or vegetable gardens.
 - f. Naturally wooded areas or regulated wetlands.
 - g. Areas designated as preserved for open space.
6. Any structure or part thereof which because of fire, wind or other natural disaster, or merely by virtue of physical deterioration, is no longer habitable as a dwelling or useful for any other purposes for which it may originally have been intended.

7. The making, continuing, or causing to be made, or knowingly assisting, allowing, or encouraging any other person or persons to make, continue or cause any unreasonably loud noise which either disturbs, injures, or endangers the health, peace, or safety of others, within the limits of the Township. Such noises deemed to be unreasonably loud, disturbing noises in violation of this Ordinance include, but are not limited to:
 - a. The sounding of any horn or signaling device on any automobile, motorcycle, or other vehicle on any street or public place of the Township except as a danger warning; the creation by means of any such signaling device of any unreasonable loud or harsh sound; and the sounding of any such device for an unnecessary and unreasonable period of time.
 - b. The discharge into the open air of the exhaust of any steam engine, stationary internal combustion engine, motor boat, or motor vehicle except through a muffler or other device which will effectively prevent loud or explosive noises therefrom.
 - c. The use of any automobile, motorcycle, or vehicle so out of repair, so loaded, or in such a manner as to create loud and unnecessary grating, grinding, rattling, or other noise.
 - d. Intentionally or by the immoderate operation of a motor vehicle to cause tires to squeak or screech.
 - e. The using, operating, or permitting to be played, any radio receiving set, musical instrument, phonograph, loudspeaker, or any other mechanical or electrical device capable of producing or reproducing sound in such manner as to disturb the peace, quiet, and comfort of the neighboring inhabitants or at any time with louder volume than is necessary for convenient hearing for the person or persons who are in the room or vehicle in which such machine or device is operated and who are voluntary listeners thereto. The operation of any such set, instrument, phonograph, machine, or device between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in such a manner as to be plainly audible at a distance of fifty (50) feet from the building, structure, or vehicle in which it is located shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this Section.
 - f. The creation of any excessive noise on any street adjacent to any school, institution of learning, church, or court while the same are in use, or adjacent to any hospital, which unreasonably interferes with the functions of such institution, or which disturbs or unduly annoys patients in the hospital, provided conspicuous signs are displayed in such streets indicating that the same is a school, hospital, or court street.
 - g. The keeping of any animal, bird, or fowl that emanates frequent or extended noise that unreasonably disturbs the quiet, of a person of reasonable sensitivities; such as allowing or permitting any loud, frequent, or habitual barking, yelping, or howling of any dog in an area where such noise can be clearly heard from nearby residential property.
8. None of the prohibitions enumerated above shall apply to the following:
 - a. Any police vehicle, ambulance, fire engine or emergency vehicle while engaged in necessary emergency activities.

- b. Warning devices emitting sound for warning purposes as authorized by law.
- c. The storage of machines and agricultural equipment and the noises of animals and machines as a result of farming operations, including those operations protected by the Michigan Right to Farm Act (RTFA) and conforming to generally accepted agricultural management practices (GAAMPs) developed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

SECTION 4: ABATEMENT; NOTICE; CIVIL INFRACTIONS AND CIVIL PROCEEDINGS; MISDEMEANOR; AUTHORITY OF OFFICERS TO ABATE PUBLIC NUISANCES

1. **Public Nuisances on Township Property.** Whenever any public nuisance described in Section 3 shall exist upon Township property or upon the property of another municipal corporation within the boundaries of the Township, such public nuisance may be abated by the Township Supervisor, Zoning Administrator, Ordinance Enforcement Officer or their agent without notice and the cost of abatement shall be charged as provided in Section 5.
2. **Public Nuisances on Private Property.** Whenever any public nuisance shall exist on private premises within the Township, the Township Supervisor, Zoning Administrator, Ordinance Enforcement Officer or their agent shall give notice in writing by either personal, hand delivery or by certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the owner or occupant of the property where the public nuisance exists or to the person otherwise responsible for such public nuisance. Such notice shall specify the location and nature of the public nuisance and shall indicate that such owner or occupant or person otherwise responsible is required to repair, tear down, abate, or otherwise remove the public nuisance within ten days of the receipt of the notice. Following the issuance of such notice, the Township Supervisor, Zoning Administrator, Ordinance Enforcement Officer or their agent may proceed to initiate civil infraction or other civil proceedings permitted by law to abate the public nuisance.
3. **Civil Infractions.** Any person or other entity who causes or permits to continue a public nuisance as prohibited by this Ordinance is responsible for a municipal civil infraction as defined by Michigan law and is subject to a civil fine of not more than \$500.00, plus costs, damages, or expenses, which may include all direct or indirect expenses, which the Township has incurred in connection with the violation, including attorney's fees. The Township Board may establish a schedule of fines of not more than \$500.00 for first or subsequent violations by resolution as it determines advisable. A violator of this Ordinance shall also be subject to such additional sanctions, remedies, and judicial orders as are authorized under Michigan law. Each day a violation of this Ordinance continues to exist constitutes a separate violation.
4. **Misdemeanor.** Any public nuisance as prohibited by this Ordinance shall constitute a misdemeanor. Any person who violates this Ordinance or fails to comply with any of the requirements of this Ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$500.00, or imprisoned for not more than 90 days, or both, and, in addition, shall pay all costs and expenses involved. Each day the violation continues shall be considered a separate offense.

4. **Administration and Enforcement.** This ordinance shall be administered, enforced, and citations issued by the Supervisor, Zoning Administrator, or Ordinance Enforcement Officer of the Township or by such other person(s) as designated by the Township Board from time to time.

SECTION 5: ABATEMENT; COSTS: All expenses incurred by the Township, the Township Supervisor, Zoning Administrator, or Ordinance Enforcement Officer or their agent in repairing, tearing down, abating, or otherwise removing a public nuisance under this Ordinance shall be charged to the person responsible therefor, the occupant of the land in question, or the person who appears as owner or party in interest upon the last local tax assessment records of the Township. If such person fails to pay the expenses incurred by the Township in abating a nuisance within 30 days after a statement for said charges is mailed to him or her, the amount thereof shall be assessed against the lands on which the expenditures were made on the next general tax assessment roll of the Township and shall be collected in the same manner as other taxes are collected. The Township shall have a lien upon such lands for such expense, such lien to be enforced in the manner prescribed by the general laws of the state providing for the enforcement of tax liens.

SECTION 6: PUBLIC NUISANCES; EMERGENCY ABATEMENT; COSTS: The Township Supervisor, Zoning Administrator, or Ordinance Enforcement Officer may act to abate a public nuisance without giving notice as specified in Section 4, if the public health, safety, or welfare requires immediate action to prevent an imminent threat to the public health, safety or welfare. The cost of abating such nuisance shall be charged as specified in Section 5.

SECTION 7: SEVERABILITY: The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable and if any clause, sentence, word, section, or provision is hereafter declared void or unenforceable for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect the remainder of such ordinance which shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 8: REPEAL: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 9: ENACTMENT AND EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after publication as required by law.

YEAS: I. Harns, LaGrow, Kuehner, D. Harns, Harris

NAYS: None

ABSENT/ABSTAIN: None

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED