



Colorado Springs Police Department Standard Operating Procedure

DL-1020-05 Public Nuisance Ordinance

Section 1000 – Patrol Functions

Active Date: 10/31/2023

Supersedes Date: 11/13/2009

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to outline the response to public nuisance in accordance with city Ordinance.

.02 Cross Reference

[GO 1040 Handling Gang Contacts](#)

[DL 1020-41 Liquor Enforcement](#)

[DL 1040-01 Gang Intervention Network](#)

.03 Definitions

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.04 Procedure

The utilization of this ordinance will be carefully administered on a case-by-case basis. The City Attorney's Office will make the final determination regarding the filing of a public nuisance against any property for this ordinance. Sworn officers contemplating the use of this ordinance will coordinate all actions in this regard through their chain of command.

If officers identify a specific location where people congregate to encourage a disturbance of the peace through illegal activity, they may consider use of this ordinance when designing possible solutions. In such cases, sworn officers must first initiate a case report, in which they will thoroughly document all research conducted into the problem and all strategies contemplated, or already attempted for abating it, including any personal contacts with the property owner or tenant, before recommending implementation of the public nuisance ordinance.

Upon making a determination that probable cause exists to believe a particular location is a public nuisance, as defined by the ordinance, supporting documentation (e.g., supplements, case reports,

summons and complaints, call histories, criminal histories of persons involved, etc.) will be forwarded through their chain of command for review by their designated Commander.

Prior to the case being forwarded to the City Attorney's Office, the commander, or designee, will review all information provided for approval.

Close liaison will be maintained between the initiating patrol officer, an assigned detective from the Metro Division, and the filing City Attorney so that a coordinated effort to abate the problem can take place.

Nuisance actions can include action that may be taken by the Chief of Police when an emergency abatement is required per Ordinance 9.6.719 Summary Abatement by the Chief of Police.