



City of Grass Valley Police Department Agenda Action Sheet

Council Meeting Date: February 9, 2010

Date Prepared: January 28, 2010

Prepared by: John Foster, Chief of Police

Title: Ordinance to Add Chapter 8.48 Responsible Property Owner to the Grass Valley Municipal Code

Recommended Action: Approve Ordinance to add Chapter 8.48 to the Grass Valley Municipal Code pertaining to responsible property owners.

Agenda: Public Hearing

Background Information: Over the last few years, there were several properties within the City that rose to the level of a chronic nuisance. As an example, two residences owned by the same property owner generated 65 police calls for service during 2009. This does not include calls for service from other citizens in the neighborhood impacted by the activities and behaviors of the occupants and visitors of the nuisance property.

Behaviors and activities associated with the ongoing occurrence of criminal activity or crime have a substantial negative impact upon individuals, neighborhoods, and the City as a whole. When these behaviors and activities repeatedly occur on the same property, the property becomes a chronic nuisance and these properties have a tremendous negative impact upon the quality of life, safety, and health of the neighborhoods where they are located. Additionally, chronic nuisance properties often require resources over and above the level of police services normally provided, often leaving other areas of the City without adequate levels of police protection.

The proposed ordinance is a tool for law enforcement to help remedy chronic nuisance properties. Once a safety violation occurs at a property, the property owner will receive a notice specifying the activities and behaviors which constituted the safety violation, including the names, when known, of the person(s) allegedly causing the safety violation, and the address where the safety violation occurred. After an initial notice, if any safety violations occur after thirty calendar days of the date of the notice, the property owner may face any or all of the following actions or fines:

1. A misdemeanor punishable by either six (6) months in jail and/or a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000);
2. Institution of a civil action by the City Attorney,
3. Issuance of administrative citation(s) and/or an order to abate the Safety Violation(s) with a fine up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), plus any Administrative Expenses incurred in the enforcement of the safety violation.

Agenda Item # _____



City of Grass Valley Police Department Agenda Action Sheet

B. Each day a safety violation(s) occurs shall be deemed a new violation subject to additional citations, penalties, and fines.

Funds Available: N/A **Account #:** N/A

Reviewed by: ____ City Administrator ____ City Clerk ____ City
Attorney

Agenda Item # _____