## ORDINANCE NO. C-1 2 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE 3 CITY OF LONG BEACH AMENDING THE LONG BEACH 4 MUNICIPAL CODE BY AMENDING SECTION 1.32.010.E. 5 AND BY ADDING CHAPTER 9.65 RELATING TO 6 ADMINISTRATIVE CITATIONS AND PENALTIES 7 8 The City Council of the City of Long Beach ordains as follows: 9 10 Section 1. The Long Beach Municipal Code is amended by amending 11 Section 1.32.010.E as follows: E. In the sole discretion of the city prosecutor, any violation of this 13 Code, unless provision is otherwise made herein, may be prosecuted as 14 either a misdemeanor or an infraction. Notwithstanding the foregoing, 15 violations of Municipal Code sections 21.51.227 and 21.41.170 shall be 16 prosecuted as misdemeanor violations. 17 18 Sec. 2. The Long Beach Municipal Code is amended by adding Chapter 9.65 19 as follows: 20 IX. Enforcement 21 Chapter 9.65 22 ADMINISTRATIVE CITATIONS AND PENALTIES 23 24 Sections: 25 Legislative findings and statement of purpose. 9.65.010 26 **Definitions** 9.65.020 27 9.65.030 Weed abatement activity 28

Inoperative vehicle activity

9.65.040

9.65.050	Prohibited canopy structure
9.65.060	Issuance of administrative citation
9.65.070	Service procedures
9.65.080	Contents of notice
9.65.090	Satisfaction of administrative citation
9.65.100	Appeal of administrative citation
9.65.110	Appeal hardship waiver
9.65.120	Hearing procedure
9.65.130	Hearing officer's decision
9.65.140	Failure to pay fines
9.65.150	Failure to remedy weed abatement activity
9.65.160	Failure to remedy inoperative vehicle activity
9.65.170	Appeal of lot cleaning and inoperative vehicle levy
9.65.180	Dismissal of citation
9.65.190	Right to judicial review
9.65.200	Recovery of code enforcement abatement costs

9.65.010 Legislative findings and statement of purpose.

A. Enforcement of the Long Beach Municipal Code throughout the City is an important public service. Code enforcement is vital to the protection of the public's health, safety, welfare, and quality of life. The City Council recognizes that a comprehensive code enforcement system that uses a combination of administrative and judicial remedies helps to gain compliance with code regulations.

B. The overburdening of the criminal courts system has necessitated the alternative use of an administrative citation program to more effectively adjudicate the majority of nuisance related code violations. An administrative citation program and the establishment of

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

1

2

3

4

5

6

8

9

appropriate fines are intended to act as a reasonable deterrent in preventing violations of the Long Beach Municipal Code.

- C. The City Council hereby finds that there is a need for an alternative method of enforcement of the Municipal Code in accordance with the City's constitutional police power. The City Council further finds that an appropriate method of enforcement is the imposition of administrative penalties as independently authorized by both California Constitution Article XI, Section 7, and Government Code Section 53069.4.
- D. The procedures established in this Chapter shall be in addition to any criminal, civil or other legal remedy established by law for violation of the Municipal Code.
- E. The City Council hereby finds and determines that enforcement of the Long Beach Municipal Code pursuant to the City's police power is a matter of public health, safety and welfare and serves important public purposes. The City of Long Beach adopts this administrative citation and penalty program in order to achieve the following goals and objectives:
- 1. To protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City.
- 2. To gain compliance with the Municipal Code in a timely and efficient manner.
- 3. To provide for an administrative process to appeal the imposition of administrative citations and fines.
- 4. To provide a method to hold parties responsible when they fail or refuse to comply with the provisions of the Municipal Code.
- 5. To avoid and/or minimize the expense and delay of enforcement in the civil or criminal justice system.
- F. Use of this Chapter shall be at the sole discretion of the City, subject to subsection D of this Section.

9.65.020 Definitions.

A. "Canopy Structure" includes free standing exterior shade structures that consist of a cover made from canvas, fabric, plastic, rubber, nylon, acetate or other pliable material that is fitted over a free standing metal frame or a frame constructed from some other material, which is not entirely supported by an exterior wall of a building.

- B. "Cited Party" means a legally responsible person who has been issued an administrative citation.
  - C. "City" means the City of Long Beach.
- D. "Continuing Violation" means any condition or activity in violation of the Municipal Code that continues beyond the date given in the administrative citation to correct the violation.
- E. "Correction Period" means that period of time in which responsible persons are required to correct or otherwise remedy the violation(s).
- F. "Enforcement Officer" shall mean any officer or employee of the City designated with the authority to enforce the applicable provisions of the Long Beach Municipal Code.
- G. "Hearing Officer" means a member of the Board of Examiners, Appeals, and Condemnation who has been designated to adjudicate administrative citations.
- H. "Highway" means a way or place of whatever nature, publicly maintained and open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.. Highway includes street.
  - I. "Inoperative Vehicle" shall include:
- 1. Any vehicle, by which any person or property may be propelled, moved, or drawn upon a highway, except a device moved by human power, which is not currently and validly registered for operation or

use on the streets and highways in the State as required under the provisions of the California Vehicle Code; or

- 2. Any motor vehicle which currently is incapable of being driven under its own motor power; or
- 3. Any non-motor vehicle which currently is incapable of being moved or drawn.
- J. "Lot" means an area of land, parcel, or tract, whether improved or unimproved, the boundaries of which have been established in conformance with the State Subdivision Map Act, and which has either been recorded via a final Tract Map or Certificate of Compliance on record with the Los Angeles County Recorder.
- K. "Lot Cleaning Levy" means all computed expenses incurred by the City in removal of weeds and/or debris, from any lot, and shall consist of processing fees, incidental enforcement costs, including but not limited to, actual expenses for weeds and/or debris removal charged to the cited party.
- L. "Responsible Person" shall mean any individual who is the owner, partial owner, or occupant of real property, last registered owner and/or legal owner of a vehicle, the holder or the agent of the holder of any permit or entitlement, or the party or agent of a party to any agreement covered by this Chapter; or the owner or authorized agent of any business, company, or entity subject to this Chapter, who creates, commits, or maintains a violation subject to the enforcement provisions of this Chapter.
- M. "Vehicle Removal Levy" means all computed expenses incurred by the City in the removal of inoperative vehicle(s) from public or private property within the City, and shall consist of processing fees, incidental enforcement costs, including but not limited to, land and vehicle title

1.0

search information, and actual expenses incurred for inoperative vehicle removal, impoundment, or disposal.

N. "Weeds" and/or "Debris" includes all bushes, vines, trees, grass, or other vegetation, whether cultivated or uncultivated, and whether dead or growing, and all refuse, trash, and rubbish of any kind or description, or wood, asphalt, concrete or similar materials, tin cans, parts of machinery, implements and automobiles, any of which cause unpleasant or noxious odors, or which are or may become a refuge or breeding place for insect and vermin, or which conceal or are capable of concealing filth and other unsanitary conditions, or which are, or are capable of becoming, a fire or other hazard to the use and occupancy of property, or which obstruct or hinder the use of any public street, sidewalk, alley or way.

9.65.030 Weed abatement activity.

It shall be the duty of all responsible person(s) to at all times keep lots clean and free from weeds and/or debris.

9.65.040 Inoperative vehicle activity.

It shall be the duty of responsible person(s) to prevent accumulation and storage of abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicles or parts thereof, except for those vehicles or parts thereof exempted pursuant to Long Beach Municipal Code section 10.46.030.

9.65.050 Prohibited canopy structure.

Canopy structures as defined in section 9.65.020(A) may be located only in the rear yard and shall be located not less than three feet

(3') from the side and rear property lines. Such structures may only be erected for temporary residential use not to exceed seventy-two (72) hours as permitted pursuant to Titles 18 and 21 of the Long Beach Municipal Code. These structures may not be located in front or side yard setback areas, or driveway areas used for automobile parking.

9.65.060 Issuance of administrative citation.

A. Any responsible person who violates any provision of Titles 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, 18 and 21 of the Long Beach Municipal Code may be issued an administrative citation by an enforcement officer designated to issue such citations.

- B. Each and every day a violation exists constitutes a separate and distinct offense.
- C. A civil fine shall be assessed by means of an administrative citation issued by the enforcement officer and shall be payable directly to the City of Long Beach.
- D. Fines shall be assessed in the following amounts for Code violations committed by the same responsible person.
  - 1. A fine not exceeding \$100.00 for each initial violation;
- 2. A fine not exceeding \$200.00 for each instance of a second violation of the same Code section within one year from the date of the first violation;
- 3. A fine not exceeding \$500.00 for each additional violation of the same Code section within one year from the date of the first violation;
- 4. A fine not exceeding \$1,000.00 for each violation of Municipal Code section 21.41.170 relating to illegal garage conversions;
  - 5. A fine not exceeding \$500.00 for each violation of

Municipal Code section 21.51.227 relating to illegal automotive repair work.

9.65.070 Service procedures.

An administrative citation on a form approved by the City Manager may be served upon any responsible person by an enforcement officer in the following manner:

- A. Personal Service. In any case where an administrative citation is issued:
- The enforcement officer shall attempt to locate and personally serve the responsible person(s) and obtain the signature of the responsible person(s) on the administrative citation;
- 2. If the responsible person(s) refuses or fails to sign the administrative citation, the failure or refusal to sign shall not affect the validity of the administrative citation or any subsequent proceedings.
- B. Service of Citation by Posting Notice. If the enforcement officer does not succeed in personally serving a responsible person(s):
- 1. The enforcement officer shall post the administrative citation or duplicate thereof in a conspicuous place on the lot where the violation(s) exists or has occurred, and such posting shall be deemed effective service;
- 2. Any posted notice shall be photographed on the date of posting by the enforcement officer, and a proof of service of the notice shall be made by declaration of the enforcement officer effecting the service.
- C. Service of Citation by Mail. If the enforcement officer does not succeed in personally serving a responsible person(s), in addition to posting notice:

	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8
	9
	10
	11
	12
0077-0	13
) C (40C)	14
) amone	15
	16
	17
	18
	19
	20
	21
	22
	23
	24
	25
	26
	27

٦.

<ol> <li>The administrative citation or duplicate thereof shall be</li> </ol>
mailed to the responsible person(s) at his or her residence or place of
business by depositing the same in the United States mail postage
prepaid as first class mail;

2. A proof of service of the notice shall be made by declaration of the enforcement officer effecting the service.

## 9.65.080 Contents of notice.

Each administrative citation shall contain the following information:

- A. The date of service of the citation and the date, time, address or description of the location where the violation(s) was observed.
- B. The Code section(s) and condition(s) violated and a description of the violation(s).
- C. An order to the responsible person(s) to correct the violation(s) no later than the specified correction date.
- D. An explanation of the consequences of failure to correct the violation(s) in a timely manner.
  - E. The amount of the fine for the violation(s).
- F. An explanation of how the fine shall be paid and the fine payment due date.
- G. Notice of the right to appeal the citation, the time within which the citation may be appealed and the place to obtain a Request for Hearing form to appeal the administrative citation.
- H. The name and signature of the enforcement officer and, if obtained, the signature(s) of the responsible person(s).
- 9.65.090 Satisfaction of administrative citation.

Upon service of an administrative citation, the cited party shall do

Kobert E. Shannon	City Attorney of Long Beach	333 West Ocean Boulevard	Long Beach, California 90802-4664	Telephone (562) 570-2200
-------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------------------	--------------------------

the following:

A. Remedy the violation(s) no later than thirty (30) days from the date of issuance of the citation as specified on the administrative citation. Correcting the violation(s) shall not excuse or discharge payment of the fine.

B. Pay the fine no later than thirty (30) days from the date of issuance of the citation as specified on the administrative citation. Payment of a fine shall not excuse or discharge the failure to correct the violation(s), nor shall it bar further enforcement action by the City. Late charges shall be imposed for fine payments made after the fine payment due date. The late charge shall be calculated at a rate of 25% of the fine, and will be imposed in addition to any outstanding fine.

9.65.100 Appeal of administrative citation.

A. Any recipient of an administrative citation may appeal said citation by completing a written Department of Community Development Request for Hearing form and returning it to the Department of Community Development within thirty (30) calendar days from the date the administrative citation is served or deemed to have been served, together with a deposit in the total amount of the fine and any late charges.

B. A failure to file a timely appeal of the administrative citation shall be deemed a waiver of the right to appeal and to seek judicial review.

9.65.110 Appeal hardship waiver.

A. Any person who intends to appeal the administrative citation and who is financially unable to make the advance deposit of the fine as required in Section 9.65.100 may request an advance deposit hardship

waiver by completing a written Department of Community Development Request for Deposit Waiver form.

- B. The Deposit Waiver Request form shall be filed together with the appeal in the Department of Community Development within thirty (30) calendar days from the date the administrative citation is served or deemed to have been served.
- C. The requirement of depositing the full amount of the fine and any late charges as described in 9.65.100(A) shall be stayed unless or until the Director of Community Development, or his/her designee, makes a determination regarding the waiver request.
- D. The Director of Community Development, or his/her designee, may waive the requirement of an advance deposit only if the Cited Party submits to the Director of Community Development, or his/her designee, a statement under penalty of perjury, together with any supporting documents or materials, demonstrating to the satisfaction of the Director of Community Development, or his/her designee, the Cited Party's actual financial inability to deposit with the City the full amount of the fine and late charge(s) in advance of the hearing.
- E. If the Director of Community Development, or his/her designee, declines to issue a waiver, the Cited Party shall remit the full deposit to the City within ten (10) calendar days of the date of that decision or thirty (30) calendar days from the date the administrative citation is served or deemed to have been served, whichever is later.
- F. The Director of Community Development, or his/her designee, shall issue a written determination listing the reasons for his/her determination to issue or not issue the hardship waiver. The written determination of the Director of Community Development shall be final.
  - G. The written determination of the Director of Community

б

Development shall be served personally or by first class mail, postage prepaid, upon the Cited Party who applied for the hardship waiver.

9.65.120 Hearing procedure.

A. No hearing to appeal an administrative citation shall be held unless and until a Department of Community Development Request for Hearing form has been completed and submitted, and the deposit has been paid, or a hardship waiver has been issued.

- B. A hearing before the hearing officer shall be set for a date not sooner than fifteen (15) calendar, and not more than sixty (60) calendar days from the date the request for hearing is completed and submitted in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter. The Cited Party requesting the hearing shall be notified in writing of the time and place set for the hearing at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the date of the hearing.
- C. The hearing officer shall only consider evidence that is relevant to whether the violation(s) occurred and whether the Cited Party has created, committed, or maintained the violation(s). Courtroom rules of evidence shall not apply. Relevant hearsay evidence and written reports may be admitted whether or not the speaker or author is present to testify, if the hearing officer determines that such evidence is reliable. Admission of evidence and the conduct of the hearing shall be controlled by the hearing officer in accordance with the fundamentals of due process. The hearing officer may set reasonable limits on the length of the hearing, and shall allow the appellant at least as much time to present his/her case as is allowed to the City.
- D. The Cited Party contesting the administrative citation shall be given the opportunity to testify and present witnesses and evidence

concerning the administrative citation. The City's case shall be presented by any person designated by the City Manager. The appellant and City may be represented by counsel.

E. The failure of the appellant to appear at the hearing shall

remedies.

F. The administrative citation and any additional documents
prepared by the City in connection with the violation(s) may be submitted

and shall constitute prima facie evidence of the respective facts contained

constitute a forfeiture of the fine and a failure to exhaust administrative

- G. If the enforcement officer or his/her designee submits any additional documents concerning the administrative citation to the hearing officer for consideration at the hearing, then, whenever possible, a copy of such document(s) shall be served by mail on the Appellant at least five (5) calendar days prior to the date of the hearing.
- H. The hearing officer may continue the hearing or request additional information from the enforcement officer, his/her designee or the appellant prior to issuing a written decision.
- 9.65.130 Hearing officer's decision.

in those documents.

- A. After considering all of the testimony and evidence submitted at the hearing, the hearing officer shall issue a written decision within fifteen (15) business days of the hearing. The decision of the hearing officer shall be final.
- B. If the hearing officer denies the appeal, then the deposit shall be retained by the City.
- C. If the hearing officer grants the appeal, then the City shall refund the deposit within thirty (30) business days from the date of the

final written decision.

D. The appellant and City shall each be served with a copy of the hearing officer's written decision.9.65.140 Failure to pay fines.

A. The failure of the Cited Party to pay a civil fine or late penalty in a timely manner may result in the imposition of a special assessment and/or lien against the real property on which the violation occurred, and/or filing of an action with the Small Claims Court for recovery of the fine and late penalty. The only issue to be adjudicated by the Small Claims Court shall be whether or not the fines and possible late fees were paid. A Cited Party may only obtain judicial review of the validity of the citation by first requesting and participating in an administrative hearing before a hearing officer. In the Small Claims Court action, the City may also recover its costs, according to proof.

B. The City may also refuse to issue, extend, or renew to any Cited Party who has unpaid delinquent fines, interest, penalties, liens, or assessments, any City permit, license, entitlement, or other City approval pertaining to the lot that is the subject of the fine and administrative citation.

C. Any permit, license, entitlement, or land use approval issued by the City may be subject to suspension or revocation of the permit, license, entitlement, or land use approval in accordance with the procedures set forth in Titles 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, 18 and 21 of the Long Beach Municipal Code if any unpaid fine, interest or penalties remain delinquent for a period of more than thirty (30) days.

9.65.150 Failure to remedy weed abatement activity.

In the event a responsible person(s) is cited for violation of weed

abatement, pursuant to section 9.65.030 of this Chapter, and fails to correct the violation within the specified correction period, and also fails to file a timely appeal of the administrative citation as set forth in section 9.65.100 of this Chapter, in addition to fine(s), late charges, and consequences resulting from failure to pay fines as defined in this Chapter, a lot cleaning levy shall also be imposed. A lot cleaning levy payment notice shall be served upon the Cited Party in the same manner as provided for service of the administrative citation set forth in section 9.65.070 of this Chapter.

9.65.160 Failure to remedy inoperative vehicle activity.

In the event a responsible person(s) is cited for violation of inoperative vehicles pursuant to 9.65.040 of this Chapter, and fails to correct the violation within the specified period and also fails to file a timely appeal of the administrative citation as set forth in section 9.65.100 of this Chapter, in addition to fine(s), late charges, and consequences resulting from failure to pay fines as defined in this Chapter, a vehicle removal levy shall also be imposed. A vehicle removal levy payment notice shall be served upon the Cited Party in the same manner as provided for service of the administrative citation set forth in section 9.65.070 of this Chapter.

9.65.170 Appeal of lot cleaning and inoperative vehicle levy.

A. Any recipient of lot cleaning or inoperative vehicle levy payment notice may appeal the reasonableness of the computed charges by completing a levy hearing request form and returning it to the Department of Community Development within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date the levy notice was served, together with a deposit in the total

amount of the administrative citation fine, late charges, and levy.

B. A hearing on the appeal shall be set for a date that is not sooner than fifteen (15) calendar and not more than sixty (60) calendar days from the date that the request for hearing is completed and submitted in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter. The person requesting the hearing shall be notified in writing of the time and place set for the hearing at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the date of the hearing.

- C. The hearing officer shall only consider evidence that is relevant to whether the costs used to compute the levy are reasonably related to abatement costs incurred by the City. Courtroom rules of evidence shall not apply. Relevant hearsay evidence and written reports may be admitted whether or not the speaker or author is present to testify if the hearing officer determines that such evidence is reliable. Admission of evidence and the conduct of the hearing shall be controlled by the hearing officer in accordance with the fundamentals of due process. The hearing officer may set reasonable limits on the length of the hearing, and shall allow the appellant at least as much time to present its case as is allowed the City.
- D. The Cited Party contesting the reasonableness of the levy shall be given the opportunity to testify and present witnesses and evidence concerning the computed cost. The Appellant and City may be represented by Counsel.
- E. The administrative citation and any additional documents prepared by the City in connection with the levy may be submitted and shall constitute prima facie evidence of the respective facts contained in those documents.
  - F. In the event additional documents concerning the levy are

provided to the hearing officer for consideration, whenever possible, a copy of such document(s) shall be served by mail on the appellant at least five (5) calendar days prior to the date of the hearing.

- G. The hearing officer may continue the hearing or request additional information from the City or the appellant prior to issuing a written decision.
- H. After considering all of the testimony and evidence submitted at the hearing, the hearing officer shall issue a written decision within fifteen (15) business days of the hearing.
- I. The appellant and the City shall each be served by mail with a copy of the hearing officer's written decision.
- J. If the hearing officer determines that the levy was properly computed, and should be upheld as reasonable, then the entire deposit with the City shall be retained by the City.
- K. In the event the hearing officer determines the levy, or any portion thereof, to be unreasonable, then that amount shall be refunded within fifteen (15) business days of the date of the written determination.
- L. The failure of the appellant to appear at the hearing shall constitute a forfeiture of the entire deposit and a failure to exhaust administrative remedies.
- M. A failure to file a timely appeal shall be deemed a waiver of the right to appeal the levy.

## 9.65.180 Dismissal of citation.

The enforcement officer, with the approval of the Director of Community Development, may dismiss an administrative citation at any time if it is determined to have been issued in error, in which event any deposit will be refunded.

2.0

9.65.190 Right to Judicial Review.

A. Either the City or the appellant aggrieved by a decision of a hearing officer on an administrative citation or levy, may obtain review of the decision by filing a Petition for Review with the Los Angeles Superior Court in accordance with the timelines and provisions as set forth in California Government Code Section 53069.4(b). Said procedure shall be available for all judicial review under this Chapter, notwithstanding that the term or condition being enforced pursuant to this Chapter may not be a matter covered by Section 53069.4(a). Judicial review of a citation shall not be available unless all administrative remedies have been exhausted as provided in this Chapter.

B. Failure to receive any notice specified in this Chapter does not affect the validity of proceedings conducted hereunder.

9.65.200 Recovery of code enforcement abatement costs.

The administrative citation process described in this Chapter does not preclude the City from recovering any other code violation or nuisance abatement costs incurred by the City in performing its code enforcement efforts.

Sec. 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance by the City Council and cause it to be posted in three conspicuous places in the City of Long Beach, and it shall take effect on the thirty-first day after it is approved by the Mayor.

- 11

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the City by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmembers: Councilmembers: Noes: Absent: Councilmembers: Approved: MJM:CM:kjm #05-00109 2/3/05; 2/9/05

L:\APPS\CtyLaw32\WPDOCS\D007\P004\00069192.WPD

Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2005, City Clerk Mayor