

PUBLIC NUISANCE VIOLATIONS

(City of Havelock Code of Ordinances Chapter 50)

The City of Havelock is working to maintain a clean, safe and healthy environment in our neighborhoods. The Planning and Inspections Department is responsible for enforcing the City's Public Nuisance ordinances inside the City limits where public nuisances occur and to educate citizens on maintaining a clean, safe and healthy environment.

Our Code Enforcement staff works closely with citizens to correct violations to meet the City's codes.

Common Violations:

- Grass and weeds over 8 inches high
- Trash and debris
- Accumulation of tires
- Junk vehicles
- Any condition detrimental to the public health or safety

Reporting a Violation:

You can help keep the City of Havelock clean and safe by bringing problem areas to the attention of the City. To make a report:

- call (252) 444-6433 to speak to a Planning Department staff member;
- email permits@havelocknc.us
- on the main page of the City's website (www.havelocknc.us), click on "How Do I..." and choose "Report a Violation"
- use the Mobile 311 app on your smartphone.

When making a report, please include:

- the address of the property;
- a detailed description of the problem; and,
- its location on the property.

What happens next?

Once a complaint is received, the Code Enforcement Officer will inspect the property to determine if it is a valid complaint.

If the report is determined not to be a violation and you have provided your contact information, you will be contacted with an explanation.

If the report is determined to be a PUBLIC NUISANCE:

- The Code Enforcement Officer will research to determine the responsible party. This may take up to 5 days or longer in some cases.
- The responsible party will be sent a Notice of Violation by Certified Mail giving 10 days from the date of receipt of the notice to correct the violation.
- If the responsible party cannot be reached by mail, a Notice of Violation will be published in the newspaper.
- An inspection will be conducted to verify compliance.
- If the violation is not corrected, the City will hire a contractor to resolve (abate) the issue and the Code Enforcement Officer will inspect the property to verify the abatement has been done.
- The responsible party will be charged the cost of abatement, a Public Nuisance Fee (Per the City's Fee Schedule), a Civil Citation, and any other costs incurred by the City in resolving the violation.
- If the responsible party does not pay the costs within 30 days, a lien will be placed on the property with Craven County Tax Office.

Chronic Violator

If a property is cited 3 times over the course of a calendar year, it will be determined to be a "Chronic Violator."

The following calendar year, the City may give notice that, if the property is found to be in violation of the public nuisance ordinance, the City will take action to resolve the situation without providing further notice.

The property owner will be charged a Chronic Violator fee and all other associated fees, and if not paid within 30 days, it will be filed as a lien against the property.

Zoning Violations

(City of Havelock Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Chapter 162)

The process for Zoning Violations, most commonly unpermitted fences and accessory structures, closely follows the one for Public Nuisances.

- Inspection
- Notice of Non-Compliance, if a valid violation
- Re-inspection
- Notice of Violation, if not corrected
- Citation (fines) and possible legal action

For Zoning Violations the City does not hire a contractor to clean up the property. However, the fines may continue to accrue on a daily basis until the issue is resolved.

The City Code and UDO are available on the City's website (www.havelocknc.us).