

AN ORDINANCE

No. _____

An Ordinance amending Chapter 8 and Chapter 13 of the Columbus Code by establishing minimum guidelines for fines imposed for various building code, nuisance and solid waste violations in those chapters; and for other purposes.

THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1.

Paragraph 8-14.10 of the Columbus Code of Ordinances is hereby deleted in its entirety and a new Section 8-14.10 is inserted to read as follows:

“Sec. 8-14.10. Violations and penalties.

Any person, firm, corporation, or agent who shall erect, construct, alter, install, demolish, or move any structure, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, or has erected, constructed, altered, repaired, moved or demolished a building, structure, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, in violation of any requirements set forth in this article or any permits or plans submitted or issued in accordance with this article, or shall fail to obtain a certificate of occupancy or otherwise comply with the requirements of this article shall be guilty of an offense, punishable as set forth in section 1-8 of the Columbus Code. Each such person shall be considered guilty of a separate offense for each and every day, or portion thereof, during which any violation of any of the provisions of this code is committed or continued, and upon conviction of any such violation, such person shall be punished as set forth in section 1-8 of the Columbus Code. Any person violating any provision of this Article shall be fined a minimum of \$500.00 for the first offense and shall be fined a minimum of \$1,000.00 for a second and each subsequent offense at the same property location.”

SECTION 2.

Paragraph 8-26 of the Columbus Code of Ordinances is hereby deleted in its entirety and a new Section 8-26 is inserted to read as follows:

“Sec. 8-26. Violations and penalties.

Any person, firm, corporation, or agent who shall violate a provision of this article, or fail to comply therewith, or with any of the requirements thereof, or who shall design, erect, construct, alter, install, demolish or repair any public or private swimming pool, in violation of a detailed statement or drawing, submitted and permitted thereunder, shall be guilty of an offense, punishable as set forth in section 1-8 of the Columbus Code. Each such person shall be considered guilty of a separate offense for each and every day, or portion thereof, during which any violation of any of the provisions of this article is committed or continued, and upon conviction of any such violation, such person shall be punished as set forth in section 1-8 of the Columbus Code. Any person violating any provision of this Article shall be fined a minimum of \$500.00 for the first offense and shall be fined a minimum of \$1,000.00 for a second and each subsequent offense at the same property location.”

SECTION 3.

Paragraph 8-50 of the Columbus Code of Ordinances is hereby deleted in its entirety and a new Section 8-50 is inserted to read as follows:

“Sec. 8-50. Violations and penalties.

Any person, firm, corporation, or agent, who shall violate a provision of this article, shall be guilty of an offense; and, if, upon hearing before the recorder, he shall find that any condition or conditions involved constitute a nuisance, the recorder, at his discretion, may order such nuisance abated and/or impose a punishment as set forth in section 1-8 of the code. Any person violating any provision of this Article shall be fined a minimum of \$500.00 for the first offense and shall be fined a minimum of \$1,000.00 for a second and each subsequent offense at the same property location.”

SECTION 4.

Paragraph 8-90 of the Columbus Code of Ordinances is hereby deleted in its entirety and a new Section 8-90 is inserted to read as follows:

“Sec. 8-90. Penalty for violation of division.

The penalty for violation of this article shall be as provided in section 1-8 of the Columbus, Georgia Code. Each day a violation continues after the notice periods provided by this division have run shall constitute a separate offense. Any person violating any provision of this Article shall be fined a minimum of \$500.00 for the first offense and shall be fined a minimum of \$1,000.00 for a second and each subsequent offense at the same property location.”

SECTION 5.

Paragraph 13-114 of the Columbus Code of Ordinances is hereby deleted in its entirety and a new Section 13-114 is inserted to read as follows:

“Sec. 13-114. Same—Notice of violation; penalty for failure to remove.

When any weeds or grass are being maintained on any lot in violation of the preceding section, it shall be the duty of the public services director, or one of his assistants, to notify in writing the occupant of such lot, if it be occupied, or the owner thereof, if it be unoccupied, or their agents or representatives, allowing ten days to correct the violation. No further written notice or warning period to correct the violation shall be required during a period of 36 months after the initial written notice. If the violator or his representative or agent fails to cut and remove the grass or weeds so as to comply with the requirements of the preceding section, such party shall be punished as provided in section 1-8 of this Code. Any person violating any provision of this Article shall be fined a minimum of \$500.00 for the first offense and shall be fined a minimum of \$1,000.00 for a second and each subsequent offense at the same property location.”

SECTION 6.

Paragraph 13-118 of the Columbus Code of Ordinances is hereby deleted in its entirety and a new Section 13-118 is inserted to read as follows:

“Sec. 13-118. Penalty.

Any person violating any provision of this article shall, upon conviction in the recorder's court, be punished as provided in section 1-8 of this Code. Forfeiture of a cash bond in lieu of appearance in recorder's court by the person cited for a violation of this article shall not be a bar to a subsequent prosecution for the same violation. Any person violating any provision of this Article shall be fined a minimum of \$500.00 for the first offense and shall be fined a minimum of \$1,000.00 for a second and each subsequent offense at the same property location.".

SECTION 7.

Paragraph 13-167.17 of the Columbus Code of Ordinances is hereby deleted in its entirety and a new Section 13-167.17 is inserted to read as follows:

“Sec. 13-167.17. Penalties.

“Any person violating the provisions of this article shall be punished as set forth in section 1-8 of this Code. Each day such violation continues shall be considered a separate offense. Any person violating any provision of this Article shall be fined a minimum of \$500.00 for the first offense and shall be fined a minimum of \$1,000.00 for a second and each subsequent offense at the same property location.".

SECTION 8.

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the 26th day of October, 2021; introduced a second time at a regular meeting of said Council held on the __ day of _____, 2021, an adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Barnes voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor House voting _____
- Councilor Huff voting _____
- Councilor Thomas voting _____
- Councilor Tucker voting _____
- Councilor Woodson voting _____

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III, Mayor