



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA – City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: December 4, 2023

ITEM TITLE: Nuisance Property Updates

DISCUSSION:

Staff would like to discuss with the Council Nuisance Properties, specifically if the council wishes to continue issuing citations and Municipal Infractions or if they would be comfortable filing 657A actions through the City Attorneys office to begin the process of getting these properties under the City's control and ownership.

Should a property be taken under the 657A process, Staff would then work to remove the structures from the property that are dilapidated or unsafe, and then work to find a developer to purchase and build a home on the property. If that option is not available, then the property could be purchased by neighboring owners to expand their property.

The point of this activity is to get houses that are in bad shape removed so that they do not continue to drag down property values of neighboring homes and cause other issues for neighbors who maintain their properties as they should.

For reference, we have attached Chapter 657A of the Iowa Code.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends discussion of this topic. No action is needed at this meeting, as any decision items needed would be brought forward to a City Council meeting for approval.