



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1717 E. Park Street
P.O. BOX 87
Two Rivers, WI 54241-0087



Date: August 29, 2023

To: Gregory E. Buckley, City Manager

From: Ben Meinnert, Chief of Police

Ref: Ordinance Creation (3) and an Amended Ordinance:

Creation of ordinances regarding prostitution and failure to act to prevent sexual assault of a minor. Creation of an ordinance related specifically to Hotels/Motels. Amendment to an ordinance regarding adult entertainment businesses.

Sec 9-4-6: FAILURE TO ACT: PREVENT SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A MINOR BY ADULT RESPONSIBLE FOR MINOR'S WELFARE

Sec 9-4-7: CRIMES AGAINST SEXUAL MORALITY

Our neighboring jurisdiction, Manitowoc, has had an ordinance in place since 2017 regarding prostitution. Other notable jurisdictions, including Grand Chute, Wausau, and Stevens Point have also adopted prostitution related statutes into ordinance. These ordinances provide more prosecutorial tools to combat a growing trend in the state and area regarding prostitution and the exploitation of young persons in Human Trafficking. Having these ordinances locally will give authorities more leeway in dealing with individual cases, while also providing prosecutors with the option of charging an individual with a felony or recommending a city ordinance violation, depending on the severity and circumstances of each case, while also considering the welfare of the victim.

Prostitution, is someone of their own free will, deciding to engage in commercial sexual activity. Human trafficking, also known as trafficking of persons, is a crime that involves compelling or coercing a person to provide labor or services, or to engage in commercial sex acts. The coercion can be subtle or overt, physical or psychological. Exploitation of a minor for commercial sex is human trafficking, regardless of whether any form of force, fraud, or coercion was used. The creation of a Prostitution ordinance would address and deter those adults providing a demand for illegal prostitution and human trafficking and the creation of an ordinance addressing the Failure to Act to Prevent Sexual Assault of a Minor would address and deter those allowing environments for juveniles to partake in sexual activity and on a larger scale those involved in any level of human trafficking.





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CHAPTER 6-13-8 – LICENSING OF HOTELS/MOTELS

In June of 2022, the City of Two Rivers enacted a Short-Term Rental ordinance. While that ordinance could be used to address Hotels/Motels currently, the ordinance was instead intended to address other short-term rentals growing in popularity such as VRBO or AIRBNB. The creation of this ordinance would address Hotels/Motels specifically and require a license issued and renewed annually, much like Class B establishments.

This ordinance will provide improved accountability by Owners/Operators of Hotel/Motel businesses with a focus on improving health and safety issues for guests, Hotel/Motel employees, and the Two Rivers community, by requiring Owners/Operators to obtain and maintain their license to operate Hotels/Motels in the City, by imposing penalties for inappropriate activities, and by providing an opportunity for Owners/Operators to mitigate those penalties by voluntary cooperation with the Two Rivers Police Department.

This ordinance is not intended to be a means to profit, but rather to address and deter Hotels/Motels that may cause an excessive number of public safety calls for service or code enforcement that directly relate to deterioration on both the existing businesses around them and the surrounding residential areas adjacent to them, and increased crime and the reduction of property values. The ordinance desires to minimize and control these adverse secondary effects and thereby protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizenry; protect the citizens from increased crime; preserve the quality of life; preserve the property values and character of surrounding neighborhoods; and deter the spread of urban blight.

Sec. 9-8-8. Separation of adult entertainment businesses.

In July of 2023, our neighboring jurisdiction, Manitowoc passed amendments to their adult entertainment ordinance extending restrictions of such businesses to 1000 feet from any school, public library, day-care facility, recreational facility, place of worship, church senior/elderly housing facility, park or playground, and any other tavern with a fermented beverage license. This ordinance amendment will look to stay consistent with the distance restrictions and verbiage of our neighboring jurisdiction.



www.two-rivers.org

920.793.191



920.793.5500

