TOWN BOARD PROCEEDINGS Minutes #2017-17 September 7, 2017

Deputy Supervisor Matthew D. English called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. with 30 seconds of silent prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Hanley.

**ROLL CALL:** 

Present -

Eugene P. Hart

Councilman

William P. Hanley, Jr.

Councilman

Absent -

Sheila M. Meegan

Supervisor

Deputy Supervisor English read the Fire Prevention Code instructing the public where to exit in case of a fire or an emergency.

The meeting was dedicated to the memory of Joseph Sgroi, Randie J. Joseph, Susan Miranda, Elizabeth McNamara & Katherine Ernst.

## 17-A MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

Motion by Councilman Hanley, seconded by Councilman Hart, to approve Minutes #2017-16 of August 21, 2017.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

## **17-B LEGAL ITEMS**

1. Motion by Councilman Hanley, seconded by Councilman Hart, that proofs of publication and posting of legal notice: "OF A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER LOCAL LAW NO. 5 – ABSENTEE LANDLORDS & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY" in the Town of West Seneca, be received and filed.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

Motion by Councilman Hanley, seconded by Councilman Hart, to open the public hearing.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

District Attorney John Flynn commented on the proposed local law and stated the City of Buffalo and Town of Cheektowaga have already taken this step and adopted legislation that holds absentee landlords accountable for the criminal behavior of their tenants. Mr. Flynn stated Erie County is dealing with a serious opiod crisis and situations involving drug use in buildings, rental units and parks. There are abandoned and occupied buildings where landlords have no idea what is going on with their property or their tenants, and although it is a small number of landlords, any type of law that helps stem criminal activity is good. Mr. Flynn stated Local Law No. 5 is constitutional and appropriate and will be beneficial for the residents of the community. He further thanked Councilman Hanley for his leadership in proposing this ordinance and offered his assistance.

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## **17-B LEGAL ITEMS**

## 1. (continued)

Councilman Hanley explained the intent of the law is to address residential, non-owner occupied properties that may become a haven for drug use or various criminal or disruptive activities with the goal of minimizing and controlling any adverse effects. A registration process will be implemented and there is no fee involved.

Town Attorney John Fenz noted there have been some concerns as to whether the proposed local law is constitutional; however, every part of the law has been enforced by courts of the State of New York and there have been no rulings that it is unconstitutional. It has also been asked why the law was drafted with no fee involved and Mr. Fenz explained the Town Board is looking for a law that landlords will comply with and having no fee avoids impediments to compliance. Mr. Fenz further stated the Town Board and police already have the power to evict tenants, but the proposed ordinance codifies who the local vice agency is for the town. Landlords will register with the Town Clerk's office and no records on the identity of renters will be maintained by the town, but landlords will have to comply with any requests from the Police Department concerning the identity of their tenants. The law will take effect 10 days after filing with the Secretary of State and landlords should comply within 30 days. If the police are called to a dwelling unit that is non owner occupied, they will report the incident to the Town Attorney who will then advise the landlord of the illegal activity. If there is another call to the same residence, the police will again advise the Town Attorney and after a third notice the town will notify the landlord to evict the tenant. If the landlord does not initiate eviction proceedings, the town will do so and assess a fee on their property taxes.

Councilman Hart questioned if an arrest must take place and Mr. Fenz advised this is a civil matter. If there is evidence of criminal activity, the town may move forward with the process. Councilman Hart further questioned if there is a complete record of rental properties in town and Senior Code Enforcement Officer John Gullo responded his department inspects buildings with three or more units. Two-family units are not inspected unless there is a complaint.

Councilman Hanley stated he received two correspondence, one in favor and one against the proposed local law.

Chief Denz stated this is another tool for law enforcement to deal with the situations involving tenants and absentee landlords and the law provides another avenue to try to correct the problems on the properties. The law does not just address drug related issues; it addresses every day issues such as noise, dog complaints, property maintenance complaints, etc. Chief Denz stated it is not uncommon for police to respond to a property numerous times with the problem not being properly addressed, only to find no assistance from a non-responsive absentee landlord.

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#### 17-B LEGAL ITEMS

## 1. (continued)

Donald Weiss commented that the law will be helpful, but he believes it needs to be tweaked. He suggested including owner occupied properties and offered to serve on a committee to assist in making some revisions. Mr. Weiss further commented on the wording in his leases that also contain the names and phone numbers of the tenant and he believes his tenants do not want their phone number given out.

Mr. Fenz stated the town cannot regulate the use of owner occupied homes. He further stated the town is concerned with irresponsible landlords that may have the wording in their lease but are not enforcing the lease.

Mr. Weiss did not believe landlords that have not had a police call at their properties should have to comply. Mr. Fenz advised the town cannot adopt a law that only applies to criminals. Mr. Weiss further commented on the expense incurred by landlords in evicting a tenant and also stated his concerns with the application requiring the tenant's names and phone numbers. Councilman Hart responded the town will not have the tenant's names on file. Landlords will be responsible to maintain the information and provide it if needed.

Pat Metz commented on activity on her street and stated this law is exactly what is needed and she is totally in favor of it.

Linda Toy supported the proposed local law but would like to see two-family homes included. Councilman Hanley advised two-family units are included, but owner occupied units are not.

Bill Melski commented on activity on his street and expressed his support for the proposed local law.

Anthony Parisi stated he owns two doubles, screens his tenants, is a responsible landlord and supports the local law. Mr. Parisi questioned the consequences to the landlord if eviction fails or takes too long. He further questioned the duration of the registration and if there is a review process in case the problem is a neighbor issue.

Mr. Fenz acknowledged that evicting a tenant is difficult, but stated as long as a landlord is demonstrating he is doing what he can to evict the tenant, they are essentially complying with the law. The registration is per unit with a two year renewal and the issue must involve criminal activity.

Motion by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to table the public hearing until the next meeting.

Ayes: All Noes: None Motion Carried

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## 17-C COMMUNICATIONS

 Supervisor Meegan re Appointment of Pastor Jason Drapeau to West Seneca Youth Board Motion by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to appoint Pastor Jason Drapeau to the West Seneca Youth Board effective immediately for a three year term.

On the question, Town Attorney John Fenz stated previous appointments do not have set terms. Recreation Supervisor Lauren Masset stated the current by-laws state three members at three years, three members at two years and three members at one year.

Motion by Councilman Hanley, seconded by Councilman Hart, to table this item pending research on term limits.

Ayes: All Noes: None Motion Carried

Town Attorney re Rate increase for Diane Webber part-time clerk typist Motion by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to increase the hourly rate for part-time clerk typist Diane Webber to \$16 per hour effective August 23, 2017 and authorize the Supervisor to complete and sign the necessary forms for Erie County Personnel.

Ayes: All Noes: None Motion Carried

3. Town Engineer re Bid date for Switzer Park improvements

Motion by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to set a bid date of September 27, 2017 at 2:00 P.M. for receipt of bids on the Switzer Park Improvements Project.

On the question, Town Engineer Steven Tanner stated this project involves walking paths, stationary fitness equipment and playground equipment at Switzer Park. A \$100,000 grant from the NYS Parks will help fund the project with the remainder coming from the General Fund.

Ayes: All Noes: None Motion Carried

4. Highway Sup't. re Status change for Buildings & Grounds part-time seasonal laborers

Motion by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to change the status of part-time seasonal laborers Rick Mingle and Harold Schwartz to part-time laborers effective September 8, 2017 at a rate of \$12 per hour and change the status of the following part-time seasonal laborers to part-time laborers effective September 8, 2017 at a rate of \$10 per hour:

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## 17-C COMMUNICATIONS

4. (continued)

Matthew Amoia
James Brady
Raymond Ignasiak
Jason Lehsten

Michael Baker Ryan Czekaj Wayne Kelm Cooper Panek

Brandon Bork Quinn Finnegan Joseph Kropczynski Zachary Piechowiak

and authorize the Supervisor to complete and sign the necessary forms for Erie County Personnel.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

5. Highway Sup't. re Status change for Highway part-time seasonal laborers

Motion by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to change the status of part-time seasonal laborers Dawson Broad, Nicholas Cafarella, Daniel Dimitroff, Joseph Horan and John Schneck to part-time laborers effective September 8, 2017 at a rate of \$10 per hour and authorize the Supervisor to complete and sign the necessary forms for Erie County Personnel.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

6. Assessor re Attendance at training seminar

Motion by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to authorize Erik Finbar to attend the NYS Assessor's Association training conference October 1-4, 2017 in Lake Placid, New York, at a total cost not to exceed \$1,250.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

7. Recreation Supervisor re Reappointment of Lauren Glawatz as part-time Recreation Attendant Motion by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to reappoint Lauren Glawatz as part-time Recreation Attendant at a rate of \$13 per hour effective September 15, 2017 and authorize the Supervisor to complete and sign the necessary forms for Erie County Personnel, noting this position will be paid from Acct. #1.7140.0149.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

**Motion Carried** 

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## 17-C COMMUNICATIONS

8. Recreation Supervisor re Learn to Skate program

Motion by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to enter into an agreement with Joan Disbrow on behalf of Learn to Skate for the 2017-18 season.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

9. Recreation Supervisor re Youth basketball program

Motion by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to approve the youth basketball program for fall 2017, noting the program dates are subject to change or cancellation depending on facility usage, WSCSD schedule, staffing levels, weather, program enrollment and various other factors.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

10. Recreation Supervisor re Revisions to Recreation Employee Handbook Motion by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to approve the proposed revisions to the Recreation Employee Handbook.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

11. Recreation Supervisor re Ice Rink appointments

Motion by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to appoint the attached list of individuals to the corresponding positions and rates of pay effective October 1, 2017 – May 31, 2018, noting these positions will be paid from Acct. #1.7140.0149.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried \*APPENDICES\*

12. Chief Denz re Resignation of Jenna Sullivan as clerk/typist

Motion by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to accept the resignation of Jenna Sullivan as clerk/typist effective September 6, 2017 and authorize the Supervisor to complete and sign the necessary forms for Erie County Personnel.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

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## 17-C COMMUNICATIONS

13. Chief Denz re Appointment of crossing guards

Motion by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to appoint Joseph Mrowczynski and Edith Bauld as part-time crossing guards effective September 11, 2017 at a rate of \$10 per hour and authorize the Supervisor to complete and sign the necessary forms for Erie County Personnel.

Ayes: All Noes: None Motion Carried

## 17-D REPORTS

Jacqueline A Felser, Town Clerk's report for August 2017 received and filed.

#### 17-E APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Motion by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to approve the vouchers submitted for audit, chargeable to the respective funds as follows: General Fund - \$301,775.45; Highway Fund - \$90,236.48; Special Districts - \$52,850.19; Capital Fund - \$164,229.76 (vouchers 99561 - 101599) Trust - \$245,681.01 (vouchers 101605 - 101614)

Ayes: All Noes: None Motion Carried

## **ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC**

#### **PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

Linda Toy questioned the proposed improvements to Tim Russert Park and Switzer Park. Councilman Hanley stated they are two different projects and Tim Russert Park is being made ADA compliant. Deputy Supervisor Matthew English explained the improvements originally proposed for Veterans Memorial Park have been moved to Switzer Park.

# PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATIONS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

## **FLU SHOTS**

Senior Recreation Therapist of Senior Services Mary Josefiak announced that flu shots are being offered at the senior center. Contact the senior center for more information.

## **FREE RABIES CLINIC**

Deputy Supervisor Matthew English announced a free rabies clinic will be held at the Highway Department on Wednesday, September 27, 2017, 4 P.M. – 7 P.M.

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# PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATIONS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

## <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

Motion by Councilman Hart, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 P.M.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

**Motion Carried** 

DACQUELINE A FELSER, TOWN CLERK

## ABSENTEE LANDLORDS & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

## Article I. Licensing of Landlords

### § 1. Purpose.

- A. The Town of West Seneca hereby finds and declares that the rental of non-owner-occupied dwelling units constitutes a business which impacts upon the public health, safety and general welfare of the residents of the Town of West Seneca. Residential non-owner-occupied rental properties may become a haven for drug use and various criminal or disruptive activities that can cause disorder in our community and affect the quality of life of others in the Town of West Seneca.
- B. The Town Board of the Town of West Seneca desires to minimize and control the adverse effects caused by illegal and nuisance activities which may occur at these residential non-owner-occupied rental properties, thereby protecting the health, safety and welfare of our citizens; and preserving the quality of life, property values and the character of neighborhoods and businesses.
- C. It is the purpose of this article to implement a registration requirement for the owners of residential non-owner-occupied rental properties in order to curb criminal activity and disorder of such non-owner-occupied rental properties in the Town of West Seneca.

## § 2. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

#### CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Unlawful activity consisting of drug activity, weapons possession, assault, domestic violence, murder, assault, sexual assault, gang activity or other activity proscribed by the Penal Law of the State of New York.

#### CRIMINAL CONVICTION

The entry of a plea of guilty to or a verdict of guilty for one or more counts set forth in an accusatory instrument.

#### **DWELLING**

A non-owner-occupied single-family, two-family or multifamily dwelling which is rented or for rent.

#### DWELLING UNIT

An individual rental unit in a dwelling.

#### ILLEGAL DRUG ACTIVITY

Use or possession of a controlled substance or marihuana (marijuana), as defined by the New York State Penal Law.

#### NON-OWNER-OCCUPIED DWELLING

A dwelling which is owned by an owner who does not reside in the dwelling.

### OWNER/LANDLORD

The owner or owners of a dwelling, or a mortgagee or vendee in possession, assignee of rents, receiver, executor, trustee or agent.

#### POLICE REPORT

A report issued by a Town police officer after said officer has responded to a complaint alleging the occurrence of criminal activity or a public nuisance.

#### **PREMISES**

A building or structure, or any part thereof.

#### PROPERTY MANAGER

A person or other entity designated by the owner to manage a dwelling on behalf of the owner.

#### PUBLIC NUISANCE

The following are declared to be public nuisances.

- A. Any premises, building, structure or real property used for the purposes of prostitution as defined by New York State Penal Law Article 230.
- B. Any premises, building, structure or real property used for purposes of indecency, obscene performances and/or promotion of obscene materials as defined by New York State Penal Law Article 235.
- C. Any premises, building, structure or real property used for purposes of illegal gambling activity as defined by New York State Penal Law Article 225.
- D. Any premises, building, structure or real property used for the purpose of illegal possession, use or sale of a firearm or weapon as defined by New York State Penal Law Article 265.
- E. Any premises, building, structure or real property used for the purpose of illegal sale, manufacturing or consumption of alcohol beverages as defined by the New York State Alcohol Beverage Control Law.

- F. Any premises, building, structure or real property wherein there exists or has occurred a criminal nuisance as defined by the New York State Penal Law Section 240.45 or 240.46.
- G. Activities affecting the quality of life of residents of the Town of West Seneca, including violations of the Town's Noise Law, alcohol-related incidents or other violations of the Code of the Town of West Seneca which are enforced by the Town Police Department.

## RENTER/LESSEE/TENANT

Any person who rents a dwelling unit from an owner in the Town of West Seneca, In addition to its ordinary meaning, shall include an occupant of one or more rooms in a rooming house or a resident, not including a transient occupant, of one or more rooms in a hotel who has been in possession for 30 consecutive days or longer.

#### TOWN

The Town of West Seneca.

## § 3. Landlord license; registration requirement.

- A. License required. No person who owns one or more dwelling units in the Town shall allow a dwelling unit to be occupied or rented to another for occupancy unless the owner has first obtained a rental housing business license as hereafter provided.
- B. Exemptions. The provisions of this article shall not apply to hotels, motels, bed-and-breakfast establishments, rooming or boarding houses, hospitals, nursing homes, or other dwelling units which offer or provide medical or nursing services if such units are subject to state or federal licensing or regulations concerning the safety of the users, patients or tenants. This article shall not apply to any one-family, two-family, three-family or four-family dwellings where the owner of said dwelling resides in one of the dwelling units of said dwelling.
- C. Application for license. Within 30 days after the effective date of this law, the owner of dwelling units shall make written application for a rental housing business license to the Town Clerk's office. Such application shall be on a form furnished by the Town and shall set forth the following information, in addition to other information required by the Town from time to time which the Town deems necessary to administer, enforce and ensure compliance with the provisions of this article. Failure to provide such information shall be grounds to deny a rental housing business license:
  - (1) Names, addresses (business and residence) and telephone number(s) (business and residence) of owner;

- (2) If the owner is an association, limited liability company, partnership, joint tenancy, tenancy in common or tenancy by the entirety, then the name, address and telephone number of each and every owner, member or general partner shall be indicated on the application;
- (3) If the owner is a corporation, the principal place of business of the corporation must be provided, along with the name, title and residence address of all officers, directors and managing/general agents must be included on the application;
- (4) If the owner has designated an agent or managing company to assist the owner with the management of the property, then the name, principal residence address, principal business address and telephone number of such agent or managing company must be included on the application;
- (5) It shall be the responsibility of the owner to properly register any change of address, change of agent or change of any other pertinent information with the Town:
- (6) For purposes of this article, a post office box shall not be accepted as the owner's business or residence address. Furthermore, the dwelling intended to be licensed shall not be accepted as the owner's address unless it is the principal place or residence of the owner;
- (7) For purposes of this article, if the owner does not reside in or have its place of business in the County of Erie, then the owner must have a property manager located in the County of Erie. If the owner does not reside or have a business located in the County of Erie, then the owner must designate a property manager located in the County of Erie who can accept service of process.
- (8) The owner shall specify the address to which all notices and invoices for fees are to be forwarded.
- D. No license application fee. There is no fee for a rental housing business/landlord license under this law, but any license issued shall be renewed by the owner every two years.
- E. Issuance or denial of license. After receipt of the owner's application for a rental housing business license, the Town Clerk and Town Attorney shall review same to ensure said application contains all of the required information. If the application is deemed complete, the Town Clerk's office, within 30 days, shall forward the owner a rental housing business license. If said application is deemed incomplete, the Town Clerk or Town Attorney shall notify the owner, and the owner shall have 30 days in which to supply the required information. If the required information is not supplied by the owner, the application shall be denied.
- F. Effect of failure to make application or denial of rental housing business license. If the owner does not submit the rental housing business license application or fails to supply all of the information required on the application, the owner shall be subject to a fine of Five hundred dollars per owner for each thirty-day period until an acceptable application is submitted.

- G. Recourse if fine is not paid. If the owner neglects or refuses to pay the fine(s) as stated in Subsection F of this section within 30 days after notification, the Town shall add any such fine(s) onto the owner's property tax bill, and it shall become a lien on the property/dwelling.
- H. Term of license. A rental housing business license issued pursuant to this law shall be valid for a period of two years after its issuance, unless sooner revoked pursuant to this law.
- I. Nontransferability of license. A rental housing business license issued pursuant to this law shall not be transferable to any person who has acquired ownership of a dwelling. A new owner is required to file a new application for a rental housing business license within 30 days after acquiring ownership.

# § 4. Criminal or public nuisance activity occurring on dwelling property.

- A. In the event that a Town police officer responds to the dwelling unit for reports of criminal activity or public nuisance activity on the dwelling unit; finds that said activity was engaged in or facilitated by the renter, member of the household, guest or other party under the control of the renter; and issues a police report for same, the Town Attorney shall forward a notice to the owner or property manager stating that there was a police report of criminal activity or public nuisance activity on the dwelling property. The owner or property manager shall then take appropriate action to notify the tenant to cease any such activity, or evict said tenant. In the event that there is a subsequent incident at the same dwelling unit in the same activity year relating to activity engaged in, or facilitated by the same renter or a member of his/her household, guest or other party under the control of said renter, the Town Attorney shall forward by first-class mail a second notice of criminal activity or public nuisance activity to the owner or property manager. Subsequent incidents in the same activity year at the same dwelling unit will be followed by a notice to the owner or property manager, along with a notice of the imposition of the following fines:
  - (1) Third incident in the same activity year: fine of \$50;
  - (2) Fourth incident in the same activity year: fine of \$100;
  - (3) Fifth incident in the same activity year: fine of \$500;
  - (4) All further incidents in the same activity year: fine of \$1,000 per incident.
- B. If the owner or property manager submits information to the Town Attorney that it is in the process of evicting the tenant in whose dwelling unit the criminal or public nuisance activity is occurring, future impositions of fines will cease. In the event that the owner neglects or refuses to pay the fine(s) as stated in this section within 30 days after notification, the Town shall add such fine(s) onto the dwelling's property tax bill, and it shall become a lien on the property/dwelling.
- C. For purposes of this law, "activity year" shall mean the period of time commencing on September 1 of any year and ending on August 31 of the subsequent year.

# § 5. Crime-free/crime prevention lease addendum.

The owner or property manager of a dwelling under this law is encouraged to utilize a crime-free/crime prevention lease addendum, an example of which is annexed to this law, to assist the owner or property manager with the eviction of tenants who continue to conduct criminal or public nuisance activity in the dwelling unit.

#### § 6. Tenant information.

The owner of each dwelling is required to maintain information concerning all of its tenants, including the number and names of all occupants, and the full address and telephone numbers of all tenants. In the event of criminal or public nuisance activity on the property, the owner or property manager shall cooperate with the Town Police Department by providing this information to the Town Police Department if so requested.

## § 7. Appeals.

Any owner or property manager who is notified of a fine under this law shall have the right to appeal the imposition of said fine to the Town Board of the Town of West Seneca. A written request for an appeal shall be made by the owner or property manager within 30 days after the date of the communication notifying the owner or property manager of the fine. The Town Board shall schedule a hearing within 30 days after receipt of said request for appeal. The owner or property manager shall appear at the hearing in person and shall have the right to representation by a person of his or her choice. The owner, property manager or his/her representative shall provide sworn testimony at said hearing. An appeal to the Town Board will stay the imposition of the fine until it renders its decision. The Town Board shall thereafter issue its written decision to uphold the fine or rescind the fine.

# Article II. Eviction for Illegal Drug Activity or Public Nuisance

# § 8. Eviction for use or occupation of premises for illegal drug activity.

A special proceeding to evict a tenant from leased premises may be maintained upon the ground that the premises, or any part thereof, have been used or occupied for the purpose of illegal drug activity or a public nuisance as defined in § 2.

#### § 9. Procedures.

The procedures applicable to summary proceedings to recover possession of real property under state law shall be applicable to any proceeding brought under this chapter.

## § 10. Service of notice, commencement of eviction proceedings.

- A. The following persons, corporations and agencies may serve personally upon the owner or landlord, or upon his agent, of demised real property used or occupied, in whole or in part, for the use or possession of illegal drugs or the existence of a public nuisance, a written notice requiring the owner or landlord to make an application for the removal of the person(s) so using or occupying the premises:
  - (1) Any domestic corporation organized for the suppression of vice, subject to, or which submits visitation by the New York State Department of Social Services or the Erie County Department of Social Services, and possess a certificate from such department of such fact and of such conformity with regulations of the department.
  - (2) Any duly authorized enforcement agency of New York State, or a subdivision thereof, and/or the Town of West Seneca, under a duty to enforce the provisions of the Penal Law or of any state or local law, ordinance, code, rule or regulation relating to buildings.
- B. If the owner or landlord, or his agent, does not make such application within five days thereafter, or having made it, does not in good faith diligently prosecute it, the person, corporation or enforcement agency giving notice may bring a proceeding under this chapter for such removal as though the petitioner were the owner or the landlord of the premises, and shall have precedence over any similar proceeding thereafter brought by such owner or landlord or to the one theretofore brought by him and not prosecuted diligently and in good faith. Proof of illegal drug activity or a public nuisance at the demised premises or by the occupants thereof, or of those resorting thereto, shall constitute evidence of the unlawful use of the demised premises required to be stated in the petition for removal. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 11 and § 12 of this chapter, multiple instances of illegal drug activity or a public nuisance are not required to commence an eviction proceeding under this chapter. Both the person(s) in possession of the property and the owner or landlord shall be made respondents in the proceeding under this chapter.

# § 11. Multiple convictions constitute presumptive evidence.

Two or more convictions of any person or persons had, within a period of one year, for any of the offenses defined in Article 220 or 221 of the Penal Law or any of the offenses set forth as a public nuisance in § 2 arising out of conduct engaged in the same real property consisting of a dwelling as that term is defined in Subdivision 4 of the New York State Multiple Dwelling Law, shall be presumptive evidence of conduct constituting use and occupancy of the premises for the purpose of using and possessing illegal drugs or of the existence of a public nuisance and of the tenant's knowledge thereof.

# § 12. Other evidence of prohibited conduct as presumption of existence of illegal drug activity or a public nuisance.

Two or more incidents of the following activities at any building, structure or real property within one-year period prior to the commencement of a civil action by notice of such action as provided within this chapter shall be prima facie evidence of the existence of illegal drug activity or a public nuisance.

- A. Service of an accusatory instrument charging any of the offenses defined in Article 220 and 221 of the New York State Penal Law occurring upon the property. For the purposes of this section, an accusatory instrument shall include, but not be limited to, any criminal information, misdemeanor and/or felony complaint filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- B. Service of a search warrant on the building, structure or real property where controlled substances, marihuana (marijuana), drug paraphernalia and/or weapons are seized.
- C. Recovery of illegal controlled substances, drug paraphernalia or illegal firearms or weapons on the building, structure or real property.
- D. Investigative purchases of illegal controlled substances on the building, structure or real property by law enforcement agencies or their agents.
- E. Two or more arrests or convictions for any of the activities set forth in the definition of a public nuisance in § 2 at any premises, building, structure or real property within a two-year period shall be prima facie evidence of the existence of a public nuisance.

## § 13. Civil penalties.

A court granting a petition pursuant to this section may, in addition to any other order provided by law, make an order imposing and requiring the payment by the respondent of a civil penalty not exceeding \$5,000 to the Town of West Seneca, in which subject premises is located, and the payment of reasonable attorneys' fees and the cost of the proceeding to the petitioner. In any such case, multiple respondents shall be jointly and severally liable for any payment so ordered, and the amounts of such payments constitute a lien upon the subject real property.

# Town of West Seneca Example of Landlord - Tenant Lease Addendum

This addendum to the lease execut	ted by and between	as
Owner/Landlord and	_ as Tenant(s) for leasing	of the property at
is entered into this _	day of,	20, and includes
the following provisions which are hereby	agreed, incorporated into	and made a part of
said lease: Any violations of the ordinance:	s or any other federal, sta	te or local criminal
nuisance, or property maintenance statutes	s, regulations, or ordinance	es may result in the
EVICTION of the tenant who committed, allow	wed or facilitated the violat	ion.

Tenants and all persons who reside in the leased premises, by assuming possession of the same, agree that the landlord or his agents may release to the Police Department, Fire Department or Building Department information concerning the identity of all occupants. Tenants who fail to provide the landlord the names of individuals who will be temporarily residing at the dwelling unit more than seven consecutive calendar days may be subject to EVICTION.

In consideration of the execution or renewal of a lease of the rental unit identified in this lease, Owner (or Owner's agent or representative) and Resident/Tenant agree as follows:

- 1. Tenant, any member of the Tenant's household, a guest or invitee in the dwelling unit or on the common grounds, or any other person in the dwelling unit or on the common grounds invited there in any way by the Tenant or a member of the Tenant's household, shall not engage or in any way be involved in criminal activity, including but not limited to:
  - a) Drug-related criminal activity, meaning the manufacture, sale, distribution or use of a controlled substance, cannabis or methamphetamine (as defined in the New York Compiled Statutes).
    - b) Facilitate any drug-related activity.
    - c) Prostitution as defined in the New York Compiled Statutes.
  - d) Criminal street gang activity as defined in the New York Compiled Statutes.
  - e) Threatening or intimidating actions as prohibited in the New York Compiled Statutes.
  - f) Assault as prohibited in the New York Compiled Statutes, including but not limited to unlawful discharge of firearms.
  - g) Any breach of the lease agreement that otherwise jeopardizes the health, safety and welfare of the Landlord, his agent or other Tenants or involving imminent or actual serious damage as defined in the New York Compiled Statutes.
- 2. The Tenant and every member of the household shall not permit the dwelling unit to be used for criminal activity or to facilitate criminal activity, in the unit or on the common grounds, regardless of whether the individual engaging in such activities is a member of the household, a guest or invitee and regardless of whether the Tenant is present during any such offense.

3. VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE ABOVE PROVISIONS SHALL BE A MATERIAL AND IRREPARABLE VIOLATION OF THE LEASE AND GOOD CAUSE FOR TERMINATION OF THE TENANCY; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, A TENANT SHALL NOT BE RETALIATED AGAINST NOR EVICTED WHEN MERELY A VICTIM OF ANY CRIMINAL ACT PROHIBITED HEREIN, BUT SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTS OF HIS/HER GUESTS AND HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS. A single violation of any of the provisions hereof shall be deemed a serious violation and material noncompliance with the lease. IT IS UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED THAT A SINGLE VIOLATION SHALL BE GOOD CAUSE FOR IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OF THE LEASE UNDER THE NEW YORK COMPILED STATUTES. Unless otherwise provided by law, proof of violation shall not require criminal conviction, BUT SHALL BE BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE.

LANDLORD		
ΓΕΝΑΝΤ		

LAST	FIRST				
NAME	NAME	TITLE	COLUMN1	HOURLY	RATE OF PAY
Borzillieri	Peter	Recreation Attendant (PT)	Reappointment	\$	11.50
Cooke	Joshua	Recreation Attendant (PT)	New Hire	\$	11.00
Drajem	Joseph	Recreation Attendant (PT)	Reappointment	\$	12.00
Feneziani	Samuel	Recreation Attendant (PT)	New Hire	\$	11.00
Fish	Bryan	Recreation Attendant (PT)	Reappointment	\$	11.50
Gelinas	Gabrielle	Recreation Attendant (PT)	Reappointment	\$	12.00
Harris	Nicole	Recreation Attendant (PT)	Reappointment	\$	11.50
Hicks	Hayley	Recreation Attendant (PT)	New Hire	\$	11.00
Kaufman	Kelsey	Recreation Attendant (PT)	Reappointment	\$	12.00
Marino	Jacob	Recreation Attendant (PT)	Reappointment	\$	11.50
Nigro	Alexa	Recreation Attendant (PT)	Reappointment	\$	11.50
Nikander	Zachary	Recreation Attendant (PT)	New Hire	\$	11.00
Strawder	Nicole	Recreation Attendant (PT)	Reappointment	\$	12.00
Corey	Elaine	Recreation Attendant (PT)	Reappointment	\$	11.50
Sharkey	Joseph	Recreation Attendant (PT)	Reappointment	\$	12.00

NEW HIRE(S): \$11.00/HOUR

REAPPOINTMENT(S): \$11.50/HOUR FIRST AID & CPR, VALID, OBTAINED OR PROOF OF ENROLLMENT TURNED IN BY 9/7/17: + \$00.50