



Town of Brookline

Massachusetts

Patrick J. Ward, Town Clerk

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ARTICLE #12 FORM #2 SUBMISSION #2

June 14, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Patrick J. Ward, Town Clerk of the Town of Brookline, duly qualified and acting as such and having custody of the records, hereby certify that the following actions were taken under Article #12, at the Annual Town Meeting called for Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 7:00 P.M., adjourned to Wednesday, May 26, 2009 and dissolved on Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 9:20 P.M.

VOTED: That the Town amend the General By-Laws by adding the following Article:

ARTICLE 8.29 NUISANCE CONTROL

Section 8.29.1 Purpose

In order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of the Town, this bylaw shall permit the Town to impose liability on Property Owners and other responsible persons for the nuisances and harm caused by loud and unruly Gatherings on private property and shall prohibit the consumption of alcoholic beverages by underage persons at such Gatherings.

Section 8.29.2 Definitions

Eviction means actively trying to evict a tenant from a premise by delivery of a notice to quit and subsequent court proceedings, if a tenant fails to vacate the Premises.

Gathering is a party or event, where two or more persons have assembled or are assembled for a social occasion or social activity.

Premises means any residence or other private property, place, or location, including any commercial or business property.

Property Owner means the legal owner of record of a Premises as listed by the tax assessor's records.

Public Nuisance means a Gathering of persons on any Premises in a manner which constitutes a violation of law or creates a substantial disturbance of the quiet enjoyment of private or public

property in a neighborhood. Behavior constituting a Public Nuisance includes, but is not limited to excessive noise and excessive pedestrian and vehicular traffic related thereto, obstruction of public ways by crowds or vehicles, illegal parking, public urination, the service of alcohol to underage persons, fights, disturbances of the peace, and littering.

Response Costs are the costs associated with responses by law enforcement, fire, and other emergency response providers to a Gathering which has resulted in a Public Nuisance as set forth in a schedule of costs established by the Board of Selectmen.

Section 8.29.3 Mailing of Notice to Property Owner and Others

In the event police or other local officials have responded to a Gathering constituting a Public Nuisance, a notice of response shall be made within ten (10) days of the Gathering as follows:

- (a) **Property Owners:** The Chief of Police shall mail a notice of response by Certified Mail to the Property Owner of the Premises where the Gathering occurred as listed on the Town of Brookline property tax assessment records and shall advise the Property Owner that the second such response on the same Premises within a one year period, as measured from the date of the first notice, shall result in liability of the Property Owner for all penalties and Response Costs associated with such response as more particularly described in sections 8.29.4 and 8.29.4.1 below.
- (b) **Educational Institutions:** The Chief of Police shall send a notice of response to the president/headmaster or his/her designee of an educational institution if the persons who are liable in Section 8.29.4 and 8.29.4.1 are students at such educational institution. Such notice shall be sent by mail or other appropriate means.
- (c) **Persons Cited:** The Chief of Police shall send a notice of response to any person who was personally cited at the time of the offense. Such notice shall be sent by mail or other appropriate means to the address stated on the individuals' government issued identification.

Section 8.29.4 Liability for a First Response to a Gathering Constituting a Public Nuisance on a Premises

If the police department or other local officials have responded to a Gathering constituting a Public Nuisance on a Premises, the following persons shall be jointly and severally liable for fines as set forth below, provided that no previous Gathering constituting a Public Nuisance has occurred at the Premises within the previous one year period. Response Costs may also be assessed at the discretion of the Chief of Police. In lieu of issuing a fine(s) a police officer may issue a written warning if the response to the complaint occurs prior to 10:00 p.m.

- (a) The person or persons residing on or otherwise in control of the Premises where such Gathering took place whether present or not.
- (b) The person or persons who organized or sponsored such Gathering.
- (c) All persons attending such Gatherings who engage in any activity resulting in the Public Nuisance.

Section 8.29.4.1 Liability for a Second and Subsequent Response to a Gathering Constituting a Public Nuisance

If the police department is required to respond to a Gathering constituting a Public Nuisance on the Premises more than once in any one year period, as measured from the date of the first response, the following persons shall be jointly and severally liable for fines as set forth below. Response Costs may also be assessed.

- (a) The person or persons residing on or otherwise in control of the Premises where such Gathering took place whether present or not.
- (b) The person or persons who organized or sponsored such Gathering.
- (c) All persons attending such Gatherings who engage in any activity resulting in the Public Nuisance.
- (d) The person, persons or business entity which at the time of the Gathering owned the Premises where the Gathering constituting the Public Nuisance took place, provided that notice of the first and subsequent responses has been mailed to the Property Owner of the Premises as set forth herein and the Gathering occurs at least fourteen (14) days after the mailing of the first such notice. The Property Owner of the Premises shall not be held responsible for any violation and penalties if the Property Owner is actively pursuing Eviction from the Premises of a tenant who controlled, organized, sponsored or attended the Gathering. The one year time period for violations for a Premises shall pertain only to the same residents occupying the Premises who have had the prior violation(s). New residents shall start a new time cycle of one year should they violate the bylaw.

Section 8.29.5 Consumption of Alcohol by Underage Persons is Prohibited in Public Place, Place Open to Public, or Place Not Open to Public

Except as permitted by state law, it is unlawful for any underage person to:

- (a) Consume any alcoholic beverage at any public place or any place open to the public; or
- (b) Consume any alcoholic beverage at any place not open to the public.

Section 8.29.6 Hosting, Permitting, or Allowing a Public Nuisance or Party, Gathering, or Event where Underage Persons Consume Alcoholic Beverages is Prohibited

- (a) It is the duty of any person having control of any Premises who knowingly hosts, permits, or allows a Gathering at said Premises to take all reasonable steps to prevent the consumption of alcoholic beverages by any underage person at the Gathering. Reasonable steps include, but are not limited to, controlling access to alcoholic beverages at the Gathering; controlling the quantity of alcoholic beverages present at the Gathering; verifying the age of persons attending the Gathering by inspecting driver's licenses or other government-issued identification cards to

ensure that underage persons do not consume alcoholic beverages while at the Gathering; and supervising the activities of underage persons at the Gathering.

- (b) A Gathering constituting a Public Nuisance may be abated by all reasonable means including, but not limited to, an order by the Police requiring the Gathering to be disbanded and citation and/or arrest of any persons under any applicable provision of local or state law.
- (c) It is unlawful for any person having control of any Premises to knowingly host, permit, or allow a Gathering to take place at said Premises where at least one underage person consumes an alcoholic beverage, provided that the person having control of the Premises either knows an underage person has consumed an alcoholic beverage or reasonably should have known that an underage person consumed an alcoholic beverage and the person having control of said Premises failed to take all reasonable steps to prevent the consumption of an alcoholic beverage by an underage person.
- (d) This Section shall not apply to conduct involving the use of alcoholic beverages that occurs exclusively between an underage person and his or her parent or legal guardian as set forth in G.L. c.138, § 34.
- (e) This Section shall not apply to any Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission licensee at any Premises regulated by the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission.

Section 8.29.7 Enforcement

This bylaw shall be enforced by the noncriminal disposition process of M.G.L. c.40 § 21D. For the purpose of noncriminal enforcement, the enforcing persons shall be any police officer of the Town of Brookline. If enforced pursuant to noncriminal disposition, the following fines shall apply per person cited under sections 8.29.4 and 8.29.4.1:

First response:	\$100
Second and subsequent response(s):	\$300

The Town of Brookline may additionally seek administrative costs and Response Costs associated with enforcement of this bylaw.

The provisions of this bylaw are enforceable without reference to the Brookline Noise Control Bylaw 8.15 and without reference to the fact that the police officer issuing a citation has not obtained a scientific noise measurement prior to issuing the citation. No such scientific noise measurement is required under this bylaw and the lack of a measurement shall not constitute a defense.

Sections 8.29.5 and 8.29.6 shall not limit the authority of police officers to make arrests for any criminal offense arising out of conduct regulated by Sections 8.29.5 and 8.29.6, nor shall they limit the Town of Brookline or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' ability to initiate and prosecute any criminal offense arising out of the same circumstances necessitating the application of Sections 8.29.5 and 8.29.6.