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## CHAPTER TEN

### HEALTH

#### **ARTICLE 1 – Board of Health**

The City of Columbus has relinquished its authority relating to a Board of Health to the First District Health Unit, which has its main office in Minot, North Dakota.

#### **ARTICLE 2 – Garbage, Refuse, Rubbish**

##### **10.0201 Definitions**

For the purpose of this article the following words shall have the meanings given herein:

2. “Ashes” is the residue from burning wood, coal, coke, or other combustible materials.
2. “Garbage” is putrescible animal and vegetable wastes resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking, and consumption of food.
3. “Refuse” is all putrescible and non-putrescible solid wastes (except body wastes) including garbage, rubbish, ashes, street cleanings, dead animals, abandoned automobiles, and solid market and industrial wastes.
4. “Rubbish” is non-putrescible solid wastes (excluding ashes) consisting of both combustible and non-combustible wastes, such as paper, cardboard, tin cans, yard clippings, wood, glass, bedding, crockery, and similar materials.

##### **10.0202 Accumulation of Refuse Prohibited**

No person shall permit or allow to accumulate in or about any yard, lot, place, or premises; or upon any street or sidewalk, adjacent to or abutting upon any lot, block, or place, or premises owned and occupied by that person, any and all refuse, nor allow such yard, lot, place or premises to be or remain in such condition.

##### **10.0203 Containers**

All garbage and rubbish shall be placed by the person upon whose premises the same shall have been produced or accumulated, in watertight containers, which shall be protected against the access of flies and rodents.

Containers shall be placed in the alley of those lots having access to any alley and along the curb if no alley is accessible. The City may specify where containers shall be placed along the alley or street for the convenience of collection.

#### **10.0204 Burning**

No garbage, refuse, or rubbish shall be burned within the City or in disposal grounds maintained by the City.

Seasonal burning of yard waste (grass clippings, leaves and tree trimmings) may be permitted, subject to approval by the City Maintenance Department.

Refer to Chapter 4 Article 3 for other burning restrictions.

#### **10.0205 Nuisance**

Failure to comply with the provisions of Sections 10.0202, 10.0203 and 10.0204, shall constitute a public nuisance and be punishable as such under the terms of Chapter 12 of these ordinances.

#### **10.0206 City Collection**

All garbage and rubbish as defined herein shall be collected by the City or franchised contractor as frequently as is necessary to maintain and preserve community cleanliness and sanitation, except that this section shall not require the collection of garbage and rubbish where streets and alleys are in a temporary condition which makes it impossible to do so and in case of the failure to collect such garbage and rubbish, such failure shall not relieve the occupant of the premises from the payment of the garbage and rubbish collection fees hereinafter provided for.

#### **10.0207 Fees**

Fees for the collection of garbage rubbish by the City or franchised contractor and the disposal thereof may be set by resolution of the City governing body.

#### **10.0208 Fees – Payment – Collection**

In all places where water service is provided, fees for garbage and rubbish collection shall be added to and collected as a part of the water bill and collected by the Water and Sewer Department, but shall be separately stated on the bill. Garbage and rubbish collection bills shall be due and payable at the same time as the water bill, either monthly or quarterly as the case may be. If such charge is not paid when due the water service to such premises shall be shut off by the Water and Sewer Department in the same manner as is now provided for in the case of delinquency in payment of water bills and such service shall not be restored without the payment of the penalties now provided for.

In all places where water service is not provided, the fees for garbage and rubbish collection shall be paid to the Water and Sewer Department of the City upon monthly or quarterly bills from the Water and Sewer Department. If the garbage and rubbish charge so established is not paid when due, the amount thereof may be assessed against the premises to which the service is

rendered. This amount may be collected and returned in the same manner as other municipal taxes are assessed, certified, collected, and returned.

The proceeds from the collection of the fees and charges shall be placed in the solid waste management fund, and all of the expense of the City, in the purchase and maintenance of equipment and in the collection and disposal of garbage and rubbish, shall be paid out of the solid waste management fund.

#### **10.0210 Disposal of Refuse not Collected by the City**

All other wastes as defined, and not included under garbage, rubbish, and ashes, may be disposed of by the person creating such waste, by hauling such waste for disposal to such points as are designated or approved by the City Maintenance Department.

#### **10.0211 Supervision**

The collection, removal, and disposal of garbage and rubbish under the provisions of this Article shall be under the supervision, direction, and control of the City Maintenance Department. The City Maintenance Department shall, unless there is a franchised contractor, appoint such employees as shall be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Article, which appointments shall be subject to the approval of the City Council.

#### **10.0212 Rules and Regulations**

The City Council shall prescribe such reasonable rules and regulations in connection with preparation, handling, and disposition of garbage and rubbish as may be necessary to regulate, enforce, and carry out the provisions of this chapter. The City Maintenance Department may direct that the City garbage and rubbish collection crews shall not collect garbage and rubbish from any premises where such rules and regulations are not complied with and the failure to collect the same shall not relieve the owner or occupant of the premises from the payment of fees nor from the enforcement of the penalties of this code. In the absence of City collection crews the City Maintenance Department may give instructions to a franchised contractor.

#### **10.0213 Disposal Grounds**

The Maintenance Department is hereby authorized to designate the location or places to which all wastes referred to in this article shall be hauled, deposited, or disposed of.

### **ARTICLE 3 – Dangerous Buildings**

#### **10.0301 Dangerous Buildings Defined**

For the purpose of this chapter, any building or structure which has any or all of the conditions or defects hereinafter described shall be deemed to be a dangerous building, provided that such conditions or defects exist to the extent that the life, health, property or safety of the public or its occupants are endangered.

1. Whenever any door, aisle, passageway, stairway or other means of exit is not of sufficient width or size or is not so arranged as to provide safe and adequate means of exit in case of fire or panic.
2. Whenever the walking surface of any aisle, passageway, stairway or other means of exit is so warped, worn, loose, torn or otherwise unsafe as to not provide safe and adequate means of exit in case of fire or panic.
3. Whenever the stress in any materials, member or portion thereof due to all dead and live loads are more than one and one-half times the working stress or stresses allowed in the Building Code for new buildings of similar structure, purpose, or location.
4. Whenever any portion thereof has been damaged by fire, earthquake, wind, and flood or by any other cause, to such an extent that the structural strength or stability thereof is materially less than it was before such catastrophe and is less than the minimum requirements of the Building Code for new buildings of similar structure, purpose or location.
5. Whenever any portion or member or appurtenance thereof is likely to fail, or to become detached or dislodged, or to collapse and thereby injure persons or damage property.
6. Whenever any portion of a building, or any member, appurtenance, or ornamentation on the exterior thereof is not of sufficient strength or stability, or is not so anchored, attached, or fastened in place so as to be capable of resisting a wind pressure of one half of that specified in the Building Code for new buildings of similar structure, purpose or location without exceeding the working stresses permitted in the Building Code for such buildings.
7. Whenever any portion thereof has wracked, warped, buckled or settled to such an extent that walls or other structural portions have materially less resistance to winds or earthquakes than is required in the case of similar new construction.
8. Whenever the building or structure, or any portion thereof, because of:
  - a. dilapidation, deterioration, or decay;
  - b. faulty construction;
  - c. the removal, movement or instability of any portion of the ground necessary for the purpose of supporting such building;
  - d. the deterioration, decay, or inadequacy of its foundation; or
  - e. any other cause, is likely to partially or completely collapse.

9. Whenever, for any reason, the building or structure, or any portion thereof, is manifestly unsafe for the purpose for which it is being used.
10. Whenever the exterior walls or other vertical structural members list, lean, or buckle to such an extent that a plumb line passing through the center of gravity does not fall inside the middle one third of the base.
11. Whenever the building or structure, exclusive of the foundation, shows thirty-three percent (33%) or more damage or deterioration of its supporting member or members or fifty percent (50%) damage or deterioration of its non-supporting members, enclosing or outside walls or coverings.
12. Whenever the building or structure has been so damaged by fire, wind, earthquake, or flood, or has become so dilapidated or deteriorated as to become:
  - a. an attractive nuisance to children;
  - b. a harbor for vagrants, criminals or immoral persons; or as to
  - c. enable persons to resort thereto for the purpose of committing unlawful or immoral acts.
13. Whenever any building or structure has been constructed, exists or is maintained in violation of any specific requirement or prohibition applicable to such building or structure provided by the building regulations of this jurisdiction, as specified in the Building Code, or of any law or ordinance of this state or jurisdiction relating to the condition, location, or structure of buildings.
14. Whenever any building or structure which, whether or not erected in accordance with all applicable laws and ordinances, has in any non-supporting part, member or portion less than fifty percent (50%), or in any non-supporting part, member or portion less than sixty-six percent (66%) of the:
  - a. strength,
  - b. fire-resisting qualities or characteristics, or
  - c. weather-resisting qualities or characteristics required by law in the case of a newly- constructed building of like area, height, and occupancy in the same location.
15. Whenever a building or structure, used or intended to be used for dwelling purposes, because of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, decay, damage, faulty construction or arrangement, inadequate light, air, or sanitation facilities, or otherwise, is determined by the City Maintenance Department to be unsanitary, unfit for human habitation or is such a condition that is likely to cause sickness or disease.

16. Whenever any building or structure, because of obsolescence, dilapidated condition, deterioration, damage, inadequate exits, lack of sufficient fire-resistive construction, faulty electric wiring, gas connections or heating apparatus, or other cause, is determined by the fire marshal to be a fire hazard.
17. Whenever any building or structure is in such a condition as to constitute a public nuisance known to the common law or in equity jurisprudence.
18. Whenever any portion of a building or structure remains on a site after the demolition or destruction of the building or structure or whenever any building or structure is abandoned for a period in excess of six (6) months so as to constitute such building or portion thereof an attractive nuisance or hazard to the public.

#### **10.0302 Standards for Repair, Vacation or Demolition**

The following standards shall be followed in substance by the City Maintenance Department and the City governing body in ordering repair, vacation or demolition:

1. If the “dangerous building” can be reasonably repaired so that it will no longer exist in violation of the terms of this Article it shall be ordered repaired.
2. If the “dangerous building” is in such condition as to make it dangerous to the health, safety, or general welfare of its occupant it shall be ordered to be vacated.
3. In all cases where a building cannot be repaired so that it will no longer exist in violation to the terms of this Article it shall be demolished. In all cases where a “dangerous building” is a fire hazard existing or erected in violation of the terms of this article or any ordinance of the City or statute of the State of North Dakota, it shall be demolished.

#### **10.0303 Dangerous Buildings – Nuisances**

All “dangerous buildings” within the terms of Section 10.0301 of this article are hereby declared to be public nuisances and shall be repaired, vacated or demolished as provided in this ordinance or under state law.

#### **10.0304 Duties of City Maintenance Department**

The City Maintenance Department is designated by the City governing body, shall:

1. Inspect or cause to be inspected periodically, all public buildings, schools, halls, churches, theaters, hotels, tenements, commercial, manufacturing, or loft buildings for the purpose of determining whether any conditions exist which render such places a “dangerous building” within the terms of Section 10.0301 of this Article.

2. Inspect any building, wall or structure about which any person files complaints to the effect that a building, wall, or structure is or may be existing in violation of this Article.
3. Inspect any building, wall or structure reported by the Fire or Police Departments of this City as probably existing in violation of the terms of this Article.
4. Notify in writing the owner, occupant, lessee, mortgagee, and all other persons having an interest in said building, as shown by the records in the office of the County Recorder, of any building found by the City Maintenance Department to be a “dangerous building” within the standards set forth in Section 10.0301 of this Article that:
  - a. the owner must vacate, or repair, or demolish said building in accordance with the terms of the notice and this article;
  - b. the owner or occupant must vacate said building or may have it repaired in accordance with the notice and remain in possession. Provided, that any person notified under this subsection to repair, vacate, or demolish any building shall be given such reasonable time, not exceeding thirty (30) days as may be necessary to do, or have done, the work or act required by the notice provided for herein. (See Appendix 10-2)
5. Set forth in the notice provided for in subsection 3 hereof a description of the building or structure deemed unsafe, a statement of the particulars which make the building or structure a “dangerous building,” and an order requiring the same to be put in such condition as to comply with the terms of this ordinance within such length of time, not exceeding thirty (30) days, as is reasonable.
6. Report to the City governing body any noncompliance with the “notice” provided for in subsection 4 and 5 hereof.
7. Appear at all hearings conducted by the City governing body and testify as to the conditions of “dangerous buildings”.
8. Place a notice on all “dangerous buildings” reading as follows: “This building has been found to be a dangerous building by First District Health Unit. This notice is to remain on this building until it is repaired, vacated, or demolished in accordance with the notice which has been given the owner, occupant, lessee, or mortgagee of this building and all other persons having an interest in said building as shown by the records of the County Recorder. It is unlawful to remove this notice until such notice is complied with.” (See Appendix 10-1).



### **10.0305 Duties of the City Governing Body**

The City governing body shall:

1. Upon receipt of a report of the City Maintenance Department as provided for in Section 10.0304(6) hereof, give written notice to the owner, occupant, mortgagee, lessee, and all other persons having an interest in said building as shown by the records of the County Recorder, to appear before it on the date specified in the notice to show cause why the building or structure reported to be a “dangerous building” should not be repaired, vacated or demolished in accordance with the statement of particulars set forth in the City Maintenance Department’s notice provided for herein in Section 10.0304(5). (see Appendix 10-3)
2. Hold a hearing to receive such testimony as the City Maintenance Department or the owner, occupant, mortgagee, lessee, or any other person having an interest in said building as shown by the records of the County Recorder shall offer relative to the “dangerous building”.
3. Make written findings of fact from the testimony offered pursuant to subsection 2 as to whether or not the building in question is a “dangerous building” within the terms of section 10.0301 hereof.
4. Issue an order based upon findings of fact made pursuant to subsection 3 commanding the owner, occupant, mortgagee, lessee, and all other persons having an interest in said building as shown by the records of the County Recorder to repair, vacate, or demolish any building found to be a “dangerous building” within the terms of this article and provided that any person so notified, except the owners, shall have the privilege of either vacating or repairing said “dangerous building”.

### **10.0306 Failure to Comply with Decision of the City Governing Body**

If the owner, occupant, mortgagee, or lessee fails to comply with the order of the City governing body or fails to appeal to the District Court within thirty (30) days as provided herein, the City through its officers and employees shall cause such building or structure to be repaired, vacated, or demolished as ordered by the City governing body and shall cause the costs of such repair, vacation, or demolition to be charged against the land on which said building existed by special assessment, or as a municipal lien, or shall cause said cost of removal to be levied as a special tax against the land upon which said building stands or did stand or to be recovered in a suit at law against the owner.

### **10.0307 Violations – Penalty for Disregarding Notices or Orders**

The owner of any “dangerous building” who shall fail to comply with any notice or order to repair, vacate, or demolish said building given by any person authorized by this Article to give such notice or order shall be guilty of an infraction and upon

conviction thereof shall be fined not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500) for each offense and every day subsequent to such notice in which the said owner shall fail to comply with any notice or order as stated shall be deemed a separate offense.

The occupant or lessee in possession who fails to comply with any notice to vacate or who fails to repair said building in accordance with any notice given as provided for in this Article shall be guilty of an infraction and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500) for each offense and every day subsequent to such notice in which the said occupant or lessee shall fail to comply with any notice or order as above stated, shall be deemed a separate offense.

Any person removing the notice provided for in Section 10.0304(8) shall be guilty of an infraction and upon conviction shall be fined not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500) for each offense.

### **10.0308 Duties of the City Attorney**

The city attorney shall:

1. Prosecute all persons failing to comply with the terms of the notices provided for in Section 10.0304(4) and (5) and the order provided for in Section 10.0305(4).
2. Appear at all hearings before the City governing body in regard to “dangerous buildings.”
3. Take such other legal action as is necessary to carry out the terms and provisions of this Article.

### **10.0309 Where Owner Absent from the City**

In cases, except emergency cases, where the owner, occupant, lessee or mortgagee is absent from the City, all notice or orders provided for herein shall be sent by registered or certified mail to the owner, occupant, mortgagee, lessee, and all other persons having an interest in said building as shown by the land records of the County Recorder to the last known address of each, and a copy of such notice shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the "dangerous building" to which it relates. Such mailing and posting shall be deemed adequate service.

### **10.0310 Duties of Fire, Police and Health Departments**

All employees of the Fire, Police, and Health Departments shall make written reports to the City Maintenance Department of all buildings or structures which are, may be or are suspected to be “dangerous buildings” as herein defined.

### **10.0311 Appeal**

The City governing body shall serve upon the owner, occupant, mortgagee, lessee, and all other persons having an interest in any building ordered to be repaired, vacated or demolished, a copy of its order. The owner, occupant, mortgagee, or lessee shall thereafter have thirty (30) days from the date of the service of such order in which to appeal from such order to the District Court or to take such other legal steps to enjoin the enforcement of such order.

**APPENDIX 10-1**

**WARNING**

**This building has been found to be a dangerous building by the Columbus City Maintenance Department. This notice is to remain on this building until it is repaired, vacated, or demolished in accordance with the notice which has been given the owner, occupant, lessee or mortgagee of this building and all other persons having an interest in said building as shown by the records of the County Recorder. It is unlawful to remove this notice until such notice is complied with.**

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**City Building Inspector**

**Columbus, North Dakota**

**APPENDIX 10-2**

**IN THE MATTER OF A “DANGEROUS BUILDING” LOCATED IN  
THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NORTH DAKOTA,  
WITH AN ADDRESS OF:**

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**NOTICE AND ORDER**

You are hereby notified that the undersigned, Maintenance Department of the City of Columbus, North Dakota, acting pursuant to Article 3, Chapter 10 of the 2018 Revised Ordinances of the City of Columbus, has made an inspection of the following described building in which you are, or appear to be, interested:

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You are further notified that the undersigned City Maintenance Department deems the foregoing described building to be dangerous within the meaning of Section 10.0301 of said Ordinances in the following particulars:

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**YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO**

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the said building on or before this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Maintenance Department

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

**APPENDIX 10-3**

**IN THE MATTER OF "DANGEROUS BUILDINGS" LOCATED  
AT COLUMBUS, NORTH DAKOTA  
UNDER ARTICLE 3, CHAPTER TEN**

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

You are hereby notified that the Maintenance Department of Columbus, North Dakota, has filed with the Columbus City Council a report that you have not complied with a Notice and Order that buildings located at: \_\_\_\_\_ were dangerous buildings and were to be demolished by you prior to \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

You are further notified to appear before the Columbus City Council at Columbus City Hall on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, at the hour of \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock pm., to show cause as to why the building reported to be a "dangerous building" should not be demolished in accordance with the statement of particulars set forth in the City Maintenance Department's Notice.

Dated the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

THE CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_, NORTH DAKOTA

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Auditor