

CHAPTER 15

Health and Sanitation

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Sec. 15-1. Health Department established, composition.

There is hereby created an executive Department of the municipality to be known as the Health Department. Such Department shall consist of the Mayor, the Health Commissioner and a member of the City Council, to be elected by the Council, and such assistants and employees as the Council may provide. (1949 Comp., §6.0201)

Sec. 15-2. Health Commissioner, duty to advise.

The Health Commissioner shall be the head of the Health Department and shall have the management and control of all matters and things pertaining thereto. He or she shall have and exercise a general supervision over the sanitary conditions of the City, and all orders and directions emanating from the Department shall be issued in his or her name. He or she shall give to the Mayor and other City officials all such professional advice and information as they may require with a view to the preservation of the public health. (1949 Comp., §6.0203)

Sec. 15-3. Promulgation of rules and regulations.

The Health Department shall have power to make such rules and regulations in relation to the sanitary condition of the City and for the prevention or suppression of disease not inconsistent with the provisions of this Chapter as it may deem necessary or advisable. (1949 Comp., §6.0209)

Sec. 15-4. Health Commissioner appointed, qualifications.

The Health Commissioner shall be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council. He or she shall be a physician licensed under the law to practice medicine. (1949 Comp., §6.0202)

Sec. 15-5. Duties generally, right of entry.

(a) The Health Commissioner shall enforce all the laws of the State, the provisions of this Code and other ordinances of the City, and all rules and regulations of the Health Department in relation to the sanitary condition of the City. He or she shall cause all nuisances to be properly abated, and for the purpose of carrying out the requirements of this Section, he or she shall be permitted at all times to enter into any premises, house, store, stable or other building or place, to cause the floors to be raised if he or she shall deem it necessary in order to make a thorough examination of cellars, vaults, sinks or drains, to cause all privies, cesspools and grease traps to be cleaned and kept in good condition, and to cause all dead animals or other nauseous or unwholesome substances or things to be buried, removed or disposed of as he or she may direct. In order to carry out the provisions of this Section, the Health Commissioner shall cause a notice to be served upon the owner, occupant or agent of any lot, building or premises in or upon which any nuisance may be found or who may be the owner or cause of such nuisance, requiring him or her to abate the same within a reasonable time, specified in such notice.

(b) If such owner, occupant or agent shall fail or refuse to comply with such order, the Health Commissioner, upon the expiration of the time specified in such notice, shall cause such nuisance to be abated and the expense of such abatement shall be collected from the person who may have created, continued and suffered such nuisance to exist. (1949 Comp., §6.0204)

Sec. 15-6. Duties relative to contagious diseases.

The Health Commissioner shall have power to cause any house or premises to be cleaned, disinfected or closed to visitors and prevent persons from resorting thereto while any such house or premises contains any persons sick with any such communicable disease. He or she may direct any nuisance to be abated or any unwholesome matter, dirt or filth to be removed from any house or premises and may prescribe the time and mode of doing so, and take any other measures he or she may deem necessary or proper to prevent the spread of any disease. He or she shall at all times keep on hand, so far as is practicable, a sufficient quantity of antitoxin to permit the treatment therewith of any dependent and deserving person who may apply to him or her for that purpose, and he or she shall, without charge, treat with antitoxin any such person who may apply to him or her, and who, in his or her opinion, requires such treatment. (1949 Comp., §6.0206)

Sec. 15-7. Authority to vacate or remove buildings.

Whenever it shall be decided by the Health Commissioner that any building or part thereof is unfit for human habitation by reason of its being infected with any communicable disease or from other causes, if it is likely to cause sickness among the occupants, notice of such disease or other cause may be fixed conspicuously upon the building or part thereof decided to be so infected and personally served upon the owner, lessee or agent, requiring all persons therein immediately to vacate such building or part thereof, for the reason to be therein stated. If it shall be necessary in the judgment of the Health Commissioner to preserve the public health, such building shall be removed or destroyed at the expense of the owner, agent or lessee of such property. (1949 Comp., §6.0234)

Sec. 15-8. Police powers.

The Health Commissioner and all regularly appointed members of the Department shall have the right and the power to arrest or cause to be arrested any person who violates any of the provisions of this Chapter. (1949 Comp., §6.0210)