

To: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

From: Charles Femino Chief of Police, Somerville Police Department

Date: 1/23/23

22-1761 That the Chief of Police work with the Office of Housing Stability to submit a written report answering the questions (nuisance law) contained within.

That the Chief of Police work with the Office of Housing Stability to submit a written report to this Council detailing:

(1) the number of fines issued under Somerville's nuisance control law in the last year:

The SPD has not utilized the nuisance law for any reason, including the issuance of a citation or fines.

(2) how many of these, if any, were due to domestic violence situations:

N/A. When officers are dispatched to a domestic violence call, the primary objective is to ensure the safety of all parties involved and the determination of a violation of criminal law. The nuisance law would not come into play in such a situation, nor has it ever occurred within the SPD.

(3) how many times the "nuisance" statute was used as a justification for eviction in the available data:

N/A. An eviction process falls under the jurisdiction of civil law, which the police have no authority to enforce. The only time SPD officers would be involved in an eviction process would be in case of an altercation between the resident and the sheriff/constable. In this case, a call would be placed to dispatch, and an officer would respond to act as a neutral party to help resolve the conflict at hand. At no time would the officer involve themselves in the civil process, it is beyond their scope of authority and jurisdiction.

(4) how many, if any, residents who were evicted as so-called "nuisances" were in unsafe household situations.

N/A.