

ORDINANCE NO. 58-2025

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF RENTAL HOUSING IN CHAPTER 4 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS:

Section One. The City Council finds that it is in the public's interest that all properties be maintained in compliance with all applicable building codes, namely the most recently adopted International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC).

Section Two. Chapter 4, Article VIII "Residential Rental Property" of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rock Island, Illinois is hereby removed and wholly replaced as follows.

ARTICLE VIII. REGISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF RENTAL HOUSING

SEC. 4-175. PURPOSE. The purpose of this article is to protect the health and safety of the public through the registration and management of both short- and long-term rental housing. It is intended to ensure compliance with all applicable codes including the most recently adopted version of the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC).

SEC. 4-176. DEFINITIONS. The terms used in this article shall have the same definitions as those used in the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) unless otherwise specified.

- A. Short-Term Rental: Any rental property where the term of the rental is less than thirty (30) days in duration. This shall not include hotels, motels, or bed and breakfast establishments.
- B. Long-Term Rental: Any rental property where the term of the rental is thirty (30) days or more in duration. This shall not include extended-stay hotels, motels, or bed and breakfast establishments. Dormitories associated with a college, university, or similar institution of higher learning as well as nursing homes, retirement centers, rest homes, and any similar accommodations subject to licensing and inspection by the State or Federal governments shall not be considered long-term rental properties subject to this article.
- C. Minor Infraction: In addition to items specified elsewhere in this article, minor infractions shall include violation of IPMC sections 304.13, 305.4, 305.3, 404.2, 503.1, 304.2, 304.3, 304.8, 302.1, 308.1, 308, 302.3, 302.4, 302.9, and 302.2.
- D. Moderate Infraction: In addition to items specified elsewhere in this article, moderate infractions shall include violations of IPMC sections 404.4.1, 504.1, 302.5, 309, 402.2, 402.3, 605.3, 605.2, 402.1, 403.1, 302.6, 605.2, 505.1, 506.2, 403.5, 505.4, 403.2, 304.4, 304.5, 304.6, 304.7, 304.9, 302.7, 303.2, and 303.1.

E. Major Infraction: In addition to items specified elsewhere in this article, major infractions shall include violations of IPMC sections 504.3, 603.1, 604.1, 604.3, 702.4, 702.3, 702.4, 704, 603.1.2, 602.3 and 602.5 (October 1 through April 15), and 304.10.

SEC. 4-177. LICENSE REQUIRED. All rentals, both short- and long-term, shall require a license issued by the City in order to operate. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity to operate, maintain, or offer for rent within the City a residential property without first obtaining such a license. Licenses cannot be transferred from one property to another nor from one property owner to another. A license renewal shall also be required on an annual basis and shall include any necessary updated information. Compliance with all other applicable local, State, and Federal law shall be required.

SEC. 4-178. LICENSE EXEMPTION. No personal or professional relationship between a property owner and a tenant shall exempt the subject property from license and registration. The amount of rent paid by a tenant to a property owner shall have no bearing on the requirement that a property be licensed and registered. Rent-to-own or lease purchase properties, however, shall not require a rental license provided that the relevant agreement between parties establishes the purchaser's equitable interest in such property and said agreement is recorded with the County Recorder's Office.

SEC. 4-179. LICENSE APPLICATION. Each applicant for a license or license renewal shall provide their full name, mailing address, electronic mailing address, phone number, and proof of ownership. Proof of active landlord insurance, including general liability coverage for the licensed property, shall also be required at the time of application or renewal. In the case of a limited liability company (LLC) or similar legal entity, all registered agents shall be identified as well as the registered office in addition to the above described contact information. Each applicant shall also be required to identify a property manager who will be responsible for the regular maintenance of the property. Such a person must reside or maintain an office within fifty (50) miles of the City measured from the municipal boundary. An owner who meets the requirements of this section as to location of residence or office may designate themselves as manager. Any individual or entity managing rental property on behalf of the owner of record must hold a current real estate broker's license in accordance with the *Real Estate License Act of 2000* (225 ILCS 454/), unless exempted by that Act.

SEC. 4-180. INSPECTIONS. An initial inspection shall be required prior to the issuance of a license. The property owner shall be provided with a copy of all applicable code standards to which they will be held. The City shall determine if the rental property complies with all applicable municipal codes including the most recently adopted version of the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC). If determined not to comply, the property owner shall have no more than thirty days to bring the property into compliance and request re-inspection without penalty. If code deficiencies still remain, penalties shall begin to be assessed for each applicable infraction and re-inspection. If the property owner fails to request re-inspection within that thirty-day period, it shall be considered a minor infraction for each day beyond the thirty-day period they fail to request reinspection or notify the City that they no longer

intend to make the property available for rent. Such notification shall be made to the City in writing. If determined to comply, a license shall be issued for the respective property. Licensed properties shall be inspected for ongoing compliance every five (5) years at a minimum, but may be inspected more frequently at the City's discretion following complaints or when property maintenance violations are observed or suspected.

SEC. 4-181. INSPECTION ACCESS. All rental properties licensed under this article shall be subject to inspection by the City upon reasonable notice to the property owner or their designee. The property owner and/or their property manager shall be present in person for all inspections having been given reasonable notice. Failure to be present shall constitute missing an inspection. Missing an inspection three or more times in a twelve-month period may be used by the Building Official as justification for license revocation. If any property owner, manager, tenant, occupant, or other person in control of the rental unit fails or refuses to consent to free access and entry to the property by the City, the City may apply to the circuit court for an appropriate order authorizing such access. Refusal by a property owner or their designee to provide access to a property may be used by the Building Official as justification for license revocation. Refusal by a tenant to provide access to their respective unit shall not be used by the Building Official as justification for the same.

SEC. 4-182. LICENSE DISPLAYED. All tenants shall be provided a copy of the rental license for the unit in which they are residing by the respective property owner. A copy of the rental license for a property must be on conspicuous display at multi-unit property for which it was issued. The license may be displayed within a unit or, in the case of multi-unit buildings, in a common area where all tenants and visitors to the property can reasonably see it. In the case of single-unit dwellings, the tenant should be in possession of a copy of the rental license and able to provide it upon request if it is not otherwise on display within the unit. Failure to display the license, or for it to be in possession of the tenant, shall be considered a minor infraction. Every month that there is a failure to display a license shall be considered a separate infraction. If a license is not on display for twelve or more months, the Building Official may use this as justification for license revocation.

SEC. 4-183. PENALTY FOR VIOLATION. See section 10-107.11 "Schedule of Penalties for Ordinance Violations" of this Code.

SEC. 4-184. LICENSE SUSPENSION. When the City becomes aware of code violations at a property, the property owner and/or their property manager shall be issued a notice of violation. A copy of said notice shall be posted on the entrance door to the dwelling unit or at the main common entrance in the case of a multi-unit dwelling. If the subject property is not brought into compliance within the time allotted by the citation, the Building Official may order that the property owner's rental license be suspended. Suspension of a license shall be considered a major infraction. Any property designated as a chronic nuisance by law enforcement or emergency services or found in violation of related nuisance ordinances may be subject to license suspension or revocation. Every month that a license remains suspended shall be considered a separate infraction. If a license is suspended for twelve or more months, the Building Official may use this as justification for license revocation.

SEC. 4-185. LICENSE REVOCATION AND RENT ABATEMENT. The Building Official may revoke a rental license and order the abatement of rents. The process for revocation and appeal is as follows.

- A. A decision to revoke a rental license shall be made based on a comprehensive evaluation of the severity of citations, the citation history at the property in question, the subject license having been suspended for twelve months or longer, and the history of citations issued at other properties owned by the same property owner. The property has been classified as a public nuisance by law enforcement or emergency services. Additionally, failing to obtain permits and have work inspected during renovations or property maintenance may also be considered.
- B. The property owner may appeal the revocation to the Inspections Commission by submitting the appeal in writing within fifteen (15) days of the license revocation. If an appeal is so submitted, the revocation shall be temporarily stayed. The Inspections Commission shall hold a hearing at their next regularly scheduled meeting to consider the appeal. The Commission shall consider any ongoing enforcement actions being taken by the City regarding the subject rental property, the severity of the code violations that have been cited, and the overall history of both the subject rental property and property owner in their capacity as a landlord in the course of their deliberations. The Commission shall hear from both staff and the property owner or their designee at the hearing before voting whether or not to grant the appeal.
- C. A decision made by the Commission may be appealed by the property owner to the City Council in writing within fifteen (15) days of the Commission's decision. The Council shall hold a hearing at their next regularly scheduled meeting to consider the appeal. The Council shall make the final administrative decision.
- D. Once revoked, the subject property shall be ineligible to receive a new rental license for as long as violations exist. An application for a new license may be accepted only after all such violations are resolved.
- E. A notice stating that the property's rental license has been revoked and rents are thereby abated shall be posted on the entrance door to the dwelling unit or at the main common entrance in the case of a multi-unit dwelling. Said notice shall advise tenants that the dwelling unit is not in compliance with local codes and cannot be legally offered for rent.
- F. Nothing in this section shall supersede other articles that empower the City to take more immediate action to protect public safety or when life-threatening conditions exist. The respective enforcement procedures and associated timelines for compliance pertaining to other codes adopted by the City shall also not be superseded by this article.

SEC. 4-186. FEES. Property owners shall pay the following license and inspections fees for both short- and long-term rental units. Short-term rentals may additionally be subject to hotel-motel taxes and fees.

License and Inspections Fee	Cost
Application Fee for First Dwelling Unit	\$100
Application Fee Per Additional Dwelling Unit	\$15
Late Application or Late Renewal Fee	\$50

Missed Inspection or Re-Inspection Fee	\$50
Minor Infraction	\$100
Moderate Infraction	\$150
Major Infraction	\$200

SEC. 4-187. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or word of this article shall be held invalid, either on its face or as applies, the invalidity of such provision shall not affect the other sections, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or words of this article, and the application thereof; and to that end the sections, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and words of this article shall be deemed severable.

SEC. 4-188. OTHER REMEDIES. Nothing in this article shall prevent the City from acting under any applicable City Code or ordinance for any violation thereof or limit the right or authority of the City to perform inspections based on a tenant complaint or to seek injunctive relief or other appropriate legal remedy for any violation of such Code or ordinance.

SEC. 4-189 THROUGH SEC. 4-200 RESERVED.

Section Three. Section 11.16 “Short-Term Rentals” of the Zoning Code is hereby removed and replaced as follows.

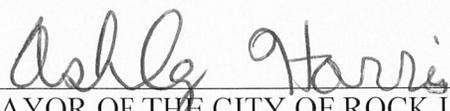
SEC 11.16. SHORT-TERM RENTALS. Any rental property where the term of the rental is less than thirty (30) days in duration excluding hotels, motels, or bed and breakfast establishments shall be subject to the following.

- A. Short-term rentals shall be permitted uses in all residential and business zoning districts. They shall be prohibited in all other zoning districts.
- B. Short-term rentals shall have a minimum of one off-street parking spot for each short-term rental unit at the property designated for the occupant.
- C. Short-term rentals shall not have signage of any kind that exceeds one (1) square foot in area.

Section Four. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed insofar as they do so conflict.

Section Five. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval, as required by law.

ADOPTED by the CITY COUNCIL of the CITY of ROCK ISLAND this 9th day of June 2025, A.D.



 MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ROCK ISLAND

PASSED: June 9, 2025

AYES: Alderpersons Barnes
Swanson
Parker
Poulos
Healy
Evans
Hurt

APPROVED: June 10, 2025

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None