

An Ordinance to restrict <sup>and</sup> punish  
prostitution within the limits of the City  
of Houston, <sup>and</sup> for other purposes.

Be it ordained by the Mayor, Aldermen  
<sup>and</sup> inhabitants of the City of Houston in  
Council assembled.

Sec 1 That any public prostitute, or such  
as lead a notorious lewd <sup>and</sup> lascivious  
life, <sup>and</sup> any female who may reside in a  
Bawdy or assignation house, or who may  
habitually resort to such bawdy or  
assignation houses for the purpose of  
plying her avocation as a prostitute,  
shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor  
<sup>and</sup> upon conviction before the Mayor or  
Recorder, shall be fined in a sum not  
less than five nor more than twenty five dollars.

Sec 2 That an assignation house is  
defined to be, any house where the male  
sex may resort to with females for  
the purpose of cohabitation, <sup>and</sup> where  
rooms or beds are rented by the hour,  
day, or night, to males or females for  
such purpose, <sup>and</sup> any person keeping  
such houses of assignation shall upon  
conviction be fined in a sum not  
less than ~~twenty~~ five nor more than  
one hundred dollars for each. <sup>and</sup> every

day he or she shall keep such assignation  
house: (and) it is hereby made the imperative  
duty of the City Marshal (and) all police  
officers to diligently inquire into (and)  
ferret out the location of such as-  
signation houses (and) bring the keepers  
or proprietors of said houses to justice.  
Sec 3 That any person who shall lease  
or rent his or her house or premises  
to be used or occupied as a bawdy  
or assignation house, or shall permit  
the occupant or tenant thereof to  
remain in the use or occupation of  
such house or premises after he or  
she has ascertained or has been notified  
that the same is or are being used as  
a bawdy or assignation house,  
he or she shall upon conviction, be  
fined in a sum not less than  
twenty five nor more than one hundred  
dollars for each (and) every day such  
houses or premises are being leased  
or rented for such purposes: (and) the  
Proprietors or agents of such houses  
or premises are hereby held res-  
ponsible in the above amounts  
of fine, for any sub lease from  
the original lessee, where such sub.

lessor shall sub rent or sub lease  
any house for the purposes above mentioned,  
(and) ignorance of a sub lease shall be  
no excuse in law <sup>to the owners, or agents, of such houses</sup> for violation of  
Section 3 of this ordinance.

Sec 4 It is hereby made  
the duty of the Marshal, Mayor or  
Recorder to require such persons so  
occupying or leasing such houses, to  
bring their leases if such they have,  
into Court, (and) the same shall be prima  
facie evidence against the proprietors,  
owners or agents of such house or premises.

Sec 5 That all street walking by  
prostitutes is hereby restricted, (and)  
they shall not be permitted to walk  
through the streets, ~~at any time~~  
~~between six o'clock A.M. and~~  
~~9 A.M. (and) from three P.M. to~~  
~~seven o'clock P.M., (and) not after seven~~  
P.M. without a male escort or in a  
carriage; nor shall they be permitted  
to show themselves at their doors  
or windows for the purpose of enticing  
any person to enter their premises,  
nor shall they be allowed to keep their  
doors open where the same is on  
a level with (and) facing on the streets;  
(and) any prostitute or habitue of an

Assignment or a Bawdy House, found walking the Streets after the hours above mentioned, <sup>not</sup> in Compliance with this ordinance, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon Conviction shall be fined in a sum not less than five nor more than twenty five dollars for each and every offense.

Sec 6 That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in Conflict with this ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed and that this ordinance take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

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Bawdy House

An Ordinance  
in relation to  
Prostitution  
of Town May 1919

M. J. G. [Signature]