

City of Providence
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 120

EFFECTIVE March 28, 2016

WHEREAS, The City's tax levy ordinance enacted each year prescribes the penalties imposed on taxpayers whose payments are late; and

WHEREAS, The current tax levy ordinance contains a penalty provision which provides that:

If the first installment or any succeeding installment of taxes is not paid by the last day of the respective installment period or periods as they occur, then the whole tax or remaining unpaid balance of the tax, as the case may be, shall immediately become due and payable and shall carry until collected a penalty at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum on said real estate, personal estate and excise taxes; and

WHEREAS, This provision causes the entire year's tax to be due immediately if a taxpayer misses the first quarter's payment by as little as one day; and

WHEREAS, For example, this provision then charges 12% interest on the entire tax bill going forward, even if the taxpayer's delinquency was limited to a single day on the first quarter's payment; and

WHEREAS, For example, a taxpayer who made the first quarter payment one day late and then made all three other quarterly payments on time would still face a delinquency penalty of 10% of the entire tax bill; and

WHEREAS, The application of this penalty can have devastating financial effects on City residents who act in good faith; and

WHEREAS, in last year's budget, the administration increased the Tax Collector's discretion to waive fees, but did not change the penalty provision described above.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council asks the administration to include in its tax levy ordinance a penalty provision that is more fair and reasonable than the current one.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 17 2016

READ AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

Effective without the Mayor's Signature



Lori L. Hagen
City Clerk