

# City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

## CHAPTER 2006-26

No. 185

### AN ORDINANCE

IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 13 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED: "BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS."

Approved May 1, 2006

### *Be it ordained by the City of Providence:*

**SECTION I.** Division 5 entitled "Minimum Residential Standards" of Article III Entitled "Minimum Property Standards" of Chapter 4 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Providence, Rhode Island, 1998, as amended, entitled: "Buildings and Building Regulations" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following:

#### **Sec. 4-146. Overgrown yard; weeds; leaves; brush and natural debris.**

(a) Every owner, occupant or person having the care of such residential property or dwelling shall be responsible for dwelling premises that is overgrown with grass, weeds, overgrown vegetation or underbrush, and it shall be the duty of the owner, occupant or any person having the care of such residential property to cut such grass, weeds, vegetation or underbrush to a height not exceeding six inches in order that it may be safe and convenient. Overgrown vegetation shall mean grass, weeds, and other ground cover which has been allowed to be grown in an uncontrolled manner and are not regularly cared for and maintained. The owner, occupant or any other person having the care of such residential property shall cut such grass, weeds, vegetation or underbrush within three days after receiving notice that he/she is in violation of this section from the chief inspector.

(b) The owner or occupant of any land upon which there exists natural debris shall cause such natural debris to be removed within three days after receiving notice to do so from the Environmental Inspector. Natural debris shall mean yard clippings, leaves, branches or wood.

(c) Whenever the owner or occupant fails to comply with an order to remove grass, weeds, overgrown vegetation, underbrush or natural debris and the city inspector determines that such grass, weeds, overgrown vegetation, underbrush or natural debris affect the health, safety and welfare of the surrounding neighborhood by harboring rodents and mosquitoes, by increasing dumping and littering, by creating fire hazards, by creating unsightly and unsanitary debris and by impeding upon the safe passage of pedestrians along sidewalk areas, the inspector may order the removal of the grass, weeds, overgrown vegetation, underbrush or natural debris and assess the whole cost incurred for such removal by imposing a lien on the property as provided or authorized by the law for the enforcement of common liens on property. Such lien will be recorded to ensure payment of such costs. The lien will not be removed until the city inspector has been fully reimbursed for the execution of the removal of the grass, weeds, overgrown vegetation, underbrush and natural debris. The owner or occupant will also be subject to a civil penalty of \$50.00 for not complying with the order of removal.

**SECTION II:** This ordinance shall take effect upon second passage and all ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

IN CITY COUNCIL

APR 6 2006

FIRST READING  
READ AND PASSED

*Ann M. Steen* CLERK

IN CITY COUNCIL

APR 20 2006

FIRST READING  
READ AND PASSED

*Ann M. Steen* CLERK  
*Ann M. Steen* PRESIDENT  
*Ann M. Steen* CLERK

APPROVED

*Ann M. Steen* 5/1/06

MAYOR

No.

CHAPTER  
AN ORDINANCE

IN CITY COUNCIL

2003

CO. 11  
11/11/03

OCT 2, 2003  
IN CITY COUNCIL  
FIRST READING  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON  
ORDINANCES

Michael R. Charney CLERK

Council President Lombardi