

**CHAPTER 2020-27**

No. 309     **AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 27 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, ENTITLED: "THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE ZONING ORDINANCE," APPROVED NOVEMBER 24, 2014, AS AMENDED, TO CHANGE CERTAIN TEXT IN ARTICLE 18 REGARDING NOTICE OF REQUIREMENTS**

**Approved September 24, 2020**

*Be it ordained by the City of Providence:*

**SECTION 1:** Chapter 27 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence, entitled "The City of Providence Zoning Ordinance," approved November 24, 2014, as amended, is hereby further amended by making the following changes:

**ARTICLE 18. APPLICATION AND NOTICE PROCEDURES**

**1801 NOTICE**

**D.     Zoning Board of Review, Downtown Design Review Committee, and I-195 Redevelopment District Commission Public Hearing Notice**

1. Mailed notice shall be sent by first class mail at least two weeks prior to the hearing to the applicant and to the following:
  - a. All owners of real property as they appear in the current records of the City Assessor, whose property is located in or within not less than 200 feet of the perimeter of the lot(s) proposed for variance, special use permit, or development, whether within the City or within an adjacent city or town.
  - b. The City Council representative of the applicable ward, said notice to be delivered to the City Council representative by the City Sergeant.
  - c. The Office of the Superintendent of Schools.
  - d. The city or town council of any city or town which is located within 200 feet of the boundary of the area proposed for a variance, special use, or development.
  - e. Water authorities or where there is a public or quasi-public water source, or private water source that is used or is suitable for use as a public water source, within 2,000 feet of any real property that is the subject of a proposed variance, special use permit, or development, regardless of municipal boundaries.
  - f. Any neighborhood group that registers the name of the organization, its officers and mailing address with the public body's staff. Neighborhood group registration shall be renewed every year by July 1st. Failure to renew the registration relieves the staff of the responsibility of mailing out the agenda.
2. Public notice of the hearing shall be published at least fourteen days prior to the date of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the city.

3. Mailed and newspaper notice shall include:

- a. The location of the hearing and the date and time of its commencement.
  - b. The street address of the subject property.
  - c. A statement of the proposed variance, special use, or development under consideration.
  - d. Information for those interested where and when a copy of the matter under consideration may be obtained or examined and copied.
  - e. All mailed notices shall be translated in accordance with Section 2-15 of the City Code of Ordinances.
4. No defect in the form of any notice under this section will render any application for variance, special use permit, or development approval invalid, unless the defect is found to be intentional or misleading.
5. Costs of any notice required under this section are borne by the applicant.

**SECTION 2:** This ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
SEP 03 2020  
FIRST READING  
READ AND PASSED

Shawn Selbeck CLERK  
JSN

IN CITY  
COUNCIL  
SEP 17 2020

FINAL READING  
READ AND PASSED

Sabrina Noto PRESIDENT  
Tina L. Mastrosianni CLERK  
ACTING

I HEREBY APPROVE.

[Signature]  
Mayor  
Date: 9/24/20



City Plan Commission  
Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

July 22, 2020

Councilwoman Jo-ann Ryan  
Chair, Committee on Ordinances  
Providence City Hall  
25 Dorrance Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Attn: Shawn Selleck, City Clerk

**Re: Referral 3476 – Notice of requirements**

**Sponsors: Councilwoman Carmen Castillo, Councilwoman Helen D. Anthony,  
Councilman Pedro J. Espinal**

Dear Chairwoman Ryan,

The City Plan Commission (CPC) reviewed the above referenced ordinance change at a regular virtual meeting on July 21, 2020 and voted to recommend that the City Council approve the amendment based on their findings described below.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The sponsors are proposing to amend Section 1801.D of the zoning ordinance pertaining to noticing requirements for the Zoning Board of Review, Downtown Design Review Committee and the I-195 Redevelopment District Commission. The section will be amended to require that the City Sergeant deliver notice to City Councilors and that all notices shall be translated in accordance with section 2-15 of the City Code of Ordinances.

The CPC found that the changes would have a positive effect in increasing public participation as they would ensure that councilors receive notices and that notices are accessible to non-English speakers.

The CPC found that the amendment would enhance community engagement, which is identified as a guiding principle of the comprehensive plan. The change would also be in conformance with section 101.L and N of the purposes of zoning which promote implementation of the comprehensive plan and efficient review of development proposals.

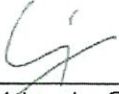
**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**  
444 Westminster Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903  
401 680 8400 ph | 401 680 8492 fax  
[www.providenceri.com](http://www.providenceri.com)

**RECOMMENDATION**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Verdi, seconded by Commissioner Gazdacko, the CPC unanimously voted to recommend that the City Council approve the proposed amendment and voted as follows:

AYE: N. Verdi, M. Gazdacko, C. West, M. Quezada, C.Potter, L. Torrado, H. Bilodeau

Sincerely,



Administrative Officer  
Choyon Manjrekar