

CHAPTER 2025-16

No. 195 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 “ADMINISTRATION,” AND
CHAPTER 21 “REVENUE AND FINANCE”, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF
THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE”**

Approved April 23, 2025

Be it ordained by the City of Providence:

WHEREAS, the conducting of tax sales by municipalities facilitates a process arduous to navigate for those whose tax arrearages have been sold and lack sufficient means to repay them; and

WHEREAS, tax sales generally have been condemned as a means of dispossession, particularly to elderly, impoverished, and nonwhite homeowners; and

WHEREAS, the emergence of multinational investors as bidders in tax sales has compounded the deleterious effects of the practice; and

WHEREAS, the City of Providence seeks to ameliorate abiding concerns as to the disposition of tax arrearages and the properties associated therewith for which the right of redemption has been foreclosed; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Providence City Council hereby enacts an ordinance restrict the mass sale of tax titles to ensure public notice and appropriate involvement in the tax sales conducted by the City of Providence.

Now, therefore, be it ordained by the City of Providence:

Section 1. Sections 73 and 74 of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence are hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 2-73. Redemption of land sold for nonpayment of taxes.

(a) General provisions.

- a. The city treasurer is authorized upon payment to him of the sums provided for in Chapter 9 of Title 44 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, to execute for and in the name and behalf of the city a quitclaim deed which has the prior approval of the city solicitor, conveying to the party of interest entitled to redeem said property all the right title and interest of the city, provided that the treasurer not convey right title and interest resultant of the payment of sums for more than ten (10) properties to any one person at any one time.

Sec. 2-74. Assignment of tax title.

(b) General provisions.

- a. The city treasurer is authorized upon payment to him of the sums provided for in Chapter 9 of Title 44 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island to assign tax title to any person and may execute and deliver on behalf of the town any instrument necessary therefor, provided that the treasurer not assign tax title resultant of the payment of for more than ten (10) properties to any one person at any one time.

Chapter 21, Section 53 of Chapter 21 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 21-53. Regulation of assignments or sale of tax titles in bulk by the collector.

(c) *General provisions.*

(1) The collector may offer, assign and transfer the tax titles, individually or in bulk, with other tax titles, either by public auction to the highest bidder or by direct sale, provided:

a. that no more than ten (10) titles be transferred to any one purchaser registered at any one address at any one sale; and

b. that the minimum sum paid for the assignment is not less than the total amount necessary for the redemption of each individual tax title assigned or at a rate which may be discounted to reflect uncollectable factors.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 03 2025
FIRST READING
READ AND PASSED

Tina L. Mastrosanni
CLERK

IN CITY
COUNCIL
APR 17 2025
FINAL READING
READ AND PASSED

Rachel M. Miller
RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT
 Tina L. Mastrosanni
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

Brett P. Smith
Mayor

Date: 4/23/25