

**City of Providence**  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 324*

EFFECTIVE June 15, 2015

WHEREAS, On November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013, the Providence City Council passed Ordinance #2013-553, an ordinance in amendment of Article X, Section 21-182, "Property Tax Classification," of the Code of Ordinances to eliminate the so-called, "Welcome to Providence" tax penalty; and

WHEREAS, The ordinance was designed to ensure that new residents purchasing homes in Providence would be taxed at the lower, owner-occupied property tax rate, where applicable, immediately upon transfer of ownership; and

WHEREAS, This ordinance took effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, the first day of the 2015 Fiscal Year; and

WHEREAS, However, despite its passage and adoption, many new residents who meet the criteria of the ordinance have contacted members of the City Council to report that their properties were not taxed at the lower, owner-occupied rate or that they did not receive the lower tax rate until long after the transfer of ownership; and

WHEREAS, As public servants and elected representatives of the people of Providence, the Providence City Council has an obligation to ensure that city laws are properly enforced and applied.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby request that the Tax Assessor enforce Article X, Section 21-182, of the Code of Ordinances, entitled, "Property Tax Classification," including subsection (f), which states,

*"(f) Upon purchase of a residence, a homeowner may apply for a type (a) owner occupied real estate tax rate effective as of the date of purchase for the current tax year, notwithstanding the fact that the applicant did not own the property as of December 31 of the prior year. The exemption will be granted pro rata for the number of days the applicant owns the property during the fiscal year in which the home is purchased."*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Internal Auditor shall conduct an audit of all property owners eligible for the owner-occupied property tax rate as defined in Article X, Section 21-182 (f) since July 1, 2014 to determine if their properties were taxed at the appropriate rate. The results of this audit shall be reported to the City Council and the Tax Assessor no later than August 1, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon completion of said audit, the City Council may authorize the Tax Assessor to reimburse or credit any property owners who paid property taxes in excess of what was stipulated in Article X, Section 21-182.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, a copy of this resolution be delivered to the Tax Assessor, the Director of Finance, and the Internal Auditor.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JUN 04 2015

READ AND PASSED

  
PRES.

  
CLERK

Effective without the  
Mayor's Signature

  
Lori L. Hagen  
City Clerk