

City of Providence
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 339

EFFECTIVE July 31, 2017

WHEREAS, The illegal operation of ATVs and dirt bikes in Providence has increased in prevalence, raising concerns from Providence residents; and

WHEREAS, The operation of these vehicles on Providence streets and in parks threatens the safety and quality of life of Providence residents; and

WHEREAS, WPRI news reported that, in a letter to the City Council, Rhode Island Foundation President Neil Steinberg said off-road motor vehicles have caused significant damage to Roger Williams Park and Providence Parks, with repairs costing nearly \$20,000; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council passed an ordinance on May 4, 2017 amending Chapter 15, "Motor Vehicles and Traffic," Article VII, "Snowmobiles and Recreational Off-Road Vehicles", requiring all ATVs and dirt bikes be registered with the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and allowing Providence Police to confiscate and destroy ATVs and dirt bikes operated illegally in the city; and

WHEREAS, Passage of the ordinance provides the necessary tools for Providence Police to create a coordinated effort with the community to remove ATVs and dirt bikes from the streets of Providence; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council made provisions in the FY2018 budget for additional traffic control funding to aid the Providence Police with enforcement of the ordinance; and

WHEREAS, In Baltimore, MD, similar issues regarding off-road recreational vehicles have occurred, leading to the formation of a dedicated Baltimore Police ATV task force; and

WHEREAS, The task force has aided Baltimore's police in dealing with ATV and dirt bike issues while ensuring public safety by establishing a dedicated tip line for community members to engage in a coordinated effort with Baltimore Police to locate stashed bikes and fueling locations, helping cut down on dangerous chases; and

WHEREAS, As the elected representatives of the people of Providence, the Providence City Council has an obligation to ensure the safety of residents and the proper enforcement of the City's laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council requests that the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Chief of Police create a citywide ATV task force charged with enforcing the ordinance regarding ATVs and dirt bikes and eliminating the hazard to public safety caused by the illegal operation of such vehicles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Chief of Police.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JUL 20 2017

READ AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature

Lori L. Hagen
City Clerk