

ORDINANCE NO. 1911

AN ORDINANCE to amend The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, by adding thereto a new chapter numbered 41A entitled WEED CONTROL; which new chapter 41A RESTRICTS THE HEIGHT OF WEEDS WITHIN THE CITY, AND GRANTS AUTHORITY TO THE CITY TO CUT THE WEEDS WHENEVER THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY FAILS TO DO SO AND TO PLACE A LIEN ON THE PROPERTY.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new chapter numbered 41A to read as follows:

CHAPTER 41A

Weed Control

Sec. 41A-1. Definition.

The word "weeds" as used in this chapter shall be held to include grass, weeds, bushes and any other vegetation other than trees, ornamental shrubbery, flowers and garden vegetables properly tended.

Sec. 41A-2. Weeds on any property - Public Nuisance.

Weeds on any property located within the city that are in excess of twelve inches in height are found to be a danger to the public health and are hereby declared to constitute a public nuisance.

Sec. 41A-3. Same - Duty of owner to cut.

The owners of property located within the city shall cut the weeds that are in excess of twelve inches in height on such property.

Sec. 41A-4. Same - Notice to owner to cut.

The director of the department of recreation and cultural activities or his duly authorized agent may give notice in writing to the owner of land in the city upon which there are weeds in excess of twelve inches in height that such weeds must be cut within ten days from the receipt of the notice or the city will cut the weeds, bill the owner for the costs and collect the costs like taxes in the event of nonpayment by the owner. Mailing to the last known post office address shall constitute sufficient service upon owners who cannot be found after a reasonably diligent search or who are nonresidents.

Sec. 41A-5. Same - Cutting by city; billing and collection of charges; unpaid bill a lien.

Whenever the owner refuses, neglects or fails to cut weeds after being notified in the manner prescribed by section 41A-4 above, the weeds shall be cut by the department of recreation and cultural activities. The expense thereof shall be forthwith computed, and a bill for such expense shall be prepared by the department of finance and mailed to the owner at his last known post office address within a reasonable time after the cutting.

In the event the city does not receive payment of the bill within thirty days after mailing, a duplicate statement of the bill shall be forwarded to the city collector, who shall see that the expense is charged to the owner and collected in the same manner as city taxes. Every charge with which the owner of any such property shall have been assessed and which remains unpaid shall constitute a lien against such property.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation published in the city not later than five days following its introduction together with a notice containing the time and place for a public hearing. The clerk of the council shall note the date of introduction and first reading, the date of publication, the date of the public hearing, and the date of the second reading and final passage in the minutes of the meeting. This ordinance shall become effective the date of its final passage.

CHARLES E. BEATLEY, JR.
Mayor

FINAL PASSAGE: DECEMBER 26, 1973