

ORDINANCE NO. 2698

AN ORDINANCE to re-enact ordinance number 1911; to amend Title 5 by adding a new chapter numbered 9 entitled WEED CONTROL; and to amend and reordain Chapter 9, Title 5 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended; which Title 5 relates to TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES and which Chapter 9 relates to WEED CONTROL.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by re-enacting ordinance number 1911.

Section 2. That The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained by adding a new chapter numbered 9 as follows:

CHAPTER 1
Weed Control.

Sec. 5-9-1. 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. 5-9-2. Weeds on any property--Public nuisance.

Weeds on any property located within the city that are in excess of 12 inches in height are found to be a danger to the public health and are hereby declared to constitute a public nuisance.

Sec. 5-9-3. Same--Duty of owner to cut.

The owners of property located within the city shall cut the weeds that are in excess of 12 inches in height on such property.

Sec. 5-9-4. Same--Notice to owner to cut.

The director of the department of transportation and environmental services 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 12 inches in height that such weeds must be cut within 10 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. 5-9-5. 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 5-9-4 above, the weeds shall be cut by the department of transportation and environmental services. 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 30 days after mailing, the director of finance 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 3. That the title of and an informal memorandum explaining 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 city clerk shall have the full text of this ordinance printed in sufficient numbers to supply copies to meet request. The city clerk 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: June 12, 1982