

CITY OF HARTFORD  
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN  
ORDINANCE NO. 308 - 10

The City of Hartford Ordains as follows:

Section 1. This Ordinance shall be known as the Grass, Noxious Weed and Harmful Vegetation Ordinance and is intended to regulate the control and maintenance of grass, noxious weeds and poisonous or harmful vegetation.

- A. No person occupying any premises and no person owning any unoccupied premises in the City of Hartford shall permit or maintain on any such premise any growth of grass, noxious weeds, or poisonous or harmful vegetation to a greater height than seven (7) inches or any accumulation of dead weeds, grass or brush.
- B. It shall be the duty of the landowner owning land within the City of Hartford, or the occupant thereof, to cut down, or cause to be cut down, and destroy and remove all grass, noxious weeds, as well as poisonous or harmful vegetation.

Section 2. Definitions. The following words and phrases, when used in this ordinance shall have the meaning as follows:

- A. "Noxious" weeds shall include poison ivy, wright weed, Canadian thistle, dodders, mustard, wild carrots, bind weed, sow thistle, poison oak, poison sumac and other poisonous, noxious, or unhealthy growth, as well as any and all vegetation that becomes a hazard to, or is detrimental to the health of, any person.
- B. "Owner" means the person having the legal title to the property.
- C. "Occupant" means the person(s) occupying the premises.
- D. "Parcel of land" means any *contiguous* piece of land owned by one or more persons in the City of Hartford, *including* the area between the sidewalk and the street or alley abutting such piece of land.
- E. "Poisonous or harmful vegetation" means any or all vegetation that in any way becomes a hazard to or detrimental to the health of any person.
- F. "Weeds" means all weeds, grass, brush, wildings, second growth, rank vegetation or other vegetation growing or not growing having a height greater than seven (7) inches, or a spread more than seven (7) inches.

### Section 3. Notice of Violation.

- A. Any violation of this ordinance, if found to exist, shall be addressed by a letter to the owner of the property in question, or to the occupant(s) thereof, stating that:
1. The owner or occupant(s) are required to maintain their property so as to keep grass, weeds, or poisonous or harmful vegetation growing or not growing so that they do not have a height greater than seven (7) inches, or a spread more than seven (7) inches.
  2. In the event you fail to comply with this notice, the City of Hartford will enter onto your property and mow it or have it mowed or in any other reasonable manner remove the vegetation.
  3. You have 10 days from the day of this notice to correct the violation.
  4. If you disagree with this notice you have the right to request an informal hearing before the City Manager and Code Enforcement Officer. Such a request must be made in writing within the ten (10) days that you have to correct the violation.
- B. Failure to Comply. Should the City have to correct the situation because of noncompliance by the owner/occupant(s), the City may enter onto private property which is not securely fenced or enclosed for the purpose of cutting, removing or destroying any or all grass, noxious weeds, and poisonous or harmful vegetation constituting violations of this ordinance as set forth in the notice.
- C. The actual cost of the removal of the grass, noxious weeds, and poisonous or harmful vegetation shall be levied against the property by way of a special assessment for the cost of said clean up in addition to an Administrative Fee of \$50.00.

### Section 5. Severability Clause.

Should any portion of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional, illegal, or of no force and effect by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such portion thereof shall not be deemed to affect the validity of any other part or portion hereof.

Section 6. Effective Date and Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances.

This ordinance shall take effect upon publication. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Motion by Latus, supported by Dockter to adopt the resolution.

Ayes: Austin; Dockter; Hall; Latus and Johnson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Miller; Pleyer

Resolution declared adopted May 24, 2010

Published: May 26, 2010

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RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, Clerk