

MEMORANDUM



TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: VICTOR CARDENAS, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: CONCERNS WITH TALL GRASS/WEEDS
DATE: MAY 9, 2024

The goal of this correspondence is to provide a brief summary of the City's Ordinances as it deals with tall grass on private property. Since we have had an unusually warm spring, the lawns have been growing sooner than normal. Concerns and complaints have been sent to City Administration and City Council members. Starting May 15th; any grass or vegetation that exceeds 8 inches in length will be in violation of the City Ordinance. A mid-may date is specified in Section 21-18 of the City's ordinance:

*It is hereby made the duty of the owner, occupant or any person having control or management of any lot, place, area or parcel of land within the city upon which noxious weeds, as described in [section 21-17](#), are found growing or standing, to cut and destroy or cause to be cut and destroyed all such weeds growing or standing on the premises, and upon the right-of-way of any highway, road or street adjacent to such lot, place, area of parcel, in such manner as shall effectually prevent such weeds from perpetuating themselves, **at least twice in each year, once during the last half of the month of May, and again during the last half of the month of July of each year,** or more often as may be necessary to prevent them from going to seed. If any owner, occupant or any person having control or management of property in the city shall knowingly suffer any noxious weeds, as described in [section 21-17](#), to grow upon such lands or shall suffer such weeds to ripen so as to cause or endanger the spread thereof or so as to constitute a detriment to public health, he shall, upon conviction in any court of competent jurisdiction, be liable to the penalty imposed in this division for violation thereof.*

The City is required to stipulate, by state statute (MCL 247.62), to have a date in our code of ordinances to guide this process. On or around May 15th in the event of a property being found in violation, a notice will be sent to the resident/violator for necessary corrections, which must be made within 10 days (May 25th) of the mailing date of that notice. If not corrected by the notice expiration date, vacant and unoccupied parcels will be turned over to a city contractor for cutting. Occupied parcels will be ticketed. Any abatement by the city for occupied parcels would be as directed by the district court following the court hearing process.