



## Ordinance 2024-06

### AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF FRANKLIN CODE CHAPTER 29: VEGETATION, ARTICLE II: GRASS, WEEDS & OTHER FOREIGN GROWTH, SECTION 29-50 PUBLIC NUISANCE; MAXIMUM HEIGHT

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, VIRGINIA ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

That Article II, In General, of Chapter 29, Vegetation, is hereby amended as followed:

#### **§ 29-50. Public Nuisance; Maximum Height**

(a) Grass, weeds or other foreign growth exceeding 8 inches in height on property located in the City, (except for such on banks of continuously flowing streams, on natural slopes of a vertical angle of 30° or greater and on natural and undisturbed wooded areas), shall constitute a public nuisance endangering the health and safety of City residents. Such a public nuisance shall be unlawful. It shall be the duty of every owner and every occupant of any such parcel of land in the City to provide for the cutting of grass, weeds and other foreign growth on such property so that such grass, weeds or growth does not exceed 8 inches in height.

(b) It shall be unlawful for the owner of any land, or any occupant or other person who is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of any land, occupied or vacant, including the area adjoining such property extending to the center line of an abutting alley, to permit overgrown shrubs, trees, and other such vegetation (collectively, for purposes of this section, "overgrowth") to exist in a manner that is in violation of this section. Overgrowth shall also include, but not be limited to, noxious weeds, vines, ivy, and any other plant material that may inhibit the growth of native vegetation.

(1) Overgrowth shall be unlawful if any one or more of the following applies:

(i) The overgrowth is abandoned, neglected, or not adequately maintained;

(ii) The overgrowth has caused the primary improvements on the property to be wholly or substantially screened from view from pedestrians standing at ground level upon any right-of-way abutting any property line;

(iii) The overgrowth obstructs the view of address numerals;

(iv) The overgrowth obstructs access to emergency escape and rescue opening points, as defined by the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, or path of travel from any street to the primary entrance of any primary or accessory structure;

(v) The overgrowth is growing into or on primary or accessory structures in a manner that is detrimental to the structure or has caused damaged to a structure;

(vi) The overgrowth constitutes a public health, safety, welfare, or fire hazard; or

(vii) The overgrowth is likely to result in rodent harborage on the property.

THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, VIRGINIA ON JULY 8, 2024.

ATTEST:

Robert C. ..., Mayor  
 Stacey ..., Clerk