



NEWS RELEASE

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CITY ADVISES PROPERTY OWNERS OF POTENTIAL FINES

Chester, PA – The City of Chester’s Department of Streets & Public Improvements, working in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety, is advising all home owners, renters and investors to maintain their property so that it will not be considered a nuisance property due to high grass, weeds, trash, and debris.

“During this time of year it is critical to the health and welfare of Chester residents that people maintain their personal property,” said Councilman Shepard A. Garner, Director of the Department of Streets. “This includes keeping your property in order and trimming back overgrowth and high weeds.” Article 1135 of the Codified ordinance of the City of Chester, indicates that “the owners of property located within the City of Chester shall cut weeds that are in excess of six inches (6”) in height on such property.”

The Councilman further indicated that the problem with such nuisance properties can cause the breeding of rodents, create fire hazards, can prevent clear view of motor traffic, and in general can be detrimental to the health and safety of the public.

The City’s Streets & Public Improvements Department is dedicated to maintaining City streets, alleyways, and property; however, it is the property owners’ responsibility to maintain and cleanup personal property. “For the most part residents are extremely diligent about maintaining their property in the City, but a small percentage of irresponsible property owners, in a significant number of neighborhoods, are posing a serious health risk to their fellow residents. These people must step up and take care of their property, otherwise they will be fined.”

When owners are cited for “Notice of Violation” by the Department of Streets and/or the Department of Public Safety, the owner has a minimum period of time to abate the problem. Should the owner fail to abate the nuisance a criminal complaint is issued with fines of not more than \$1,000 for each occurrence.

If the City is compelled to abate the nuisance, additional costs and/or a property lien are levied for the use of City of Chester man-power and equipment which can total more than \$2,500. “If property owners do not comply with the general rules of society for the betterment of all, they will be fined with no exceptions to home owners, renters, or investors,” said Councilman Garner.

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