

# City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

## CHAPTER

**No. AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 27 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, ENTITLED “THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE ZONING ORDINANCE,” APPROVED NOVEMBER 24, 2014, AS AMENDED, TO CHANGE CERTAIN TEXT IN ARTICLES 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, AND 20**

*Approved*

***Be it ordained by the City of Providence:***

**SECTION 1:** Chapter 27 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence, entitled “The City of Providence Zoning Ordinance,” approved November 24, 2014, as amended, is hereby further amended by making the following changes, with additions underlined and deletions struck out:

### ARTICLE 1. TITLE, PURPOSE, AND APPLICABILITY

#### 102 APPLICABILITY

##### E. Relation to Other Laws and Regulations

Unless otherwise specifically provided, this Ordinance controls over less restrictive City statutes, ordinances, or regulations, and more restrictive City statutes, ordinances, or regulations control over the provisions of this Ordinance. Compliance with this Ordinance does not imply compliance with any other statutes, ordinances, or regulations, including the Rhode Island Building Code.

### ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS AND RULES OF MEASUREMENT

#### 200 RULES OF INTERPRETATION

- f. Whenever a defined word or term appears in the text of this Ordinance, its meaning shall be construed as set forth in the definition. Words not defined shall be interpreted in ~~accordance with the definitions considered to be normal dictionary usage~~ a manner that accomplishes the intent of this ordinance.

#### 201 DEFINITION OF GENERAL TERMS

**Areaway.** A space below finished grade affording access, air, and light to a basement or cellar.

**Bulkhead.** A projecting framework providing access from the exterior of a structure to a stairway leading to a basement or cellar.

**Garage.** A structure, either attached, integral, or detached, used for the parking and storage of vehicles as an accessory use to a residence. Shall not include Parking Structure as defined in Article 12.

**Porch.** An architectural feature that projects from the exterior wall of a structure, has direct access to the street level of the building, and is covered by a roof or eaves. A Porch includes any occupiable space on its roof.

**Short-Term Rental.** The occupancy or use of all or portions of a dwelling unit by anyone other than the owner, for a period of fewer than 28 consecutive calendar days for a fee.

#### 202 RULES OF MEASUREMENT

##### B. Building Height

1. For a vacant parcel of land, building height shall be measured from the average, existing-grade elevation where the foundation of the structure is proposed. This method of building height applies to all structures unless specifically exempted by this Ordinance.

For an existing structure, building height shall be measured from average grade taken from the outermost four (4) corners of the existing foundation. In all cases, building height shall be measured to the top of the highest point of the existing or proposed roof or structure. This distance shall exclude spires, chimneys, flag poles, and the like, as described in item 2 below. (Figure 2-4). For any property or structure located in a special flood hazard area, as shown on the official FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), building height shall be measured from base flood elevation, and where freeboard, as defined in Section 201, is being utilized or proposed, such freeboard area, not to exceed five feet, shall be excluded from the building height calculation; provided, however, that the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council design elevation maps may be used by an owner or applicant to establish a base flood elevation for a property that is higher than the official FEMA FIRMs.

### ARTICLE 3. ZONING DISTRICTS

#### 302 EXEMPTIONS FOR PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

- B. The following utility uses are exempt from the provisions of this Ordinance and permitted in any district: wires, cables, conduits, vaults, laterals, pipes, mains, hydrants, valves and water supply wells. Electric substations are exempt from the demolition provisions of Article 6.

### ARTICLE 5. COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

#### 502 DIMENSIONAL STANDARDS

##### ~~B. Residential Dwellings~~

~~Two family, three family, and rowhouse dwellings in the commercial districts are subject to the dimensional standards of the R-3 District. Multi-family and mixed-use developments are subject to the standards of the commercial district.~~

#### 503 DESIGN STANDARDS

##### B. C-3 District Design Standards

##### 2. Fenestration

- a. Ground floor façades shall contain a total area of transparency of 50% or more of the wall area of the ground floor, measured between two and nine feet above the adjacent grade. This requirement shall not apply to the portions of building façades that front on side lot lines on corner lots. For existing structures originally designed for retail use on the ground floor, the ground floor shall maintain the original storefront design and is not subject to the ground floor transparency minimum. Multi-family dwellings or residential portions of mixed use buildings are not subject to the ground floor transparency minimum.

### ARTICLE 6. DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

#### 603 DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES

##### C. Incentives – General

~~Two types of Development incentives through height bonuses are permitted in the D-1 District to encourage development that is compatible with the goals of the comprehensive plan: bonuses and transfer of development rights.~~

##### ~~G. Incentives – Transfer of Development Rights~~

~~Development rights may be transferred from a building listed in the National Register of Historic Places for which the applicant donates a preservation restriction whose purpose is the preservation of the exterior of the building as of the date of the conveyance of such restriction to the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission. Structures on sending lots shall be restored and maintained as required by the Downtown Design Review Committee.~~

- ~~1. The gross building height that may be transferred from any sending lot to a receiving lot is the difference between the permitted zoning height as detailed on the Zoning Map and the height of the existing building on the date of the transfer. In no case may the receiving lot building height exceed the lesser of 300 feet or 1.6 times the permitted zoning height.~~
- ~~2. The fee owners of sending and receiving lots shall execute a deed or other agreement to be recorded with the title to both lots. This agreement or deed shall be for a term that equals or exceeds the life of the project on the receiving lot for which the rights were transferred. The agreement or deed shall state that the development rights transferred from the sending lot to the receiving lot may not be reclaimed unless the project on the~~

~~receiving lot or that portion of the project for which the rights were transferred is demolished. The deed or agreement shall also provide that its covenants and conditions run with the land and are specifically enforceable by any party or by the City.~~

### **HG. Changes**

Any changes to the plan approved in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be considered a new application.

## **604 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

### **H. Loading**

Off street loading docks and areas shall be provided in accordance with Article 14 of this Ordinance and the following provisions:

1. Access to loading docks and areas from A Streets is permitted only when the lot has no frontage on a B Street. ~~The Downtown Design Review Committee may waive this provision. For lots with A and B Street frontage, such access from an A Street may also be granted when the B Street is determined by the City Traffic Engineer to be substandard for loading access.~~

## **606 DESIGN STANDARDS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION**

### **D. Façade Design**

1. Building facades shall be built within a build-to zone of between zero and eight feet from the street line. Such facades shall occupy this build-to zone for at least 80% of each lot frontage of the property. These provisions may be waived to create court yards, wider sidewalks, open space, and/or outdoor seating. It is preferable that such areas contribute to a planned network of connected pedestrian and bike ways and parks. These provisions may also be waived to create accessory parking areas along B Streets developed in accordance with Section 604.G.4. (Figure 6- 6)
- ~~b. Building facades shall be designed to have multiple entrances, with no less than 35 feet between entrances. This provision may be waived by the Downtown Design Review Committee.~~

### **E. Fenestration Design**

3. Upper story façade shall provide areas of transparency equal to at least 35% of the wall area of the story. ~~For parking structures, the area of transparency may be met with windowless openings.~~ This provision may be waived by the Downtown Design Review Committee. (Figure 6-8)

## **ARTICLE 11. SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICTS**

### **1105 TOD TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT**

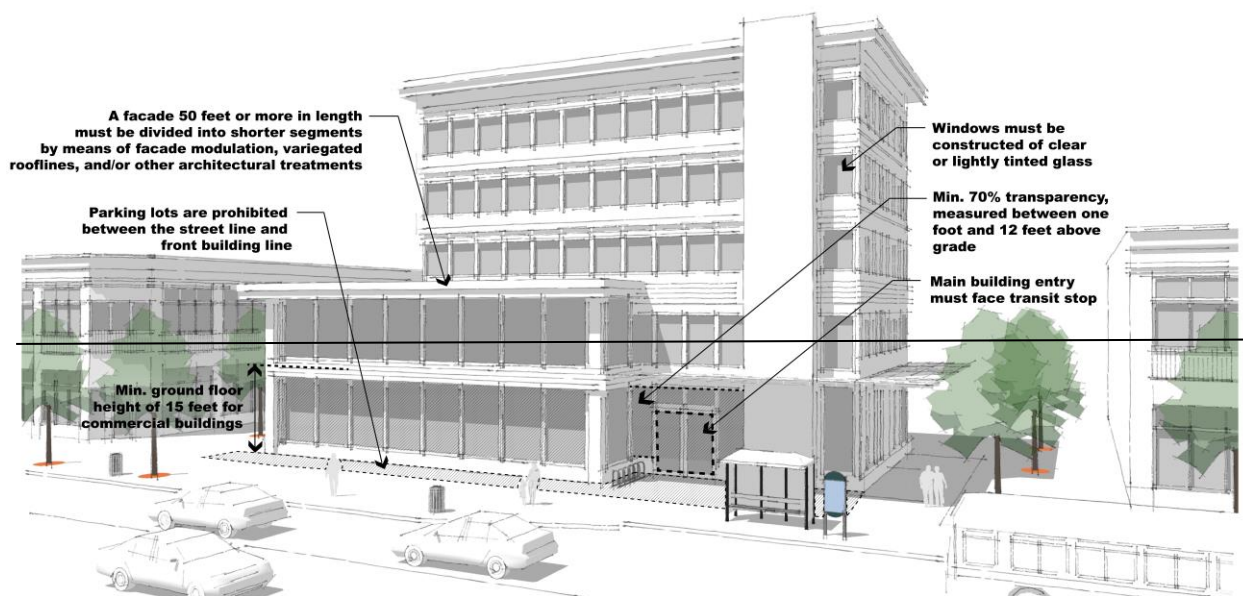
#### **D. Design Standards**

~~All design standards of the base district and for particular types of structures, as applicable, shall apply to the TOD district. In addition to any design standards of the base district, the following design standards apply to new and existing non-residential structures, including mixed-use development. Residential dwellings are not subject to these standards, but rather the standards for that particular dwelling type. (Figure 11-14) The City Plan Commission may waive these design standards as part of City Plan Commission Development Plan Review (Section 1906).~~

- ~~1. All buildings shall provide a main entrance on the façade of the building facing the transit stop or along streets leading to the transit stop. The main entrance of any building shall face the street.~~
- ~~2. Ground floor facade transparency shall contain a total area of transparency of 70% or more of the wall area of the ground floor, measured between one and 12 feet above the adjacent grade. For existing structures originally designed for retail use on the ground floor, the ground floor shall maintain the original storefront design and is not subject to the transparency minimum.~~
- ~~3. Ground floor and upper story windows of facades in new and existing buildings shall be composed of glass with a visible light transmittance (VLT) of at least 50% and a maximum exterior reflectivity of no more than 12%. The use of opaque materials such as brick, metal, or sheet rock to cover or fill a window opening is prohibited.~~

- ~~4. Parking lots are prohibited between the street line and the front building line on any lot and within five feet of the front lot line when located on a corner lot.~~
- ~~5. Any façade that is 50 or more feet in length shall be divided into shorter segments by means of façade modulation, repeating window patterns, changes in materials, canopies or awnings, varying roof lines, and/or other architectural treatments.~~
- ~~6. The ground floor of commercial buildings shall be designed with a minimum height of 14 feet.~~
- ~~7. Parking structures shall include active, non-residential ground floor uses along a minimum of 60% of the ground floor when adjacent to a street. Such uses shall have a minimum depth of 20 feet, measured from where the building line is located along the street.~~

**FIGURE 11-14**



**ARTICLE 12. USES**

**1201 USE MATRIX**

Use	R-1A	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-P	C-1	C-2	C-3	D-1	W-2	W-3	M-1	M-2	M-MU	I-1	I-2	P-S	O-S	C-D	Use Standard	
Compassion Center/Cultivation Center									P				S									Sec. 1202.EE
Live Entertainment - Ancillary Use							<u>S</u>	<u>S</u>	S	S	S		P		P		P					Sec. 1202.Q

**1202 PRINCIPAL USE STANDARDS:**

**C. Automated Teller Machine - Standalone**

~~The following regulations for a standalone Automated Teller Machines (ATM) do not apply to financial institutions that typically provide services by Automated Teller Machines, whether drive-through or walk-up.~~

- ~~1. A drive-through standalone Automated Teller Machine (ATM) is subject to the following standards:
 
  - ~~a. A drive-through standalone ATM is permitted only when a drive-through facility is allowed within the district and separate approval is obtained for the drive-through facility, including compliance with all standards for a drive-through facility.~~
  - ~~b. The drive-through lane shall provide a minimum of three stacking spaces.~~~~

**J. Drive-Through Facility**

- ~~4. A drive through lane shall have bail out capability for all vehicles that enter the drive through lane. The bail out lane shall be a minimum width of 12 feet in width and run parallel to the drive through lane. If a bail out lane is also an interior access drive providing access to parking spaces, the bail out lane is limited to a one-way traffic pattern following the direction of the drive through lane.~~

**K. Dwelling: Multi-Family or Rowhouse**

6. A dwelling unit in a multi-family dwelling or rowhouse dwelling may be used as a short-term rental, subject to the following standards:
- a. Properties used as short-term rentals in the R-1A, R-1, R-2, and R-3 zoning districts must be owner-occupied.
  - b. The owner must supply all of the following within the dwelling unit:
    - i. Visible printed materials with diagrams of all points of egress, written in both English and Spanish.
    - ii. Clearly marked visible fire extinguisher(s).
  - c. Dwelling units used as short-term rentals shall require a temporary use permit, the term of which shall be one year. Short-term rental of portions of dwelling units, where the owner is present and living in the dwelling unit during the entire term of the rental, are not subject to this provision.

**L. Dwelling: Single-Family, Two-Family, Three-Family, or Semi-Detached**

6. A dwelling unit in a single-family, two-family, three family, or semi-detached dwelling may be used as a short-term rental, subject to the following standards.
- a. Properties used as short-term rentals in the R-1A, R-1, R-2, and R-3 zoning districts must be owner-occupied.
  - b. The owner must supply all of the following within the dwelling unit:
    - i. Visible printed materials with diagrams of all points of egress, written in both English and Spanish.
    - ii. Clearly marked visible fire extinguisher(s).
  - c. Dwelling units used as short-term rentals shall require a temporary use permit, the term of which shall be one year. Short-term rental of portions of dwelling units, where the owner is present and living in the dwelling unit during the entire term of the rental, are not subject to this provision.

**Q. Live Entertainment - Ancillary Use, Live Performance Venue, or Nightclub**

3. Live Entertainment – Ancillary Use provided in a C-1 or C-2 zone through a Special Use Permit shall cease at 10:00 pm on weekdays and 11:00 pm on weekends.

**EE. Compassion Center/Cultivation Center**

- 1. No more than the square footage for which the applicant is licensed shall be permitted for the use. The Zoning Board of Review may, in its discretion, limit the use to less square footage than that for which the applicant is licensed.
- 2. Any square footage in the property not devoted to the use must be segregated from the facility by a wall or similar structure.
- 3. The applicant must submit evidence of the following:
  - a. That it has obtained a license or registration to cultivate, acquire and/or dispense in the State of Rhode Island, subject to zoning approval and final inspection of the property by the licensing/registering entity.
  - b. All measures undertaken to contain noise and odors shall demonstrate that it has taken all reasonable measures to contain noise and odors.
  - c. The security plan(s) for the property and the facility.
  - d. Staffing numbers for all hours of each day.
  - e. The number of vehicles that will access the facility on a daily or weekly basis.

**1204 USE DEFINITIONS**

**Compassion Center/Cultivation Center.** A facility operated by an organization or business that is registered/licensed in the state to acquire and dispense medical cannabis, paraphernalia, or related supplies and educational materials to registered qualifying patients and/or registered/licensed by the state to perform the necessary activities to provide only registered medical cannabis dispensing organizations with usable medical cannabis.

**Drive-Through Facility.** That portion of a business where business is transacted directly with customers via a service window in such a way that allows customers to remain in their vehicle. A drive through facility is approved separately as a principal use.

**Live Entertainment - Ancillary Use.** A live performance, performed live by one or more persons including, but not limited to, musical acts, theatrical plays, performance art, stand-up comedy, disc jockeys (DJs), and magic, included as part of the operation of a bar, restaurant, amusement facility, or similar use. As an ancillary use, the other principal use(s) operating on the site shall be active and open to the public while the performance is occurring and during hours when no performance is scheduled. Live entertainment - ancillary use shall be approved separately as a principal use. Live entertainment - ancillary use does not include:

1. Any adult use.
2. Nightclub or any use that requires a Class N license.
3. Periodic entertainment at educational facilities or places of worship, performances at cultural facilities, performances at reception facilities, performances at weddings and similar religious events.
4. Incidental entertainment.

**Nightclub.** An establishment that provides entertainment, including live music and disc jockeys (DJs), and an area for dancing by patrons of the establishment. A nightclub has as its primary source of revenue the sale of alcoholic beverages and/or cover charges. Portions of the floor area may be set up for alcohol service, including a bar counter, with or without stools, and other seating areas. A nightclub requires a Class N license under Title 3 of the Rhode Island General laws. A nightclub is only open to the public when it is providing such entertainment and admission (cover charge) is generally charged for admittance.

**ARTICLE 13. SITE DEVELOPMENT**

**1302 ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND USES**

**I. Fences and Walls**

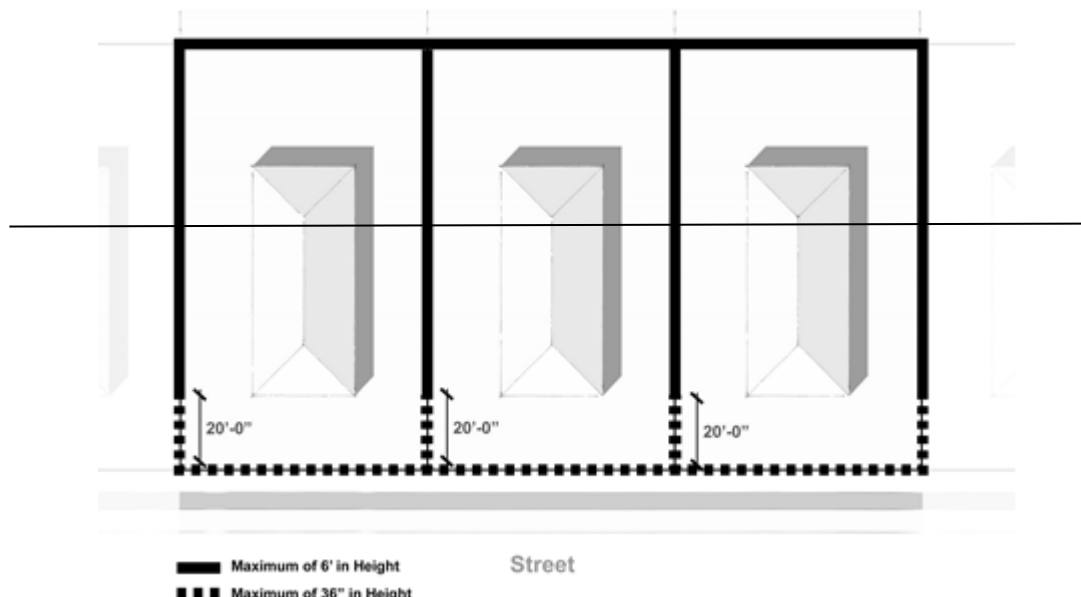
**1. General Requirements**

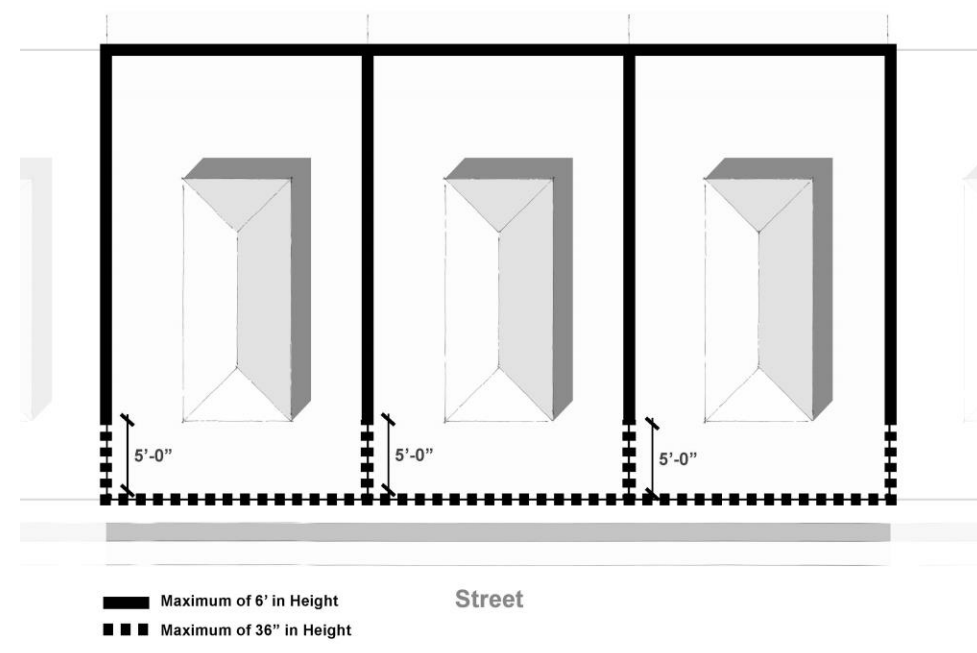
f. The combined height of any fence and wall cannot be more than 6 feet.

**2. Fences**

a. With the exception of a wire fence located adjacent to a residential driveway, nNo fence within five feet of a front or corner side lot line shall exceed 36 inches in height along that portion of the fence that extends from the front lot line back to a distance of 20 feet. Fences in aAll other areas and wire fences located adjacent to a residential driveway are limited to six feet in height. (Figure 13-3)

**FIGURE 13-3**





- ~~b. A wire fence is defined as a fence made of wire no less than number nine gauge firmly fastened to posts not more than 16 feet apart, woven of not less than 11 horizontal wires, the bottom wire to be not more than two inches from the ground, and with stays or uprights not more than six inches apart. No sharp prongs are permitted on top of said fence, and all prongs shall be meshed, capped, or turned over.~~

#### 4. Walls

- a. A stone wall is permitted as a partition fence in a residential district constructed of flat fieldstone, not exceeding ~~four~~ six feet in height with a flat stone top, not exceeding 12 inches in width, and having the same finish on both sides.

### J. Garage

#### 3. Integral Garage

- a. Integral garages are those whose area occupies part of the primary mass of a residential structure, regardless of the grade at which the garage is entered. It is considered a separate category from an attached garage.
- b. The width of an integral garage shall be limited to 50% of the width of the building façade containing the garage door(s) or 22 feet, whichever is greater. Garage width is measured as the distance between the right and left garage door edges; in the case of garages designed with multiple garage doors, the width is measured as the total distance between the edges of the outmost doors. (Figure 13-4)
- c. If an integral garage faces a front lot line, there shall be a pedestrian entrance door on the façade containing the garage.
- d. The garage door(s) shall not be closer to the street than any part of the façade containing the garage door(s).
- e. There shall be a driveway, at least 18 feet long, between a street lot line and a garage door, or in a case where the front yard setback permits, a garage door may be between zero and three feet from the front lot line.

### N. Refuse and Recycling Container

The following standards do not apply to properties that use city-issued wheeled trash and recycling containers.

3. Refuse containers are permitted on a temporary basis in all residential zones, subject to the following standards:
- a. Construction project-related refuse containers must be removed from a property within one week of completion of the construction project.
- b. All other temporary refuse containers are allowed on a property for up to two weeks.

**1303 PERMITTED ENCROACHMENTS**

Table 13-2: Permitted Encroachments into Required Setbacks Y= Permitted // N= Prohibited				
	Front Setback	Corner Side Setback	Interior Side Setback	Rear Setback
Areaway <i>Maximum encroachment of 4'</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bulkhead <i>Maximum encroachment of 6'</i> <i>Prohibited in front yard</i>	N	Y	Y	Y

**ARTICLE 14. OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING**

TABLE 14-1: OFF-STREET VEHICLE AND BICYCLE PARKING REQUIREMENTS

USE	MINIMUM REQUIRED VEHICLE SPACES	MINIMUM REQUIRED BICYCLE SPACES	
		REQUIRED TOTAL BICYCLE SPACES	PERCENTAGE OF REQUIRED BICYCLE SPACES THAT SHALL BE LONG-TERM SPACES
Self-Storage Facility	1 per 2550 storage units		

**1404 DESIGN OF VEHICLE PARKING SPACES**

**A. Permitted Vehicle Parking Locations**

**1. Residential Uses**

a. All required off-street vehicle parking spaces for residential uses and the residential component of mixed-use developments shall be located on the same lot or on a separate lot from the lot containing the use for which parking is required, if the Director of Inspection and Standards finds that the proposed location is within a reasonable distance of the use, the off-site parking conforms to this Ordinance, and the off-site parking is not required for another use. Shared parking in accordance with Section 1411 is permitted. When parking is not located on the same lot, the property owner(s) shall be required to execute and permit the Director of the Department of Inspection and Standards to file a lien with the Recorder of Deeds against both the lot containing the requiring parking and the lot for which the parking is being provided. The lien, which must also be signed by the Director of the Department of Inspections and Standards, shall designate the use of the lot for off-street parking, and provide notice that insufficient parking exists on the original lot. The lien may be terminated by the parties, with the consent of the Director of the Department of Inspection and Standards, only if it is no longer necessary for conformance.

**2. Non-Residential Uses**

a. Vehicle parking for a non-residential use shall be located on the same lot or on a separate lot from the lot containing the use for which parking is required, if the Director of Inspection and Standards finds that the proposed location is within a reasonable distance of the use, the off-site parking conforms to this Ordinance, and the off-site parking is not required for another use. Valet parking services shall provide evidence of a lot reserved for vehicle parking. Shared parking in accordance with Section 1411 is permitted. When parking is not located on the same site, the property owner(s) shall be required to execute and permit the Director of the Department of Inspection and Standards to file a lien with the Recorder of Deeds against both the lot containing the requiring parking and the lot for which the parking is being provided. The lien, which must also be signed by the Director of the Department of Inspections and Standards, shall designate the use of the lot for off-street parking, and provide notice that insufficient parking exists on the original lot. The lien may be terminated by the parties, with the consent of the Director of the Department of Inspection and Standards, only if it is no longer necessary for conformance.

**H. Surfacing**

4. When new areas of pavement do not require a building permit, the owner must obtain a zoning certificate indicating conformance to all provisions of this Ordinance.

**1407 DRIVEWAY DESIGN**

**A. Driveway Design**

When new areas of pavement do not require a building permit, the owner must obtain a zoning certificate indicating conformance to all provisions of this Ordinance.



## 1. Residential Driveways: Excluding Multi-Family and Rowhouse Dwellings

- a. A residential driveway that provides access to a detached or attached garage, or exterior parking spaces set back from the front lot line, is limited to a maximum width of 12 feet. A driveway apron, the width of the garage, as measured from the garage walls, is permitted to extend for a distance (depth) of 20 feet from the garage doors before tapering back to the required driveway width for access to the additional spaces. (Figure 14-3)

### ARTICLE 18. APPLICATION AND NOTICE PROCEDURES

#### 1800 APPLICATION

##### D. Concurrent Applications

When a development or proposal requires review by a board or commission and requires a variance or special use permit, the applications will be reviewed first by the board or commission, which shall make a preliminary determination and a recommendation to the Zoning Board of Review, then by the Zoning Board of Review, and then again by the board or commission.

#### 1801 NOTICE

##### B. City Council Notice

9. Where a proposed text amendment to this ordinance would cause a conforming lot of record to become nonconforming by lot area or frontage, written notice shall be given to all owners of the real property as shown on the current real estate tax assessment records of the city or town. The notice shall be given at least two weeks prior to the hearing at which the text amendment is to be considered, with the content required by this section. The notice shall include reference to the merger clause of Section 2003.E and the impacts of common ownership of nonconforming lots. Notice shall utilize a United States Postal Service certificate of mailing, and the certificate or an electronic copy thereof shall be retained to demonstrate proof of the mailing.

### ARTICLE 19. ZONING APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS

#### 1907 DOWNTOWN DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

##### F. Development Incentives

1. The Downtown Design Review Committee is authorized to grant development incentives in the form of ~~density bonuses, height bonuses or transfers of development rights~~, in accordance with the provisions of the D-1 District. In granting a development incentive, the Downtown Design Review Committee may impose such conditions deemed necessary to carry out the purpose of the D-1 District.

#### 1911 CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

##### I. Appeals

An aggrieved party has the right to appeal a decision of the Historic District Commission to the Zoning Board of Review, and a further right of appeal from the Zoning Board of Review to the Superior Court, and from the Superior Court to the Supreme Court by writ of certiorari. The appeal to the Zoning Board shall be made within 20 days of the issuance of a written determination by the Historic District Commission on any plan or petition submitted to it or any revisions thereof.

#### 1918 ZONING APPEALS

##### B. Initiation

An appeal to the Zoning Board of Review from a decision of the City Plan Commission, the Downtown Design Review Committee, the Historic District Commission, the Development Plan Review Committee, or from any error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by the Director of the Department of Inspection and Standards or other authorized agent in the enforcement or interpretation of this Ordinance, may be taken by an aggrieved party.

##### C. Authority

The Zoning Board or Review makes final decisions on zoning appeals applications.

**D. Procedure**

1. All ~~appeals applications~~ shall be submitted in accordance with Section 1800, on a form to be provided by the Zoning Board of Review.
2. An appeal to the Zoning Board of Review shall be filed within 20 days of the recording of a ~~decision determination~~ of the Director of the Department of Inspection and Standards, ~~or decision of the Downtown Design Review Committee, or Historic District Commission, or City Plan Commission,~~ or their officers or agents authorized to make a final decision. If no such decision is required to be recorded, then an appeal shall be filed within 30 days after the time when the aggrieved party knew or should have known of ~~the determination~~ ~~or decision.~~
3. The notice of appeal shall be filed with the officer or agency from whom the appeal is taken and also with the Zoning Board of Review. ~~The a notice of appeal shall specifying~~ the ground of the appeal. The officer or agency from whom the appeal is taken shall immediately transmit to the Zoning Board of Review all the papers and electronic records constituting the record for the action or decision upon which the action appealed from was taken. Notice of the appeal shall also be transmitted to the City Plan Commission.

**E. Appeals from Decisions of the Zoning Board of Review**

Any aggrieved party may appeal a decision of the Zoning Board of Review to the Rhode Island Superior Court within 20 days after such decision is recorded and posted in the office of the City Clerk.

**ARTICLE 20. NONCONFORMITIES****2001 NONCONFORMING USE****F. Discontinuation or Abandonment**

- ~~1. If a nonconforming use is discontinued for a continuous period of one year, the nonconforming use is presumed abandoned and cannot be reestablished or resumed regardless of intent. Any subsequent use or occupancy of such land or structure shall comply with all regulations of the zoning district in which the structure or land is located.~~
21. If a nonconforming use is abandoned, it may not be reestablished. Abandonment of a nonconforming use consists of some overt act, or failure to act, which leads one to believe that the owner of the nonconforming use neither claims nor retains any interest in continuing the nonconforming use unless the owner can demonstrate an intent not to abandon the use. An involuntary interruption of nonconforming use, as by fire and natural catastrophe, does not establish the intent to abandon the nonconforming use. However, if any nonconforming use is halted for a period of one year, the owner of the nonconforming use is presumed to have abandoned the nonconforming use, unless that presumption is rebutted by the presentation of sufficient evidence of intent not to abandon the use.

**2003 NONCONFORMING LOT****C. Development**

Development of a nonconforming lot shall meet all applicable dimensional or bulk regulations of the district in which it is located ~~with the exception of any lot dimension requirement that renders it nonconforming.~~

**D. Enlargement or Subdivision of Substandard Lots**

Lawfully established lots which have less than the minimum area requirements, may be maintained and may be changed by adding additional land to such lots without prejudice to the rights of the owner of such lots pursuant to the provisions of this Section. Such lots may be reconfigured by adjusting lot lines so long as no new nonconformities are created.

**SECTION 2:** This ordinance shall take effect upon passage.