

Code Change Fact Sheet

This fact sheet must be attached to any ordinance in Legistar that is proposing to amend Columbus City Codes. It should also be circulated among Councilmember offices prior to submitting an ordinance in Legistar.

It is also a standard practice that Council will not consider any code changes that have not been previously reviewed and approved by the City Attorney's office. Drafters should ensure that the City Attorney's office has approved a final version of a proposed code change prior to circulating this fact sheet to Councilmember offices.

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Department: Building and Zoning Services

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Columbus City Code Title Being Amended/Created/Repealed:

709.01

What is the overall purpose of this code change? *Summarize the general themes of the code change(s) and the need for these changes. Please utilize language and descriptors that would be easily understandable by the general public.*

Provides an exemption for pollinator gardens from the noxious weed code section with in the Health, Sanitation and Safety Code.

Why is this code change needed? *Examples: Correcting a drafting error; bringing code into alignment with changes to state law. For other policy changes, it may be necessary to provide a much more in-depth rationale in the section.*



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Pollinator gardens provide a healthy benefit to the city's eco system vs standard green grass. Providing an exemption ensures citizens engaged in pollinator gardening are not cited for violating the noxious weed section of city code.

What would be the impact of not adopting this code change?

Citizens trying to make a difference for beneficial pollinators could be subject to code violations and be forced to remove their gardens against their will.

Are there any operating or capital budget cost/savings implications for this code change?

These may be direct or indirect, and please also note any long-term impact.

No budget implications associated with this code change.

Describe the community engagement process regarding this code change. What residents, impacted parties, and constituents may be affected? Have they been engaged, and how so? How was their feedback incorporated (or not incorporated) into this code change?

CM Wyche convened a meeting with interested parties and representatives from BZS. February 24, 2025

BZS drafted language based upon the interested party meeting.

Draft made public on April 17, 2025.

First public hearing held April 30, 2025

Adjustments made to language following public hearing.

Second draft to be released May 15, 2025

Second hearing schedule for May 21, 2025



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Will this code change take effect with the ordinance, or is there a delayed effective date?

It will take effect with the ordinance. No emergency needed.



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