

ORDINANCE 113 2012

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN AMNESTY PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE PARTIES TO PAY DELINQUENT HOUSING-RELATED FEES AND QUALITY-OF-LIFE VIOLATIONS.

WHEREAS the City of Reading has duly billed property owners for various rental registration and inspection fees; and

WHEREAS the City is facing financial difficulties and has a responsibility to taxpayers and citizens to collect these fines and fees; and

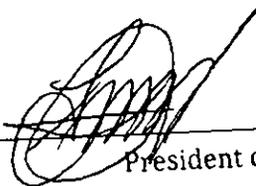
WHEREAS the Administration has proposed to implement an aggressive, internal collection effort before assigning collections to an external collection agency.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Reading hereby ordains as follows:

1. The Administration is authorized to develop a Housing Fee and Quality-of-Life Violation *Amnesty Program* and to implement the program in accordance with an expedited schedule but with a duration not to exceed 90 days.
2. The Administration is authorized to negotiate reasonable payment plans to be administered in accordance with pre-determined guidelines.
3. The Administration is authorized to remove penalties upon the settlement of delinquent accounts and fines, but to fully recover amounts originally billed.
4. Upon expiration of the Amnesty Program, the Administration shall implement an aggressive collection strategy that may include the filing of civil complaints, referrals to one or more external collection provider whose services are procured according to established procedures, or other appropriate enforcement and collection efforts.
5. The Administration shall provide periodic reports to City Council, including a post-Amnesty summary of funds collected, anticipated future receipts based on payment agreements, and plans related initiatives outlined in number four above.
6. The Administration is authorized to hire full-time, temporary aides to assist in the administration of the Amnesty Program at a cost not to exceed \$8,300.

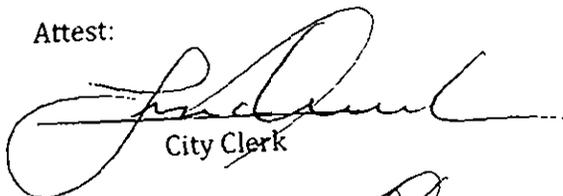
This ordinance shall be effective ten (10) days after its adoption and approval by the Mayor, in accordance with Section 219 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted November 19, 2012

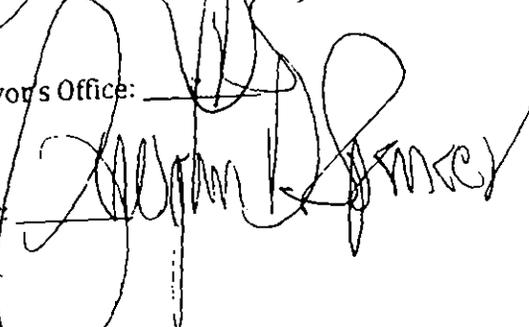
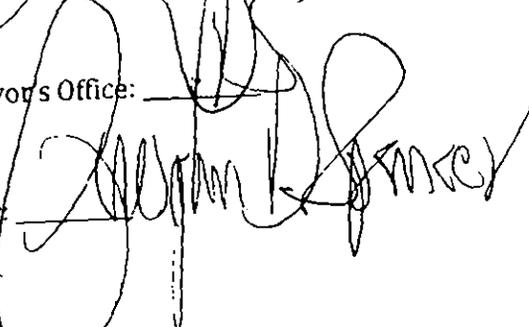


President of Council

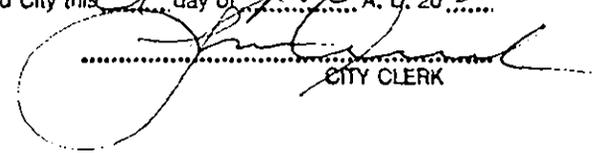
Attest:



City Clerk

Submitted to Mayor: 
Date: 12/24/10
Received by the Mayor's Office: 
Date: 11/20/12
Approved by Mayor: 
Date: 11/21/12
Vetoed by Mayor: _____
Date: _____

I, LINDA A. KELLEHER, City Clerk of the City of Reading, Pa., do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original Ordinance passed by the Council of the City of Reading, on the 19 day of Nov A. D. 20 10. Witness my hand and seal of the said City this 19 day of Nov A. D. 20 10.



CITY CLERK