

ORDINANCE NO.: 96 -2022
INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Thomas

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 1319.02 AND 1309.03 OF CHAPTER 1319, "COMPOST PILES", OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO CLARIFY ACCEPTABLE MATTER FOR COMPOSTING AND STANDARDS FOR THE FORMATION OF COMPOST PILES.

WHEREAS, the City has all powers of home rule which may now or hereafter lawfully be possessed or exercised by municipalities under the laws of the state of Ohio, including the power to make regulations for the safety, health and welfare of its citizens and all those who work in and visit the City;

WHEREAS, providing for the regulation of composting within the City will further the protection of the public safety, health and welfare;

WHEREAS, this Council desires to amend Codified Ordinance Chapter 1319 to clarify acceptable matter for composting and standards for the formation of compost piles to protect and promote the public safety, health and welfare;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Ordained by the Council of the City of Richmond Heights, Ohio, Cuyahoga County, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1. Sections 1319.02 and 1319.03 of Chapter 1319, "Compost Piles" of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Richmond Heights are hereby amended as follows:

1319.02 INGREDIENTS.

~~—(a) A compost pile may consist of leaves, grass clippings, garden plants and vegetable trimmings, nitrogen-based chemicals or fertilizers and water.~~

~~—(b) A compost pile may not consist of untreated animal manure, fruit or vegetable substances, food wastes, cooked kitchen waste, grease, meat, bones, fats, human wastes, dead animals or any substances which may attract vectors. Any substance that could potentially transmit disease or may pollute the soil or water shall be prohibited from being placed in a compost pile in the City.~~

(a) Successful composting requires four things:

(1) Organic matter: such as leaves, grass clippings, garden plants (no weeds) kitchen produce scraps and shredded paper. Browns (carbon) such as eggshells, nut shells, sawdust, yard trimmings, i.e. leaves, not weeds, used potting soil, fine untreated wood chips, shredded newspaper, cardboard, unbleached paper towels. Greens (nitrogen) such as uncooked or cooked fruits and vegetables (full or peels). Acceptable matter also includes bread and grains, coffee grounds and unbleached filters, grass clippings, paper tea bags, hair and fur, chicken, rabbit, cow, llama/alpaca, horse manures.

(2) Soil organisms: such as bacteria, fungi and other decomposers.

(3) Water: if pile becomes too dry, add enough water to make it damp, but not wet.

(4) Oxygen: turn your pile at least every 2 or 3 days to let oxygen into the middle of the pile so the organisms can do their work in decomposing.

(b) A compost pile shall not consist of any metals, glass, dairy products (such as butter, milk, sour cream and yogurt), eggs, fats, grease, lard or oils, greasy or oily food, meat or seafood scraps or bones, pet waste (dog or cat feces, soiled cat litter), soiled diapers, plastic, stickers from produce, black walnut tree leaves or twigs, yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides or other chemicals, coal or charcoal ash, fire starter logs, treated or painted wood.

1319.03 FORMATION.

~~—A compost pile may be started three feet below ground level and shall be layered in alternate layers of six to twelve inches of leaves, grass clippings and/or plant residues, a second layer of two to three inches of vegetable trimmings and/or treated manure substances, a third layer of nitrogen-based chemicals and/or fertilizers, and a fourth layer of one to two inches of rich topsoil, with the repetition of leaves until the pile has reached five feet above ground level. No compost pile in the City shall exceed five feet in height above ground level.~~

The ideal size for a composting bin is one cubic yard (3'x3'x3'). Multiple bins or confined piles are recommended for different stages of the process, but not necessary. Layers of the brown and green matter can be layered or mixed together. No compost bin or pile shall be higher than five (5) feet above ground level or cover an area of greater than 100 square feet.

Section 2. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time permitted by law.

PASSED: August 23, 2022

APPROVED: August 23, 2022

ATTEST: Betsy Traben
Betsy Traben
Clerk of Council

Kim A. Thomas
Kim A. Thomas, Mayor
Bobby Jordan
Bobby Jordan
President of Council