

# CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION



**MEETING DATE:** August 13, 2024

**ITEM NUMBER:** 9.B

**SECOND READING:** August 27, 2024

{{customfields.ResoOrdNumber}}

**TYPE OF ITEM:** Consent

**PRESENTED BY:**

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**SUBJECT/AGENDA TITLE:**

A Bill For An Ordinance Amending Title 9, Chapter 13.24, And Section 2.97.010 Of The Longmont Municipal Code Concerning Prohibiting Alleyway Obstructions To Ensure Access To City Services

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Solid Waste and other large vehicles often have difficulty navigating alleys that have become overgrown with trees or other vegetation or where residents have installed garden beds or other landscaping features that encroach into the space needed to safely get through the alleys and perform work functions. This ordinance will provide the City greater discretion in requiring removal of vegetation or other objects that inhibit safe use of alleys.

**COUNCIL OPTIONS:**

1. Approve the proposed amendments.
2. Reject the proposed amendments.
3. Direct staff to strike, add, or change the proposed amendments.

**RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:**

1. Approve the proposed amendments.

**FISCAL IMPACT & FUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

No Fiscal Impact

**BACKGROUND AND ISSUE ANALYSIS:**

While there are provisions of the Longmont Municipal Code addressing obstructions in City Rights-of-Way, there is often inadequate knowledge of where property lines are in alleys, limiting the City's ability to require removal of items without obtaining a survey of the alley, which is financially infeasible in most cases.

The proposed amendments will create a functional definition of what alleys are and require adequate clearance on both public and private alleys, allowing Code Enforcement staff to require removal of vegetation or obstructions without proving where property lines lie.

The planned method for identifying violations under the new code is as follows:

- Code inspectors will establish a rough estimate of the centerline of the alley using the City-installed asphalt running the length of the alley. Inspectors can cite any vegetation or obstruction within six feet on either side of this centerline, plus additional area necessary for placement of polycarts.
- If there is unusual geography in the alley, or other circumstances that necessitate removal of obstructions outside of this 6-foot area for safe use of the alley, the solid waste or other department manager will provide a written explanation to Code Enforcement as documentation of why the additional space is needed for safe operation.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Ordinance