



THAYER STREET DISTRICT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
BUSINESS GUIDE
FALL 2015

WELCOME TO THAYER STREET: WHERE COLLEGE HILL RESIDENTS, THE BROWN AND RISD COMMUNITIES AND VISITORS ENJOY DINING, SHOPPING, AND LEISURE TIME.

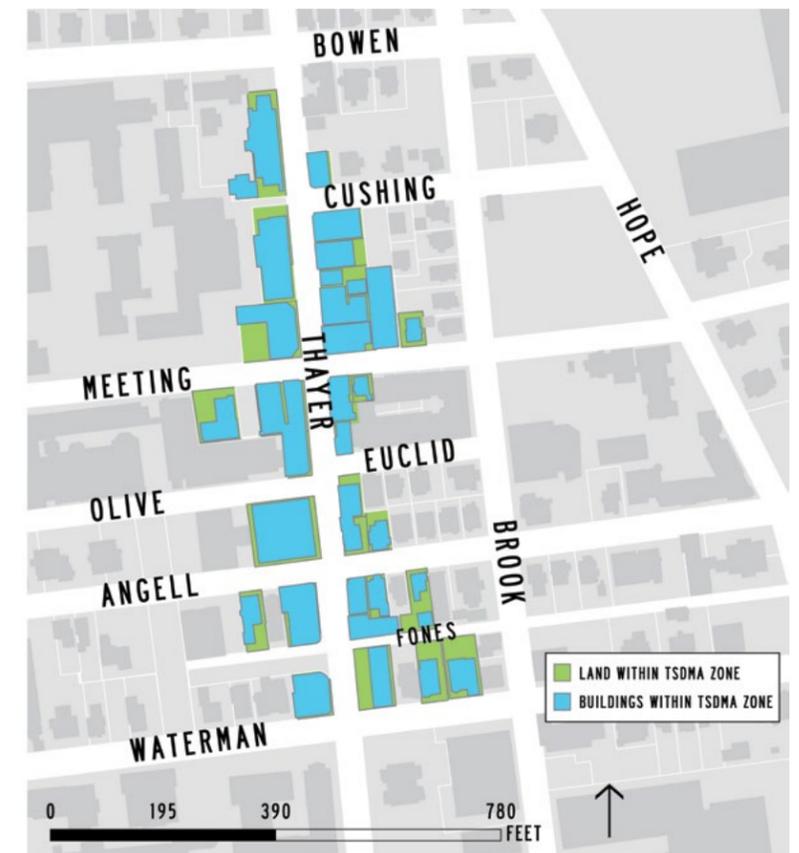
We invite you to join us in keeping Thayer Street safe, clean and welcoming. This Business Guide will help you understand the laws and regulations that apply to doing business here.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Donna Personeus
Executive Director of the Thayer Street District Management Authority (TSDMA)
401-626-2640
donna.personeus@thayerstreetdistrict.com
www.thayerstreetdistrict.com

WHAT IS THE THAYER STREET DISTRICT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (TSDMA)?

The Thayer Street District Management Authority (TSDMA) is a "Business Improvement District" established by the City of Providence in 2006. Its borders are Bowen Street to Waterman Street, and all commercial properties on either side of Thayer Street and adjacent side streets.



This Business Guide was produced by the
Thayer Street District Management Authority

WHAT DOES THE TSDMA DO?

The Thayer Street District Management Authority (TSDMA) provides street and sidewalk cleaning, graffiti and snow removal, and enhanced security on Thayer Street. The TSDMA installed the parklet; assisted with new sidewalks, bike racks and stamped crosswalks; and added trash/recycling containers, improved lighting, new trees, and cobblestone tree wells on the street. The TSDMA plans events such as the Fall Festival to bring visitors to our street. This work was guided by the Thayer Street Planning Study, which the TSDMA participated in developing. (<http://www.providenceri.com/efile/5315>, also see Appendix A).



WHAT LAWS AND REGULATIONS APPLY TO MY BUSINESS?

1 ZONING

Please see Appendix B for Providence's Zoning ordinance. Much of Thayer Street falls within a C-2 zoning district.

In the Zoning Ordinance, you should pay special attention to the following sections:

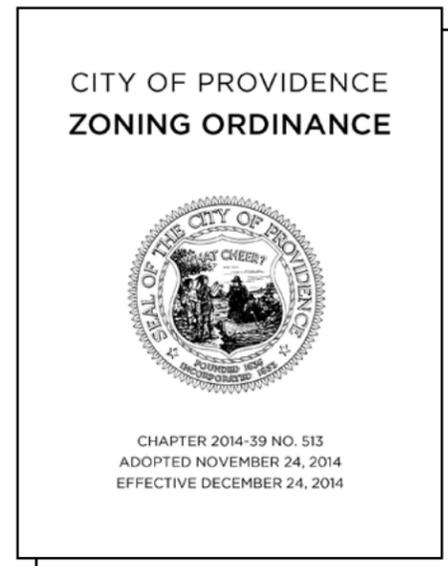
Article 12: How you can use your property.

Article 13: Outside lighting and other structures outside.

Article 14: Parking and loading.

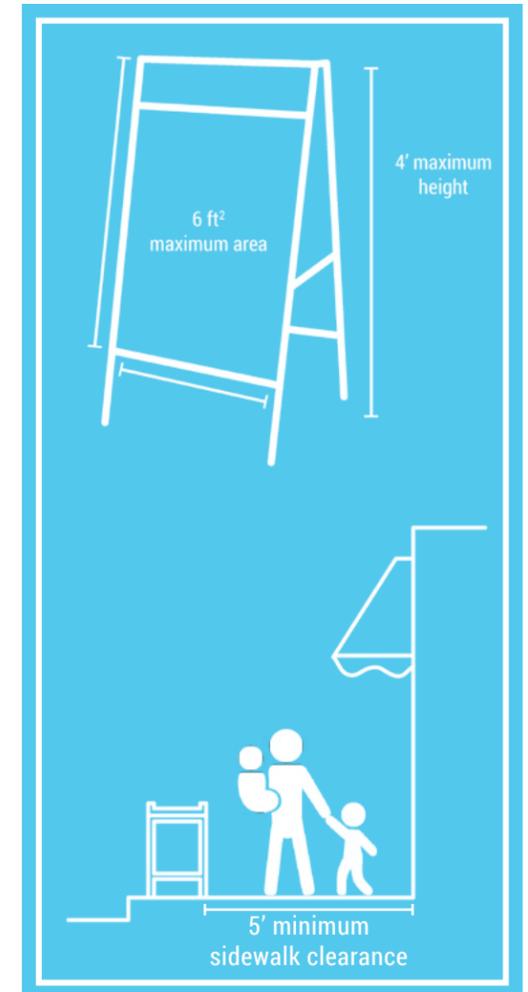
Article 15: Trees and landscaping.

Article 16: Signs. Some signs require special permits. Be sure to check Article 16 before you put a sign on or outside your business, because there are rules about where you can put a sign, how big it can be, what it can say, and more.



A-FRAME SIGNS

1. A-frame signs are permitted for non-residential uses within the non-residential districts.
2. One A-frame sign is permitted per establishment. A minimum 20-foot separation is required between all A-frame signs.
3. An A-frame sign shall be placed within 15 feet of the primary entrance of the business, and shall not interfere with pedestrian traffic or violate standards of accessibility as required by the ADA or other accessibility codes. A-frame signs may be placed in the public right-of-way but shall maintain a five foot sidewalk clearance at all times and require a right-of-way encroachment permit (Section 1914).
4. A-frame signs are limited to six square feet in area per side and four feet in height.
5. The use of A-frame signs is limited to business hours only. Signs shall be stored indoors at all other times. A-frame signs shall not be used outdoors when high winds or heavy snow conditions exist.



2 LICENSING

You must have a license from the City of Providence to operate a business. You can get a license from the **Board of Licenses, Room 101, Providence City Hall (25 Dorrance St, phone 401-421-7740)**.

For further information about other licenses, such as food, liquor, entertainment, or valet parking, see Appendix C.

The TSDMA takes underage drinking very seriously. In Rhode Island, customers must be at least 21 years old to drink alcohol, and servers must be at least 18 years old. Violations of this rule can result in fines of \$250, \$500, \$750 or other penalties.



Sale of Tobacco/ Hookah: several rules must be followed in the sale of tobacco or hookah products. Please see Appendix C, the "Public Health and Workplace Safety Act."

3 ACTIVITY OUTSIDE YOUR BUSINESS

As a business owner, you are responsible for keeping the area outside your business clean and safe. Your property owner has duties too. At the TSDMA, we work together to keep our street an attractive place for our visitors.



Trash + Recycling

Commercial establishments must contract with a private service to remove your trash and recycling; the City does not pick up your trash. You are responsible for keeping the area outside your business free of trash, using recycling bins, and removing your trash bins promptly after collection. See Appendix D for the full rules about trash, recycling and dumpsters. You can also find resources at <http://www.rirrc.org/business/>, or by calling the City of Providence Department of Public Works at 401-467-7950.



Thayer Street merchants and the TSDMA collaboratively manage shared trash compactors in Fones Alley and off Meeting Street. Please join your fellow merchants in keeping this area clean. For more information about using the compactor, contact **Waste Management, John Lefrancois, jlefrancois@wm.com.**



Graffiti

Property owners must keep property clear of graffiti. The TSDMA offers weekly graffiti removal at no cost to merchants. If you notice graffiti on your business, please email donna.personeus@thayerstreetdistrict.com with a photo of the graffiti and its location, or call 401-626-2640. TSDMA will have it removed free of charge.



Snow Removal

Snow must be removed from sidewalks within the first eight hours of daylight after the end of any snowfall. Snow should not be thrown into the street. Property owners must also remove ice from the sidewalk, or try to make it less dangerous. See Appendix D for the full rules about snow removal.



Noise

Unnecessary, excessive, and annoying noise is not allowed in the City of Providence, and can be enforced by the police. See Appendix D for the full rules about noise.



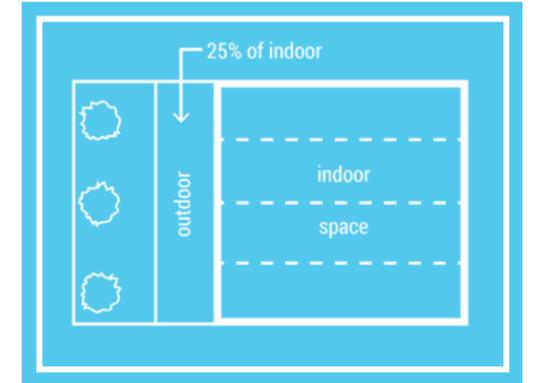
Chronic Nuisance

Businesses are a chronic nuisance if activities such as homicide, drug offenses, prostitution, weapons, criminal gambling, domestic violence, or other criminal activity occurs on its property. Such activities can incur penalties including loss of service time and fees of **up to \$25,000**. See Appendix D for the full rules about chronic nuisance.



Outdoor Seating

Outdoor seating may be used if the property size allows for an outside dining area without obstructing the walkway for pedestrians. Restaurants are permitted an outdoor seating area equivalent to an additional 25% of their preexisting indoor dining area.



4 FINES

In addition to the fines mentioned elsewhere in this document, all fines and penalties are subject to increase in the future.

APPENDICES

For full text of Appendices B-D, please see website links listed below.

A. ABOUT

1. List of TSDMA Board Members
2. [District Management Authorities](#)
3. [Thayer Street Planning Study](#)

B. ZONING

1. [City of Providence Zoning Ordinance](#)

C. LICENSING

1. [About the Board of Licenses](#)
2. [Liquor Licenses + Fees](#)
3. [Liquor License Requirements](#)
4. [§ 3-8-4 Drinking by or hiring of underage persons.](#)
5. [§ 3-8-5 Penalty for violations relating to underage persons.](#)
6. [Rhode Island Liquor Liability Act](#)
7. [Vender Registration + Ban on Loosies Ordinance](#)
8. [Flavored Tobacco Ordinance](#)
9. [§ 23-20.10-2 Definitions.](#)
10. [Tobacco Pricing Ordinance](#)
11. [Valet Parking Ordinance](#)
12. ["Public Health and Workplace Safety Act," Chapters 23-20.10 and 42-35 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended](#)

D. ACTIVITY OUTSIDE YOUR BUSINESS

1. [Garbage, Trash and Refuse Ordinance](#)
2. [Rules and Regulations Governing Dumpsters](#)
3. [Graffiti Ordinance](#)
4. [Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places Ordinance](#)
5. [Noise Ordinance](#)
6. [Chronic Nuisance](#)

APPENDIX A1

TSDMA Board Members

Dean Martineau, *Chair*, Capstone Properties
Edward Bishop, E.F. Bishop Agency
Albert Dahlberg, Brown University
Paul Griesinger, Capstone Properties
Margit Liander, City of Providence Liaison
Stephen Lewinstein, Stephen R. Lewinstein Associates
John Luipold, Treasurer, Brown University
Susan Mardo, Manager, Kartabar and Paragon
David Shwaery, FieldBrook Properties and Squires Salon and Day Spa

TSDMA Executive Director

Donna Personeus

To contact residents of College Hill:

College Hill Neighborhood Association
www.chnaprovidence.org
chna@chnaprovidence.org

