

ORDINANCE No. 10.

AN ORDINANCE to Regulate Traffic on the Streets and Other Places within the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:

Section 1. The driver or operator of every vehicle driven or operated upon the streets, highways or public places within the limits of the City of Alexandria and pedestrians upon the sidewalks and streets shall conform to and observe the following requirements.

Section 2. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO CONTROL.

The Department of Public Safety shall have all powers, authorities and duties in relation to the management and direction of all vehicular and pedestrian traffic and to the parking of vehicles in the interest of public safety, comfort and convenience. Persons using the sidewalks and streets of the City shall comply at all times and places with any direction by voice, hand, whistle, sign or signal from any member of the police force as to starting, stopping, slowing, parking, approaching or departing from any place; also as to the manner of taking up or setting down passengers, and in loading and unloading vehicles. The Department of Public Safety shall have authority to place upon the sidewalks and streets of the City such signs, signals and other devices for handling traffic as it may deem necessary, and issue such regulations from time to time as may be deemed expedient.

Section 3. NUMBER PLATES. --- Every motor vehicle driven or operated upon the streets of this City shall carry on the front and rear thereof a State number plate for the current year, so attached as to be plainly visible at all times; and a City license card for the current year shall be carried in the motor vehicle or on the person of the operator. Such number plates shall be kept clean and in good repair, and the numbers thereon shall be legible at all times; provided that motorcycles shall carry only a State number plate.

Section 4. LIGHTS. --- (1) Lights shall be burned on all vehicles from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise (whether standing or moving), as follows:

(2) Every moving automobile operated in this City shall carry and burn at least two lamps in front, and every moving motorcycle operated in this City at least one lamp, so arranged as to throw a bright light not more than one hundred and five (105) feet on level ground in the direction in which the machine is going; and, whether standing or moving, shall exhibit on the rear of such vehicle one combination red and white light, the red light of which shall be visible not less than one hundred (100) feet to the rear, with the white light effectually illuminating the number plate; provided, however, that when standing there may be used, in lieu of the light above prescribed, a combination red and white parking light attached to the left rear fender of such vehicle, the red light of which shall be visible not less than one hundred (100) feet to the rear, the white light to be visible to the front, provided, further, that the burning of lights on standing motor vehicles may be dispensed with by police order on those streets which are sufficiently lighted as to make such vehicles plainly discernible.

(3) Lights on all vehicles must be dimmed in the business district, except Fire Department, Police Department and ambulances. Bright headlights are permitted where necessary outside of the business district, but drivers shall dim the lights upon meeting or passing another vehicle. The use of searchlights or spotlights, except upon Police Department and Fire Department vehicles and ambulances, is hereby prohibited in the business district. The burning of headlights, except when dimmed on motor vehicles when parked, stood or left standing in the street is hereby prohibited.

(4) All bicycles shall display a white light to the front visible at least one hundred (100) feet away.

(5) All horse-drawn vehicles are required to have a white light conspicuously displayed on the lefthand side, so that the same can be seen from both the front and the rear.

(6) When any portion of a load upon any vehicle projects more than five (5) feet beyond said vehicle, a red light at night and a red flag by day must be placed on the extremity of such extension so that the same shall be plainly visible from both sides and from the rear.

Section 5. BRAKES. --- Every motor vehicle, except motorcycles, operated on the streets of this City shall be provided with at least two adequate brakes, each of which shall work independently of the other. Motorcycles shall be provided with one adequate brake. Provided, however, that brakes must be kept in such condition as to enable the operator to stop the vehicle within a reasonable distance. All brakes shall be subject to examination and regulation at the discretion of the Department of Public Safety.

Section 6. WARNING SIGNALS. --- All bicycles, motorcycles, automobiles and all other riding machines and horseless vehicles operated and used upon the streets shall have attached thereto a horn or other adequate signal, in good working order, to be approved by the Director of Public Safety, and of proper

size and character sufficient to give warning to the approach of such vehicle to pedestrians and to riders and drivers of other vehicles, and to persons entering or leaving the street cars; and such horns or other signals shall not be sounded except when necessary to give warning; provided, that no such horn or other signal shall produce a sound unusually loud, annoying, or of distressing character, or such as will frighten pedestrians or animals, or extreme noise as "sirens" or similar instruments that produce unusually loud, annoying or distressing sounds; provided, further, that all fire and fire alarm apparatus, police vehicles, ambulances, or vehicles belonging to public service corporations which may be required to respond to alarms of fire or other emergency calls and trucks of a greater capacity than one ton, used or engaged in the transportation of the United States mail shall be equipped with a bell or a standard rotary gong, to be approved by the Director of Public Safety, and no other vehicle mentioned in this section shall be permitted to use such bell or gong; and provided, further, that the Director of Public Safety, in his discretion, may authorize the use of "sirens" on fire and fire alarm apparatus, and on the streets of the City at points of traffic congestion, to give notice of the approach of fire apparatus.

Section 7. NOISE. --- No person in charge or control of any vehicle shall make with such vehicle, or any device connected therewith, any excessive noise within the streets, highways, or public places of this City. No out outs shall be used on any motor vehicle within the City of Alexandria.

Section 8. SMOKE. --- No motor vehicle shall be operated in such a way as to emit unnecessary smoke or offensive vapors within the limits of this City.

Section 9. ACCIDENT. --- In case of accident to or collision with a person or property due to the driving or operation of any vehicle, the person so driving or operating such vehicle shall stop and give such assistance as he can, and shall give his name and address to the person injured or any other person requesting the same; and in event that no police officer is present at the scene of the accident, the facts shall be immediately reported to Police Headquarters by drivers or chauffeurs concerned in the accident.

Section 10. HOW VEHICLES ARE TO BE DRIVEN. --- (1) Vehicles shall be driven in a careful manner and with due regard for the safety and convenience of pedestrians and other vehicles. When one vehicle overtakes another it shall pass to the left of the overtaken vehicle and not pull over to the right until clear thereof. All vehicles meeting shall pass each other to the right. Vehicles shall keep to the right side of the street, except when necessary to turn to the left in crossing or in overtaking another vehicle. Provided that no vehicle shall pass to the left side of a street car when going in the same direction with such street car. No person shall operate a motor-vehicle on the streets and boulevards of this City recklessly, or at a rate of speed greater than is reasonable and proper, having regard to the width, traffic and use of the thoroughfare, or so as to endanger the property or the life, or the limb of any person. Any violation of this section, whether at the time complying with the provisions of this Ordinance regulating the rate of speed, or not shall constitute reckless driving. It shall be construed as reckless driving to pass two other moving vehicles which are abreast, or so nearly abreast as to occupy the width of two vehicles on a city thoroughfare.

(2) Drivers or operators of vehicles before turning, stopping or changing their course, will make sure that such movement can be made in safety and shall give warning to those behind by holding out the hand.

(3) Slow moving vehicles shall keep close to the curb. Vehicles turning into another street to the right shall turn the corner as near the right curb as possible. Vehicles turning into another street to the left shall pass to the right and beyond the center of the street before turning, provided, however, that where center markers are used it is permissible to straddle the marker. Vehicles crossing from one side of the street to another shall do so by turning to the left so as to head in the same direction as the traffic on that side of the street toward which the crossing is made and so that said vehicle shall stop with its right side to the curb of the said street. No vehicle shall turn in any street except at a street intersection or at the end of a block. No vehicle shall stop with its left side to the curb.

Section 11. RIGHT OF WAY STREETS AND RIGHTS OF WAY. ---

(1) At all street intersections in the City the "Watch the Man on Your Right" rule shall be observed, viz., when two or more vehicles approach the intersection of a public road or street at approximately the same time, the vehicle approaching such intersection from the right shall have the right of way over the vehicle approaching from the left.

(2) The Fire Department when responding to a fire alarm will have the right of way over all vehicles and shall not be hindered, delayed or obstructed in any manner whatsoever. All vehicles must keep close to the curb or side of the street and remain there until the fire apparatus has passed. No vehicle shall cross between the various pieces of fire apparatus not proceed or travel within five hundred (500) feet of said fire apparatus while responding to a fire alarm.

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(3) No vehicle, or people, shall approach within three hundred (300) feet of the Fire Department when working on a fire or when taking up the equipment used in extinguishing a fire. Provided, however, that the Chief of the Fire Department is hereby given authority to extend these limits at his own discretion while fighting a fire. No vehicle shall drive over any fire hose in use or laid by the Fire Department.

(4) It shall be unlawful for any person to pass through or drive an animal or vehicle through a procession, except with the permission of a police officer.

Section 12. RATES OF SPEED. --- Automobiles or motorcycles, except those of the Police Department and Fire Department, ambulances or other City Officials in the performance of their duty, shall not be driven at a rate of speed exceeding eighteen (18) miles per hour on any streets or highways within the City, or at a rate of speed exceeding six (6) miles per hour past any public, parochial or private school in the City.

(2) No driver or operator of any vehicle shall pass a street car which has stopped for the purpose of taking on or discharging passengers. Provided that the driver or operator of any vehicle, in passing a street car that is not taking on or discharging passengers, shall pass said street car at no greater speed than six (6) miles per hour. And provided further, that the driver or operator of any vehicle shall, when crossing any street, railroad track or steam railroad track, check such vehicle to a speed not greater than six (6) miles per hour and cross such track or railroad at no greater speed.

(3) No vehicle shall cross a main thoroughfare or street upon which there is a car track or make a turn on any street intersection in the city at a rate of speed exceeding one half the legal speed limit.

(4) The maximum rate of speed for motor vehicles equipped wholly or in part with solid tires, including all trucks and passenger busses, shall be fifteen (15) miles per hour. The maximum rate of speed of all traction engines or other iron-tired engines shall be six (6) miles an hour.

Section 13. PARKING AND STOPPING. --- No vehicle shall be left standing for more than one hour on King Street between Fairfax and Patrick Streets or any part of King Street where there is a double track between the hours of 7 a. m. and 7 p. m. All vehicles left standing on King Street must be left parallel with the curb and must be within four (4) inches of the curb.

(2) Parking on all other streets shall be parallel to and within six (6) inches of the curb, unless otherwise ordered by regulations of the Department of Public Safety. Where practicable all streets where forty-five (45) degree parking is provided for, the parking lines will be indicated on the pavement in white paint.

(3) No vehicle shall be left standing within any street intersection, nor nearer than fifteen (15) feet of the lot line on the intersecting street, nor nearer than fifty (50) feet of the lot line on those corners at which street cars stop, nor nearer than fifteen (15) feet of any fire hydrant. No vehicle shall stop at any cross walk for a longer period than necessary to permit the occupants to alight or persons to enter said vehicle, nor in any manner obstruct free passage upon said cross walk.

(4) The driver of any vehicle standing at the curb in front of the entrance to any building shall immediately give way to any vehicle wishing to stop for the purpose of receiving or discharging passengers, freight or merchandise. Any vehicle standing at a curb shall move away from such curb at the request of a police officer.

(5) No motor vehicle shall be parked or left standing at a curb unattended unless the emergency brake is applied and left in that position. When so parked or left, the motor of a gasoline-driven vehicle shall be stopped, and in case of an electrically-driven vehicle the controller switch shall be locked and the key withdrawn. No horse shall be left unattended in any public thoroughfare unless securely hitched to a weight or post.

(6) No vehicle shall remain backed up to the curb except it be actually loading or unloading and in such case no longer than the actual loading or unloading requires. Horses attached to any vehicle backed to the curb shall, where possible, be turned at right angles to the vehicle and in the direction in which the traffic upon that street is moving. Provided that no vehicle shall be left standing in any other position except parallel to and within four inches of the curb on King Street from Fairfax Street to the Russell Road for the purpose of loading or unloading.

Section 14. OBSTRUCTING TRAFFIC PROHIBITED. --- (1) No vehicle shall be allowed to remain upon, or be driven, conducted or loaded in such manner as to be likely to block or obstruct traffic in the street, or to cause accident, break down or injury to man, beast or property; and no machine shop, automobile dealer, automobile service station or other establishment for the repairing or adjustment of vehicles shall use the public streets or alleys for the repairing of vehicles or for the storage or display for sale of vehicles. In case of necessity vehicles may be stopped in public streets or alleys for the replacement of tires or minor adjustments, but

shall not be stopped in such manner as to impede traffic.

(2) No vehicle shall be parked in any public alley within the Fire limits.

Section 15. MAXIMUM LOADS. --- (1) No motor vehicle of which the weight of the truck and the load combined exceeds twelve (12) tons shall be operated on any street within the City, nor shall any motor vehicle be so operated in which the limits of load per inch in width of tires shall exceed seven hundred fifty pounds, without special permission from the Department of Public Safety. No truck or vehicle shall be allowed to operate regularly on the streets of this City if equipped with tires which are injurious to pavements.

(2) The Department of Public Safety shall have the power to designate heavy traffic and light traffic streets.

Section 16. GENERAL PROVISIONS. --- (1) No person while under the influence of liquor shall drive any kind of vehicle upon streets, highways or public places of the City. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall have his City license suspended for a period of one year.

(2) No person under the age of sixteen (16) years, shall operate, ride or drive any automobile, motorcycle or other similar motor vehicle along or upon any public street, alley or highway within the City.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any person operating a bicycle or motorcycle to carry any passengers in front of said operator or in any way that will obstruct the view of said operator or hinder him in controlling his machine. It shall be unlawful for any person to ride a motorcycle on any sidewalk within the City limits. It shall be unlawful for any person to ride a bicycle on any sidewalk within the City limits.

(4) It shall be the duty of the driver or operator of every vehicle driven upon the streets of the City of Alexandria in complying with the regulations of this Ordinance to observe the rights of all foot passengers. The rights of pedestrians in the use of streets for lawful purposes shall not be infringed or lessened by the observance of any regulation herein made for the use of vehicles upon the streets. Pedestrians in crossing street intersections must cross on the crosswalk, or straight across. Crossing diagonally is hereby prohibited.

(5) It shall be unlawful for any person to ride or drive an animal faster than a walk over any bridge in the City.

(6) It shall be unlawful for any person to drive any horse-drawn vehicle or automobile across or upon any sidewalk within the City limits, except at regular driveways.

(7) No vehicle, unless confined to tracks, shall tow more than one disabled vehicle, and the connection between such vehicles shall not be longer than twelve (12) feet.

(8) No person shall drive a vehicle that is so closed in or constructed as to prevent the driver from having a sufficient view of the traffic at the side or rear of such vehicle. No person shall drive a vehicle that is so closed or constructed as to obscure the view of the driver thereof of the street behind such vehicle, unless there is attached to same a mirror of such kind and so placed that such driver may see therein the reflection of the street for a distance of at least two hundred (200) feet behind such vehicle.

(9) No person shall drive any vehicle over or across any newly made made pavement in any public street, across or around which pavement there is a barrier, or, at, over or near which there is a person or a sign warning persons not to drive over or across such pavement, or a sign stating that the street is closed.

(10) No vehicle, the width of which, with or without its load, exceeds nine feet, shall be driven or conveyed through any of the streets of this City without a permit therefor from the Department of Public Safety.

(11) No person shall hitch on to, hang on to, or jump upon any vehicle or street car which is in motion. Roller skating on any of the streets within the City of Alexandria is prohibited. Roller skating on any sidewalk within the business district is prohibited.

(12) No person shall be employed to operate a motor vehicle upon the streets of this City without first conforming to the State Law requiring a chauffeur's license. All persons employed to operate motor vehicles within the City of Alexandria, shall register their chauffeur's license in the office of the Director of Public Safety.

(13) All trucks and wagons of any description which are used for the purpose of transporting broken stone, gravel, sand, garbage, ashes or any material of a solid or liquid nature must be equipped with tight bodies which will not permit the contents to be spilled upon the street. It shall also be unlawful to heap loads on any truck or wagon of any description in such a way that any of the contents will be spilled upon the streets.

(14) No traction engines or other iron-tired engines, the wheels of which are equipped with cleats or spikes, shall operate on any paved street within the City.

(15) The "Business District" determined under this Ordinance is as follows: That portion of the City bounded on the north by Princess Street, on the east by the Potomac River, on the south by Duke Street, and on the west by Harvard Street and the center line of Harvard Street extended north and south.

Section 16. Except as otherwise hereinbefore provided any person or persons violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment in the City Jail not exceeding twelve (12) months, or both fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

Section 17. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances and resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 18. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Approved this 13th day of April, 1923.


Mayor.