

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 22-4 of Article I of Chapter 22 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended; which Chapter 22 relates to MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, which Article I relates to IN GENERAL, and which Section 22-4 relates to EXEMPTIONS TO AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLES and now relates to POLICE, FIRE-FIGHTING AND RESCUE VEHICLES AND AMBULANCES EXEMPT FROM REGULATIONS IN CERTAIN EMERGENCIES; EXCEPTIONS AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 22-4, Article I, Chapter 22 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 22-4. * Police, fire-fighting and rescue vehicles and ambulances exempt from regulations in certain emergencies; exceptions and additional requirements.

(a) The operator of (1) any * police vehicle operated by or under the direction of a police officer in the chase or apprehension of violators of the law or persons charged with or suspected of any such violation, * (2) any vehicle used for the purpose of fighting fire, * including publicly owned State forest warden vehicles not to exceed two hundred in number, when traveling in response to a fire alarm or emergency call, (3) * any vehicle owned by the city for rescue purposes, when traveling in response to a fire alarm or * emergency call, * or (4) any ambulance or rescue or life-saving vehicle designed or utilized for the principal purposes of supplying resuscitation or emergency relief where human life is endangered, whether such vehicle is publicly owned or operated by a nonprofit corporation or association when such vehicle is being used in the performance of public services, and when such vehicle is operated under emergency conditions may, without subjecting himself to criminal prosecution:

(1) Proceed past * red signal, light, stop sign or device indicating moving traffic shall stop if the speed and movement of the vehicle is reduced and controlled so that it can pass a signal, light or device with due regard to the safety of persons and property.

(2) Park or stand notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter.

(3) Disregard regulations governing a direction of movement of vehicles turning in specified directions, so long as the operator does not endanger life or property.

(4) Pass or overtake, with due regard to the safety of persons and property, another vehicle at any intersection.

(b) These exemptions, hereinbefore granted to such a moving vehicle, shall apply only when the operator of such vehicle displays a flashing, blinking or alternating red light and sounds a siren *, exhaust whistle or air horn designed to give automatically intermittent signals, as may be reasonably necessary, and, only when there is in force and effect for such vehicle standard automobile liability insurance covering injury or death to any person in the sum of at least fifty thousand dollars because of bodily injury to or death of one person in any one accident and, subject to the limit for one person, to a limit of three hundred thousand dollars because of bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one accident, and to a limit of five thousand dollars because of injury to or destruction of property of others in any one accident. Such exemptions shall not, however, protect the operator of any such vehicle from criminal prosecution for conduct constituting reckless disregard of the safety of persons and property. Nothing in this section shall be construed to release the operator of any such vehicle from civil liability for failure to use reasonable care in such operation.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the city not later than five days following its introduction together with a notice containing the time and place for a public hearing. The Clerk of the Council shall note the date of introduction and first reading, the date of publication, the date of the public hearing, and the date of the second reading and final passage in the minutes of the meeting. This ordinance shall become effective the date of its final passage.

CHARLES E. BEATLEY, JR.
Mayor

FINAL PASSAGE: DECEMBER 17, 1968

N.B. Underlining is not part of the ordinance but merely denotes new or changed matter; asterisks denote deletions.