

ORDINANCE NO. 1766

AN ORDINANCE to amend The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, by adding thereto a new chapter numbered 9B; which new Chapter 9B relates to and ESTABLISHES REGULATIONS FOR COIN-OPERATED LAUNDRIES, required PERMITS and provides PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1 That The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new chapter numbered 9B to read as follows:

CHAPTER 9B
COIN-OPERATED LAUNDRIES

Sec. 9B-1. Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following phrases and words shall have the meaning assigned below, except in those instances when the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Coin-operated laundry. Any establishment that allows or engages in the washing and/or drying of textiles, fabrics, garments, or other articles by the use of machines of the type designed to be operated by the insertion of coins, whether the machines are operated on a self-service basis or by an attendant, except that this shall not apply to coin-operated laundering facilities used in a residential building offered for use only to residents of such building.

Coin-operated laundering machine. The laundering machinery and equipment in a coin-operated laundry, including washing machines and dryers.

Director. The director of public health of the city or his authorized representative.

Health Department. The department of public health of the city.

Sanitary. A condition of good order and cleanliness.

Sec. 9B-2. Permit--Required.

It shall be unlawful for any person to establish, maintain or operate a coin-operated laundry without having a valid non-suspended permit, which permit shall be non-transferrable and shall expire at the end of the calendar year for which it was issued, unless sooner suspended as hereinafter provided. The permit required by this section shall be in addition to other permits and licenses required by local and state laws.

Sec. 9B-3. Same--Application.

The application for a permit, or for any renewal thereof, to establish, maintain or operate any coin-operated laundry shall be made in writing to the director and shall include the following information: (1) name, address, and telephone number of each individual owner, partner, or, if a corporation or an association,

each officer and director; (2) whether the business is to be attended or non-attended; and (3) exact address or description of the place where the business is or is proposed to be carried on. Each application for an initial permit shall be accompanied by an application fee of ten dollars which shall be deposited with the city collector to defray the costs of investigation conducted pursuant to Section 9B-4. Each application fee for a renewal permit shall be accompanied by an application fee of one dollar which shall be deposited with the city collector to defray the costs of investigation conducted pursuant to Section 9B-4.

Sec. 9B-4. Same--Investigation of premises; issuance of permit.

The health department, before issuing any permit, shall cause an investigation to be made of the premises named and described in the application for a permit under this chapter for the purpose of determining whether the coin-operated laundry complies with the provisions of this chapter. If the department, through its director, shall be satisfied from its own investigation that the coin-operated laundry is in conformity with the provisions of this chapter, it shall issue, or cause to be issued, a permit authorizing the establishment, maintenance and operation of a coin-operated laundry. If the department shall not be so satisfied, it shall deny the application and advise the applicant in writing of such denial setting forth the reasons therefor.

Sec. 9B-5. Same--Display; change in ownership.

Permits issued pursuant to this chapter shall be displayed in a prominent location on the premises of the coin-operated laundry. Any change of ownership shall require a new application and permit, with payment of a fee of ten dollars therefor.

Sec. 9B-6. Right of entry.

The director is hereby authorized to enter, examine and survey any premises in the city for which a permit has been issued pursuant to this chapter during business hours to enforce the provisions of this chapter, and for no other purposes.

Sec. 9B-7. Same--Suspension.

If the director finds that the coin-operated laundry, for which the permit was issued, does not conform to the standards set forth in Section 9B-9, or that the permittee has refused the director the right to enter the premises to enforce the provisions of this chapter, he may enter an order for the immediate suspension of the permit until such time as he finds that the reason for such suspension no longer exists. A copy of the order shall be sent to the permittee by certified mail, which order shall set forth the reasons for said suspension. No person shall operate a coin-operated laundry when subject to an order of suspension.

Sec. 9B-8. Same--Reinstatement.

The director may reinstate a suspended permit when no fact or condition exists which would otherwise warrant the director to refuse to grant a permit under the terms of this chapter and other applicable local laws.

Sec. 9B-9. Minimum standards for coin-operated laundries.

No coin-operated laundry shall be established, maintained or operated that does not comply with the following standards:

- (a) The premises shall be kept rodent-proof and free of vermin.
- (b) The premises shall be kept sanitary.
- (c) Trash receptacles shall be located on the premises and shall be emptied at least daily. The premises shall be free from any accumulation of loose or unstored refuse, waste, dirt, trash or garbage.
- (d) Every window and door shall be kept in good repair.
- (e) Floors shall be impervious to water.
- (f) Ventilation shall be maintained at the following minimum level for each room: four air changes per hour during business hours, of which twenty-five percent (25%) of each air change shall be fresh air.
- (g) The backs of each coin-operated laundering machine shall be inaccessible to the public.
- (h) Each side-loading washing machine shall be equipped with a door which will not open while the machine is in operation. Water heating equipment shall be inaccessible to the public.
- (i) Dryers shall be equipped so that the dryer door can be opened from the inside. Dryers shall also be equipped with automatic switch-off devices which shall be activated when the dryer door is open.
- (j) Artificial lighting of at least thirty (30) foot candles intensity of illumination shall be maintained during business hours in the room in which coin-operated laundering machines are located.
- (k) In the event there is no full-time attendant on the premises, a telephone shall be maintained for public use on the premises with the following telephone numbers prominently posted nearby: those of the Police Department, Fire Department, and persons connected with the coin-operated laundry to be notified in the event of service failure or emergency.
- (l) The permittee shall have the premises, coin-operated laundering machines and equipment inspected and cleaned at least once each business day.
- (m) Lint traps shall be cleaned at least once each business day.
- (n) Washers and dryers having a capacity of 20 pounds or more shall be anchored to the floor.
- (o) Where the water pressure on the premises exceeds 80 p.s.i., an approved pressure reducing valve shall be required.
- (p) Each coin-operated laundry shall have at least one floor drain in the area of the washing machines, which drain shall be at least three (3) inches in width; provided that a coin-operated laundry in existence on the effective date of this ordinance need not comply with this subsection (p) if alternate drainage arrangements satisfactory to the Director of Public Health are provided.

(q) Each coin-operated laundry that is connected to a sewer designed to discharge sanitary sewage shall comply with local and state laws and regulations related to acceptance of waste at the sewage treatment plant.

(r) Wastewater shall not be discharged into storm sewers or open streams. Where discharge of waste water cannot be made to a sewer designed to discharge sanitary sewage, waste discharge tanks of sufficient size shall be installed from which waste accumulation shall be transported to an approved disposal area or waste water treatment plant.

(s) Each coin-operated laundry shall comply with all other applicable provisions of the City Code.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation published 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 July 1, 1972.

Charles E. Beatley, Jr.
Mayor

FINAL PASSAGE: MAY 9, 1972