

ORDINANCE NO. 1792

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 22-69, Division 2 of Article III, 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 III relates to OPERATION OF VEHICLES, which Division 2 relates to RECKLESS DRIVING, SPEEDING, ETC., and which Section 22-69 relates to SPEED LIMITS AND RELATED REGULATIONS.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 22-69, Division 2 of Article III, 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. 22-69. Speed limits and related regulations.

The maximum and minimum speed limits on streets and highways of this city shall be as hereinafter prescribed:

(a) Maximum limits.

(1) Seventy miles per hour on the interstate system of highways or other limited access highways with divided roadways, if the vehicle is a passenger motor vehicle, passenger bus, United States Post Office bus, pick-up or panel truck, or a motorcycle; and sixty miles per hour on such highways if the vehicle is a truck, road tractor, tractor-truck, or combination of vehicles designed to transport property, or is a motor vehicle being used to tow a vehicle designed for self-propulsion, or a house trailer.

(2) Sixty miles per hour on nonlimited access highways having four or more lanes, with the roadway for traffic traveling in one direction separated from the roadway for traffic traveling in the other direction by a physical barrier or an unpaved area, if the vehicle is a passenger motor vehicle, passenger bus, United States Post Office bus, pick-up or panel truck, or a motorcycle; and fifty-five miles per hour on such highways if the vehicle is a truck, road tractor, tractor-truck, or combination of vehicles designed to transport property, or is a motor vehicle being used to tow a vehicle designed for self-propulsion, or a house trailer; provided, that for such highways such speed has been prescribed by the state highway commission, or other authority having jurisdiction over highways, after an engineering and traffic investigation. On any highway where such speed is prescribed, the speed shall be plainly indicated upon the highway by signs; and where the speed limit is indicated by posted signs, there shall be a prima facie presumption that such engineering and traffic investigation was made.

(3) Fifty-five miles per hour on highways not included in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection (a) if the vehicle is a passenger motor vehicle, passenger bus, United States Post Office bus, pick-up or panel truck, or a motorcycle; and forty-five miles per hour on such highways if the vehicle is a truck, road tractor, tractor-truck or combination of vehicles designed to transport property or is a motor vehicle being used to tow a vehicle designed for self-propulsion or a house trailer.

(4) Thirty-five miles per hour on any highway if the vehicle is being used as a school bus carrying children, and forty-five miles per hour on interstate highways; provided, however, that for any such vehicle which neither takes nor discharges children between its point of origin and point of destination, the speed limit shall be forty-five miles per hour.

(5) Forty-five miles per hour on any highway if the vehicle or combination of vehicles is operating under a special permit issued by the state highway commission in accordance with sections 46.1-330 and 46.1-343 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. The state highway commission may, however, prescribe a speed limit of less than forty-five miles per hour on any permit issued in accordance with sections 46.1-330 and 46.1-343 of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

(6) Twenty-five miles per hour between fixed blinking signs on two-way streets and between a fixed blinking sign and a sign indicating the end of the school zone on one-way streets. Such fixed blinking signs shall bear the word "School", which word shall indicate that school children are present in the vicinity. All such signs as are described above shall be placed not more than six hundred feet from the limits of the school property or from any crossings in the vicinity of the school which are used by children going to and from the school; provided, that such crossings are not more than five hundred yards from the limits of the school property and the city council has approved such crossing for such signs. Such signs shall be placed in or along the streets in a position plainly visible to vehicular traffic, and the speed limit shall also be conspicuously posted on the fixed blinking signs hereinabove described.

(7) Twenty-five miles per hour in a business or residential district, except upon interstate or other limited access highways with divided roadways.

(8) Thirty-five miles per hour on highways in the city, except upon interstate or other limited access highways with divided roadways and except in business or residential districts.

(b) Minimum speed limits.

(1) No person shall drive a motor vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, except when reduced speed is necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

(2) Whenever the traffic and parking board determine on the basis of a traffic engineering and traffic investigation that slow speeds on any part of a highway consistently impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, the traffic and parking board may determine and declare a minimum speed limit to be set forth on signs posted on such highway, below which no person shall drive a vehicle except when necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law; provided, that such minimum speed limit shall not apply to a school bus carrying children.

(c) Special speed limits on certain streets. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions and the provisions of sections 22-20 to 22-46 of this Code, the traffic and parking board may decrease the speed limits set forth in subsections (a) (1) through (a) (3) of this section, and may increase or decrease the speed limits set forth in subsections (a) (6) through (a) (8) of this section on any street in the city; and may establish differentiated speed limits for daytime and nighttime by decreasing for nighttime driving the speed limits set forth in subsections (a) (1) through (a) (3) of this section and by increasing for daytime or decreasing for nighttime the speed limits set forth in subsections (a) (6) through (a) (8) of this section on any street in the city. Such increased or decreased speed limits and such differentiated speed limits for daytime and nighttime driving shall be effective only when based on a traffic engineering and traffic investigation and prescribed after such investigation, and when clearly indicated upon the highway by markers or signs; provided, the increased or decreased speed limits shall be effective only when prescribed in writing and kept on file in the office of the director of traffic.

(d) Appeal to city council. Any person aggrieved by any action of the traffic and parking board with respect to minimum speed limits, increased or decreased speed limits, or differentiated speed limits may appeal to city council for a hearing by first filing with the city clerk a written notice of such appeal within twenty days of the action of the traffic and parking board. The city council shall have the power to affirm, reverse or modify the action of the traffic and parking board; provided, that the council shall first receive a report on the matter from the director of traffic, and hold a public hearing relative to the matter appealed. Any affirmance, reversal or modification by council shall be based on a traffic engineering and traffic investigation.

The director of traffic is authorized and directed to cause signs and markers to be erected on the city streets to clearly indicate any minimum or special speed limits adopted by the traffic and parking board.

Any person violating this section shall, upon conviction, be punished in accordance with the provisions of section 22-19 of this 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: JUNE 27, 1972