

ORDINANCE NO. 3590

AN ORDINANCE to amend Section 7-6-171 (DEFINITIONS) by adding new subsections (hh.1) (STREET MEDIAN) and (ii.1) (TRAFFIC CHANNELIZATION ISLAND), and to amend and reordain subsection (11) of subsection (a) (RESIDENCE ZONES IN GENERAL), Section 7-6-180 (RESIDENCE ZONES), all of Division 2 (SIGNS, MARQUEES AND AWNINGS PERMITTED IN VARIOUS ZONES), Article I (SIGNS, MARQUEES AND AWNINGS), Chapter 6 (ZONING), Title 7 (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

WHEREAS, the city council of Alexandria finds and determines that:

1. Political signs erected and displayed within public rights-of-way have resulted in damage to, and obstruction of and interference with public view of, landscaped portions of such rights-of-way;

2. Political signs erected and displayed along Washington Street and the George Washington Memorial Parkway are incompatible with the character of Parkway;

3. Political signs erected and displayed at intersections and traffic channelization islands and those of an excessive height create safety hazards by reducing or blocking the sight lines of drivers of vehicles;

4. Political signs affixed to the ground by numerous supports and supports of excessive size create a safety hazard, damage public property, and significantly increase the cost to the public of maintaining rights-of-way;

5. Based upon the foregoing findings, and all other facts and circumstances of which the city council may properly take notice in its capacity as the legislative body of the City of Alexandria, adoption of this ordinance is necessary and desirable to protect the public health, safety and general welfare; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 7-6-171 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, 1981, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding new subsection (hh.1) to read as follows:

(hh.1) **Street median.** A defined area of the public right-of-way located between traffic lanes, usually elevated and narrow, which follows the course of the roadway to separate traffic moving in the same or opposite directions.

Section 2. That Section 7-6-171 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, 1981, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding new subsection (ii.1) to read as follows:

(ii.1) **Traffic channelization island.** A defined area of the public right-of-way located in a roadway to confine specific movements of traffic, usually turning movements at an intersection, to definite channels.

Section 3. That subsection (11) of subsection (a) of Section 7-6-180 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

(11) Political signs, only on private property, or within that portion of the public right-of-way adjacent to a street, road, highway, alley or sidewalk whose surface is grass; provided, however, that no political sign may be placed (i) within the public right-of-way of Washington Street or the George Washington Memorial Parkway, (ii) within 15 feet of any point at which the curb or curb line of any two intersecting streets meet, (iii) within 15 feet of the end of any street median, or (iv) within any traffic channelization island. Any political sign erected or displayed on a public right-of-way shall be free standing, shall have no part extending more than 42 inches above ground level, and shall be supported by no more than two supports, each support having dimensions of no more than one inch by two inches. No political sign may be erected or displayed on private property without the permission of the property owner or the lawful occupant of the property. Prior to the erection or display of any political signs, except those on private lots, a cash bond in the amount of \$100 shall be deposited with the city manager, which bond shall be conditioned upon removal of all signs within 15 days after the announced results of the nomination or primary or general election to which the signs pertain. If the signs are not removed within this time, the bond shall be forfeited to the city, and the proceeds may be used by the city to defray the cost of removing the signs. No political sign may be erected or displayed more than 90 days prior to the nomination or election to which it pertains. Successful candidates in nominations or primary elections may continue to display their signs during the interval between the nomination or primary and the general election without posting any additional bond, except where the interval exceeds 90 days.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall become effective upon the date and at the time of its final passage.

PATRICIA S. TICER
Mayor

Final Passage: June 24, 1992