

ORDINANCE NO. 5043

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the owner of the property located at 3000 Potomac Avenue to construct and maintain an encroachment for a vault for electric transformers under the sidewalk right-of-way at that location, on the portion of the property that borders Dogue Street.

WHEREAS, National Industries for the Blind is the Owner (“Owner”) of the property located at 3000 Potomac Avenue in the City of Alexandria, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Owner desires to establish and maintain a below-grade vault for electric transformers which will encroach into the public sidewalk right-of-way at that location, on the portion of the property that borders Dogue Street; and

WHEREAS, the public sidewalk right-of-way at that location will not be significantly impaired by this encroachment; and

WHEREAS, in Encroachment No. 2016-0005 the Planning Commission of the City of Alexandria recommended approval to the City Council subject to certain conditions at one of its regular meetings held on September 8, 2016 which recommendation was approved by the City Council at its public hearing on September 17, 2016 and

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Council of the City of Alexandria that this encroachment is not detrimental to the public interest; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Owner be, and the same hereby is, authorized to establish and maintain an encroachment into the public sidewalk right-of-way on the Dogue Street side of the property located at 3000 Potomac Avenue in the City of Alexandria, as shown on the attached Encroachment Plat, said encroachment measuring approximately 1,018 square feet and consisting of a vault for electric transformers under the sidewalk right of way, until the encroachment is removed or destroyed or the authorization to maintain it is terminated by the city; provided that this authorization to establish and maintain the encroachment shall not be construed to relieve Owner of liability for any negligence on its part on account of or in connection with the encroachment and shall be subject to the provisions set forth below.

Section 2. That the authorization hereby granted to establish and maintain said encroachment shall be subject to and conditioned upon Owner maintaining, at all times and at its own expense, liability insurance, covering both bodily injury and property damage, with a company authorized to transact business in the Commonwealth of Virginia and with minimum limits as follows:

Bodily Injury:	\$1,000,000 each occurrence
	\$1,000,000 aggregate

Property Damage: \$1,000,000 each occurrence
 \$1,000,000 aggregate

This liability insurance policy shall identify the City of Alexandria and Owner as named insureds and shall provide for the indemnification of the City of Alexandria and Owner against any and all loss occasioned by the establishment, construction, placement, existence, use or maintenance of the encroachment. Evidence of the policy and any renewal thereof shall be filed with the city attorney's office. Any other provision herein to the contrary notwithstanding, in the event this policy of insurance lapses, is canceled, is not renewed or otherwise ceases to be in force and effect, the authorization herein granted to establish and maintain the encroachment shall, at the option of the city, forthwith and without notice or demand by the city, terminate. In that event, Owner shall, upon notice from the city, remove the encroachment from the public right-of-way, or the city, at its option, may remove the encroachment at the expense and risk of Owner. Nothing in this section shall relieve Owner of its obligations and undertakings required under this ordinance.

Section 3. That the authorization hereby granted to establish and maintain said encroachment shall in addition be subject to and conditioned upon the following terms:

- a) The applicant shall not be permitted any above grade encroachment in the public right of way except access hatches that must be flushed with the side walk. The opening of the access hatches shall be minimum required to maintain and replace the transformers and switch gears when needed.
- b) Consistent with the approved Preliminary Plan for DSUP2014-0028, dated July 2, 2015, the electrical transformer vault hatch shall be covered with a material that matches the adjacent brick sidewalk. The hatch may incorporate areas of ventilation, and shall be designed to the satisfaction of the Directors of Planning and Zoning and Transportation and Environmental Services.
- c) The underground encroachment shall be limited from 5 feet below grade to the depth needed for installation of transformers and switch gears. The 5 feet below grade depth may be used by the City for landscaping or other infrastructure improvements.
- d) Neither the City nor any Private utility company will be held responsible for damage to the private improvements in the public right-of-way during repair, maintenance or replacement of any utilities that may be located within the area of the proposed encroachment.
- e) In the event the City shall, in the future, have need for the area of the proposed encroachment, the applicant shall remove any structure that encroached into the public right-of-way, within 60 days, upon notification by the City.

Section 4. That by accepting the authorization hereby granted to establish and maintain the encroachment and by so establishing and/or maintaining the encroachment, Owner shall be deemed to have promised and agreed to save harmless the City of Alexandria from any and all liability (including attorneys' fees and litigation expenses) arising by reason of the establishment, construction, placement, existence, use or maintenance of the encroachment.

Section 5. That the authorization herein granted to establish and maintain the encroachment shall be subject to Owner maintaining the area of the encroachment at all times unobstructed and free from accumulation of litter, snow, ice and other potentially dangerous matter.

Section 6. That nothing in this ordinance is intended to constitute, or shall be deemed to be, a waiver of sovereign immunity by or on behalf of the City of Alexandria or any of its officers or employees.

Section 7. That the authorization herein granted to establish and maintain the encroachment shall be terminated whenever the City of Alexandria desires to use the affected public right-of-way for any purpose whatsoever and, by written notification, demands from Owner the removal of the encroachment. Said removal shall be completed by the date specified in the notice and shall be accomplished by Owner without cost to the city. If Owner cannot be found, or shall fail or neglect to remove the encroachment within the time specified, the city shall have the right to remove the encroachment, at the expense of Owner, and shall not be liable to Owner for any loss or damage to the structure of the encroachment or personal property within the encroachment area, caused by the removal.

Section 8. The term "Owner" shall be deemed to include National Industries for the Blind and its respective successors in interest.

Section 9. That this ordinance shall be effective upon the date and at the time of its final passage.

ALLISON SILBERBERG
Mayor

Attachment: Encroachment plat

Final Passage: November 12, 2016