

ORDINANCE NO. 5327

AN ORDINANCE to close Wales Alley, between South Union and Strand Streets, to vehicular traffic.

WHEREAS, the section of Wales Alley, between South Union Street and Strand Street (a.k.a. The Strand), is a one-way alley heading east towards the Potomac River; and

WHEREAS, prior to the pandemic, the southern half of the alley was used for outdoor dining through a license agreement with the adjacent restaurant, Virtue Feed and Grain; a five-foot-wide sidewalk is located on the north side adjacent to retail buildings; and the area in between was available for one-way vehicular travel; and

WHEREAS, in Spring 2020, Virtue Feed and Grain submitted a request to use more of the alley for outdoor dining; under the temporary pandemic-related regulations for small businesses approved by City Council, the City temporarily closed the alley to allow the restaurant to expand further north into the alley, while maintaining pedestrian access along the north side; and

WHEREAS, prior to the pandemic, the business community and City staff discussed the option of closing this portion of the alley; and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2020, the Traffic and Parking Board supported the closure of Wales Alley to vehicular traffic based on the reasons provided herein; and

WHEREAS, given the decorative nature of the alley, the existing outdoor dining, the elimination of the Old Dominion Boat Club parking lot, and the proximity to the waterfront, many pedestrians use this alley for walking to and from the park and very few cars drive down it; and

WHEREAS, the alley is not an emergency vehicle easement and is not required to be kept open by the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the alley provides additional pedestrian space and outdoor dining area that is beneficial to the waterfront area, but does not provide any significant value to traffic circulation; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2021, the Planning Commission found that closure of the alley to vehicular traffic was consistent with the City of Alexandria Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to City Charter § 2.03(a) and Code of Virginia § 15.2-2006, the City has the authority to close streets and alleys; and

WHEREAS, the City has complied with the legal requirements in order to close this

alley to vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the findings of the Planning Commission, Traffic and Parking Board, and the report of the staff, the Council of the City of Alexandria, has determined that the closure of Wales Alley to vehicular traffic is desirable; therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That, pursuant to City Charter § 2.03(a) and Code of Virginia § 15.2-2006, closure of Wales Alley, south of King Street and located between South Union and Strand Streets, to vehicular traffic is approved.

Section 2. That the city manager be, and hereby is, authorized to do on behalf of the City of Alexandria all things necessary or desirable to carry into effect this closure, including the execution of documents.

Section 3. That the city clerk be, and hereby is, authorized to attest the execution by the city manager of all documents necessary or desirable to carry into effect this closure, and to affix thereon the official seal of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

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

Adopted: March 13, 2021

JUSTIN M. WILSON  
Mayor