

ORDINANCE NO. 377

An Ordinance To Authorize Black-Outs In The City of Alexandria, Virginia, and for Other Purposes

Whereas by Act of the General Assembly of Virginia approved March 18, 1942, entitled "An act to provide for the establishment of Air Raid precautions, etc.", the political subdivisions of the State were authorized to order blackouts in their respective jurisdictions, and

Whereas, the Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, did on the 30th day of December, 1941, enact an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to promulgate regulations for the protection of the public, and for other purposes.

Now, therefore, Be It Ordained by the Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Section 1 That all powers heretofore vested in the City Manager by Ordinance Number 367, approved December 30, 1941, shall hereafter be exercised by the Co-ordinator of Civilian Defense for the City of Alexandria.

Section 2 During such periods of time for which blackouts shall be ordered by the Co-ordinator of Civilian Defense for the City of Alexandria, Virginia, it shall be unlawful in the City of Alexandria from the beginning of dark until the full dawn of the following morning for any person to allow or permit any light inside any building to be visible from the outside, and it shall be unlawful for any person to burn any outside light, except that lights may be burned on specific authority from the Co-ordinator of Civilian Defense for the City of Alexandria.

Section 3 During any period of blackout no motor vehicle or other vehicle shall be operated on the streets, highways, avenues or alleys in the City of Alexandria other than emergency vehicles bearing an official emergency identification.

Section 4 Immediately upon the public warning of an air raid alarm and for the purpose of providing open roadways for emergency vehicles:

- (a) All vehicles, other than those operating on fixed tracks, except emergency vehicles, upon any street, highway, avenue or alley in the City of Alexandria must be parked at the nearest curb, the engine or motor turned off and the key left in the ignition or other starting lock. During such air raid alarms vehicles may be parked along any curb despite any traffic regulations forbidding such parking and may be parked where official signs forbid or limit parking, except as provided in Section 5 of these regulations. Double parking is prohibited where such parking will reduce the width of the open unobstructed roadway to less than twelve feet. Public garages and parking lots shall immediately accommodate as many cars brought thereon after the sounding of an air raid alarm as the garage or lot will hold, regardless of fees therefor.

Section 5 During any period of blackout or air raid alarm it shall be a violation of these regulations for any vehicle to be parked within an intersection or within ten (10) feet of any fire hydrant, or in or across the entrance to any driveway or alley, or in any alley.

Section 6 All police officers, special police officers and air raid wardens are authorized and required to extinguish or cause to be extinguished all exterior lights and to enter any room or premises during any blackout or air raid alarm to extinguish or cause to be extinguished any exterior light or any interior light or lights which are visible from the outside, and they are authorized and directed to use such force as is necessary to gain entrance in such cases, providing that every special police officer and every air raid warden acting under this section shall wear such identifying insignia as shall be provided by the Co-ordinator of Civilian Defense for the City of Alexandria, and provided further, that nothing in this section shall be construed to confer any authority to carry firearms.

Section 7 During the period in which the United States remains at war with any foreign country it shall be unlawful in the City of Alexandria for any person to cause any privately controlled or operated light, which when lighted is visible in the open air, to be lighted, or for any person having charge or control of any such light to permit said light to be lighted, unless -

- (a) During the time such light is lighted there is present a person responsible for and capable of complying with Section 2 of these Regulations; or
- (b) The owner, lessee or person in charge of the operation of such light has made adequate arrangements for complying with Section 2 of these Regulations and has obtained from the Captain of the Police, a certificate that such arrangements are satisfactory.

Section 8 During any period of blackout it shall be unlawful for any vehicle authorized to be operated during said period to operate at a speed greater than fifteen (15) miles per hour.

Section 9 No person shall wear, exhibit, display or use, for any purpose, any arm band, badge, emblem, uniform, insignia or other identification or credential, issued, approved or authorized by the Co-ordinator of Civilian Defense for the City of Alexandria, Virginia unless he shall be entitled to wear, exhibit, display or use the same under rules and regulations of said Co-ordinator nor shall any person falsely personate any member of the Civilian defense Organization for the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Section 10 No person shall utter, publish, sound or otherwise simulate any warning of an enemy attack, any warning of a test or trial blackout, any signal of the end of an attack or blackout or any other official signal unless authorized to do so by the Co-ordinator of Civilian Defense for the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Section 11 It shall be unlawful to use the interior fire alarm warning system in any public or private building for any blackout signal, alert signal, air raid alarm signal or all-clear signal.

Section 12 Any person violating any provision of any section of these regulations shall, on conviction, be punished by a fine not exceeding \$300 or by imprisonment for not exceeding 30 days, or both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 13 These regulations shall become effective March 27, 1942.

Approved this 24th day of March, 1942.

WILLIAM T. WILKINS,
Mayor.