

# Ordinance No. 953

**AN ORDINANCE to amend Article IV, Chapter 2 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1953, as amended, by adding thereto new sections numbered 2-61.1, 2-61.2, 2-61.3, 2-61.4, 2-61.5, 2-61.6, 2-61.7, 2-61.8, 2-61.9, 2-61.10, and 2-61.11, which Chapter 2 relates to ADMINISTRATION, which Article IV relates to POLICE, and which new sections numbered 2-61.1, 2-61.2, 2-61.3, 2-61.4, 2-61.5, 2-61.6, 2-61.7, 2-61.8, 2-61.9, 2-61.10, and 2-61.11 relate to RECEIVING, SAFEKEEPING, RETURNING, SELLING, USING, AND DISPOSING OF FOUND PROPERTY OR MONEY RECEIVED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:**

Section 1. That Article IV, Chapter 2 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1953, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto new sections numbered 2-61.1, 2-61.2, 2-61.3, 2-61.4, 2-61.5, 2-61.6, 2-61.7, 2-61.8, 2-61.9, 2-61.10, and 2-61.11 to read as follows:

**Sec. 2-61.1 FOUND PROPERTY AND MONEY RECEIVED BY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Superintendent of Police, under the City Manager, shall make provision for receiving, safekeeping, and maintaining an accurate record of all found property and money and all unclaimed property coming into the possession of the Police Department. A receipt shall be issued to the person delivering any such property or money, and at the same time such person, unless he be a policeman, policewoman, or detective of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, shall declare in writing whether or not he wishes to assert a claim to the property or money as a finder.

**Sec. 2-61.2 SAME—STORAGE**

Such property shall be stored in a safe place and such money shall be deposited with the City Collector for a period of six (6) months unless sooner claimed by and returned to the rightful owner or the property be dangerous or perishable.

**Sec. 2-61.3 SAME—RETURN TO OWNER**

During said six-month period, any such property may be returned or money paid to the rightful owner upon proof of ownership satisfactory to the Superintendent of Police after ten (10) days' notice by mail to the person who delivered such property or money and any others who may have asserted a claim of ownership. Placing in the mail to the last known address shall be sufficient service of such notice. The decision of the Superintendent of Police shall be reviewed by the City Manager, who, with the advice of the City Attorney, shall affirm or reverse the decision of the Superintendent.

**Sec. 2-61.4 SAME—RETURN TO FINDER**

Property or money so received and not returned to the rightful owner within a six-month period shall be returned to the person who delivered it to the Police Department if at the time of delivery such person indicated in writing that he wished to assert a claim to the property or money as a finder and such person is not a policeman, policewoman, or detective of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

**Sec. 2-61.5 SAME—MONEY NOT RETURNED**

All money so received by the Police Department and not returned to the rightful owner or the finder during the six-month period, shall be forthwith credited to the General Fund of the City by the City Collector

**Sec. 2-61.6 SAME—SALE OR USE OF PROPERTY NOT RETURNED**

All property so received and not returned to the rightful owner or finder or otherwise disposed of within the six-month period, shall be disposed of by the Superintendent of Police pursuant to the terms of an advertisement which he shall cause to be inserted in a newspaper having general circulation in the City once a week for two successive weeks, which advertisement shall describe the property with reasonable certainty, shall notify all persons interested that unless such property is claimed by the owner with satisfactory proof of ownership before a specified time and date, the property will be sold for cash at public auction to the highest bidder at a specified time and place.

Property advertised but not claimed or not bid on shall forthwith be reported to the City Manager who shall have the authority to use such property for the best interests of the City or order it destroyed.

**Sec. 2-61.7 SAME—PROCEEDS OF SALE**

The proceeds from any sale held pursuant to Section 2-61.6 shall be forthwith delivered to the City Collector and credited to the General Fund of the City.

**Sec. 2-61.8 SAME—DANGEROUS PROPERTY**

Any property coming into the possession of the Police Department which the Superintendent of Police determines is dangerous or very likely to be dangerous to persons or property, may, with the approval of the City Manager first obtained, be disposed of by the Superintendent of Police, immediately, and without further notice, in such manner as the City Manager determines to be in the public interest.

**Sec. 2-61.9 SAME—PERISHABLE PROPERTY**

Any property coming into the possession of the Police Department which the Superintendent of Police determines is perishable, may

with the approval of the City Manager first obtained, be sold at public auction at such time and after such notice as the Superintendent shall deem proper.

Perishable property not claimed or sold shall forthwith be reported to the City Manager who shall have the authority to use such property for the best interests of the City or order it destroyed.

**Sec. 2-61.10 SAME—MANNER OF DELIVERY OF PROPERTY OR MONEY**

Whenever property or money is to be returned or delivered to a rightful owner, finder, or purchaser pursuant to the appropriate section above, such property or money shall be made available within the City, but the City shall not transport the same to the owner, finder, or purchaser, as such owner, finder, or purchaser shall pick up the property or money at the place made available within the City.

**Sec. 2-61.11 SAME—EXCEPTIONS**

The provisions of Sections 2-61.1 through 2-61.10 above inclusive shall not apply to motor vehicles, confiscated property, property or money known to be stolen, or other money or property, the disposition of which is otherwise provided for by law.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation 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 the date of its final passage.

LEROY S. BENDHEIM  
Mayor

Final Passage: April 23, 1957