

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 23, 2015

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR & MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: COUNCILMAN JUSTIN M. WILSON

SUBJECT: "72 HOUR RULE" REFORM

Originally conceived many decades ago and last amended in 1985 as an effort to address abandoned vehicles on our streets, City Code Section 10-4-8¹, is a provision that mandates that a vehicle parked on a public street must be moved within 72 hours (notwithstanding any other on-street restrictions).

While the provision still maintains some value in ensuring parking turnover, it is often used as a tool in neighbor versus neighbor disputes. Over the past 3 years, our Police Department has averaged 1,200 checks for compliance of the ordinance, and cited 397 vehicles for violations.

With many residents of our City lacking off-street parking, some business and personal travel can present hardships in compliance with this ordinance.

Accordingly, I would like the applicable City departments to engage with the Traffic and Parking Board to consider a variety of reform options for this provision.

Consideration should include, but not be limited to:

Option 1: Leveraging the existing capabilities that the City has made available for guest and visitor permits in residential parking districts to allow residents citywide to print temporary permits for exceeding the 72-hour rule.

An appropriate fee should be charged to fully recoup costs of administration, along with restrictions on duration, prevention of overuse and block face applicability.

Option 2: Consideration of an increase in the currently allowed 72 hours

Option 3: Full repeal of the Code restriction

¹https://www.municode.com/library/va/alexandria/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIITHCOGEOR_TIT10MOVETR_CH4STSTPA_S10-4-8PAMO72COHO

In conjunction with the on-going Citywide Parking Work Plan detailed by Staff in October, I would appreciate a future recommendation from the Traffic and Parking Board and Staff for Council consideration

Cc: Mark Jinks, City Manager; James Banks, City Attorney; Yon Lambert, Director of Transportation & Environmental Services; Earl Cook, Chief of Police; Kendel Taylor, Director of Finance; Jay Johnson, Chair, Alexandria Traffic & Parking Board