

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE Approving and Authorizing the Temporary Closure of the 200 Block of King Street to Vehicular Traffic

WHEREAS, the 200 block of King Street, between Fairfax Street and Lee Street, is a two-way street with several restaurants, retail shops, and residences; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2024, the Mayor of the City of Alexandria (“City”) directed staff to develop a pilot program to test closing the 200 block of King Street to vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the City Council directed staff to develop a pilot program to test closing the 100 block of King Street to vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the City Council approved the permanent closure of the 100 block of King Street to vehicular traffic to allow for additional space for pedestrians and for businesses to expand their operations outdoors; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the City Council adopted the [Waterfront Small Area Plan](#), which recommends closing the unit block of King Street and the Strand north of the parking garage entrance to traffic (except EMS, fire, police, etc.) to make a pedestrian plaza; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the City Council approved the permanent closure of the unit block of King Street and the northern portion of Strand Street to vehicular traffic to allow for additional space for pedestrians and for businesses to expand their operations outdoors; and

WHEREAS, the closures of the 100 block of King Street, unit block of King Street, and northern portion of Strand Street provide additional pedestrian space and outdoor dining areas that are beneficial to the waterfront area, while the traffic circulation in this area is not dependent on keeping these blocks open to vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the City now intends to experiment with the closure of the 200 block of King Street through a pilot program that would temporarily close the 200 block of King Street in two phases; and

WHEREAS, the first phase would occur from November 22, 2024, through January 6, 2025, and the second phase would occur from March 14, 2025, through September 30, 2025;

WHEREAS, City staff will work together with the Old Town Business Association on the 200 block of King Street to make better use of public space, meet public safety requirements, and provide opportunities for continued outdoor dining and retail activities; and

WHEREAS, City Staff will evaluate the benefits and impacts of a temporary closure of the 200 block of King Street, including on deliveries, disabled access, and public safety

1 response, and will return to City Council in the Fall of 2025 with a recommendation to make this
2 closure permanent if deemed desirable; and

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4 WHEREAS, on October 28, 2024, the Traffic and Parking Board reviewed and made
5 a recommendation to support the temporary closure of the 200 block of King Street to vehicular
6 traffic, along with the temporary removal of parking spaces on that block, based on the reasons
7 provided herein; and

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9 WHEREAS, on November 7, 2024, the Planning Commission found that temporary
10 or permanent closure of the 200 block of King Street to vehicular traffic was consistent with the
11 City of Alexandria Master Plan; and

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

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16 WHEREAS, the City has complied with the legal requirements in order to
17 temporarily close this block to vehicular traffic; and

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19 WHEREAS, in consideration of the findings of the Traffic and Parking Board and
20 the Planning Commission, and the report of the staff, the City Council of the City of Alexandria,
21 has determined that the temporary closure of the 200 block of King Street to vehicular traffic is
22 desirable; therefore,

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24 THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

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26 Section 1. That, pursuant to City Charter § 2.03(a) and Code of Virginia § 15.2-
27 2006, temporary closure of the 200 block of King Street, located between North Fairfax Street
28 and North Lee Street to vehicular traffic from November 22, 2024, to January 6, 2025, to
29 conduct a pilot project is approved.

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31 Section 2. That, pursuant to City Charter § 2.03(a) and the Code of Virginia § 15.2-
32 2006, the pilot program may continue for a second temporary closure of the 200 block of King
33 Street in the 2025 calendar year, from March 14, 2025 through September 30, 2025.

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35 Section 3. That the city manager be, and hereby is, authorized to do on behalf of the
36 City of Alexandria all things necessary or desirable to carry into effect these temporary closures,
37 including the execution of documents.

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39 Section 4. That the city clerk be, and hereby is, authorized to attest the execution by
40 the city manager of all documents necessary or desirable to carry into effect this closure, and to
41 affix thereon the official seal of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

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43 Section 5. That this ordinance shall be effective at the time of its final passage and
44 shall expire on September 30, 2025.

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Introduction: November 12, 2024
First Reading: November 12, 2024
Publication:
Public Hearing: November 16, 2024
Second Reading: November 16, 2024
Final Passage: November 16, 2024

JUSTIN M. WILSON
Mayor