

ORDINANCE NO. 5603

AN ORDINANCE Approving and Authorizing the Permanent 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, on November 13, the City Council approved a pilot program to temporarily close the 200 block of King Street to vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS, the 200 block of King Street was closed to vehicular traffic on November 22, 2024, and reopened on January 3, 2025, for staff to address operational impacts of the vehicular closure and get feedback from the businesses and residents on the block; and

WHEREAS, the 200 block of King Street was closed again to vehicular traffic on March 13, 2025, and is approved to remain closed until September 30, 2025, unless approved by the City Council to be permanently closed 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 Strand Street north of the parking garage entrance to traffic 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 not negatively impacting traffic circulation in this area; and

WHEREAS, the City now intends to extend the pedestrian space of lower King Street by permanently closing the 200 block of King Street beginning October 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, city staff will work with the businesses and residents 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 continue to evaluate the impacts of the closure of the 200 block of King Street, including on deliveries, disabled access, and public safety response; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2025, the Traffic and Parking Board reviewed and made a recommendation to support the permanent closure of the 200 block of King Street to vehicular traffic, along with the permanent removal of parking spaces on that block, based on the reasons provided herein; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2024, the Planning Commission found that temporary or permanent closure of the 200 block of King Street 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 permanently close this block to vehicular traffic; and

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

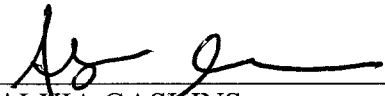
THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That, pursuant to City Charter § 2.03(a) and Code of Virginia § 15.2-2006, permanent closure of the 200 block of King Street, located between Fairfax Street and Lee Street 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 permanent closure, including the execution of documents.

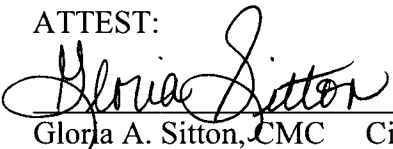
Section 3. That the city clerk be, and hereby is, authorized to attest the execution by the city manager of all documents necessary or desirable to carry into effect this closure, and to affix thereon the official seal of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

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



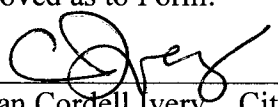
ALVIA GASKINS
MAYOR

ATTEST:



Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

Approved as to Form:



Cheran Cordell Ivery City Attorney

Final Passage: September 13, 2025