

ORDINANCE NO. 5562

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

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2024, the Traffic and Parking Board reviewed and made a recommendation to support the temporary closure of the 200 block of King Street to vehicular traffic, along with the temporary 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 temporarily 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 temporary 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, temporary closure of the 200 block of King Street, located between North Fairfax Street and North Lee Street to vehicular traffic from November 22, 2024, to January 6, 2025, to conduct a pilot project is approved.

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

Section 3. 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 these temporary closures, including the execution of documents.

Section 4. 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 5. That this ordinance shall be effective at the time of its final passage and shall expire on September 30, 2025.



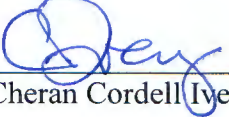
JUSTIN M. WILSON
Mayor

ATTEST:



Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

Approved as to Form:



Cheran Cordell Ivery City Attorney

Final Passage: November 16, 2024