

Introduction and first reading: May 12, 2026
Public hearing: June 13, 2026
Second reading and enactment: June 13, 2026

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Title

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 5-2-16 (PLACING MERCHANDISE ON OR OTHERWISE OBSTRUCTING SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY) and Section 5-2-29 (STREET ENCROACHMENTS) of Article A (GENERAL PROVISIONS) of Chapter 2 (STREETS AND SIDEWALKS) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

Summary

The proposed ordinance amends City Code Sections 5-2-16 and 5-2-29 to allow the City to more effectively regulate unauthorized placement of objects within the public right-of-way and unauthorized encroachments by creating civil penalties for violations of these two Code sections. City Code Section 5-2-16 regulates the placing or merchandise on or otherwise obstructing sidewalks and other public rights-of-way. City Code Section 5-2-29 generally prohibits encroachments into the right of way, with certain named exceptions. Neither of these Code sections currently authorize the City to issue civil penalties for violations of these sections, making it difficult for the City to disincentivize illegal obstructions of and encroachments into the right-of-way. The proposed amendments would create a system of civil penalties for anyone that violates City Code Sections 5-2-16 and 5-2-29, with the intended result of a clearer right-of-way for the public to enjoy. A first violation of this section would result in a warning ticket that carries no penalty. A second violation of this section would result in staff being required to waive the monetary penalty if the ticketed individual elects to participate in a discussion with staff about how to abate the violation. Monetary penalties become mandatory upon a third violation of this section and escalate thereafter. This ordinance would go into effect on September 1, 2026.

Sponsor

Transportation and Environmental Services, Engineering and Right-of-Way

Staff

Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Leah Riley, Director of T&ES
Alex Boulden, PE, Interim Division Chief, Permits, T&ES
Lindsay Dubin, Assistant City Attorney

Authority

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§ 2.06(a), Alexandria City Charter
§ 15.2-2009, Code of Virginia

Estimated Costs of Implementation

The proposed ordinance is not expected to have a significant fiscal impact. Revenue generated from civil penalties, if any, is anticipated to be minimal and incidental. The primary intent of the ordinance is to promote compliance and protect the public right-of-way.

Attachments in Addition to Proposed Ordinance and its Attachments (if any)

N/A