

ORDINANCE NO. 5464

AN ORDINANCE Approving and Authorizing the Permanent Closure of the Unit Block of King Street and the Northern Portion of the Strand to Vehicular Traffic.

WHEREAS, the unit block of King Street, between Union Street and the Strand, is a one-way street heading west toward the King Street Metro Station with several restaurants; and

WHEREAS, the northern portion of the Strand, between Wales Alley and King Street, is a two-way street heading north towards the Marina and south towards Jones Point Park; and

WHEREAS, prior to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic (“the pandemic”), many of the restaurants participated in the City’s outdoor dining program that allowed restaurant seating on the sidewalk; and

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

WHEREAS, in May, 2022, the City Council approved a temporary closure of the unit block of King Street and the northern portion of the Strand to conduct a pilot pedestrian zone project; and

WHEREAS, in September, 2022, public feedback on the pilot was overwhelmingly positive and supportive of closing these sections permanently; and

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2022, the Waterfront Commission endorsed the permanent closure of the unit block of King Street and the northern portion of the Strand to vehicular traffic as consistent with the Waterfront Small Area Plan; and

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2022, the Traffic and Parking Board reviewed and made a recommendation to support the permanent closure of the unit block of King Street and the northern portion of the Strand to vehicular traffic and eliminating related parking; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2022, the Planning Commission found that temporary or permanent closure of the block 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 Waterfront Commission, Planning Commission, Traffic and Parking Board, and the report of the staff, the City Council of the City

of Alexandria, has determined that the permanent closure of the unit block of King Street and the northern portion of the Strand to vehicular traffic is desirable; therefore,

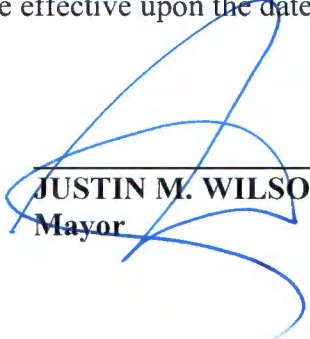
THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That, pursuant to City Charter § 2.03(a) and Code of Virginia § 15.2-2006, permanent closure of the unit block of King Street, located between Union Street and the Strand, and the northern portion of the Strand, located between Wales Alley and King 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 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.

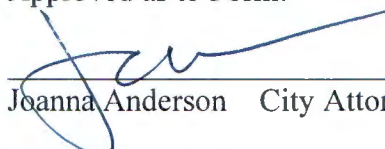
Section 4. That this ordinance shall be effective upon the date and at the time of its final passage.



JUSTIN M. WILSON
Mayor

ATTEST:


Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

Approved as to Form:


Joanna Anderson City Attorney

Final Passage: November 12, 2022