



City of Alexandria

City Council Chambers at
Del Pepper Community
Resource Center
4850 Mark Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22311

Legislation Text

File #: 26-0624, Version: 1

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 8, 2026

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: JAMES F. PARAJON, CITY MANAGER

FROM: EMILY A. BAKER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

DOCKET TITLE:

Public Hearing, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance to Amend the Franchise Agreement awarded to the Tall Ship Providence Foundation to Dock a Replica Historic Tall Ship at the Waterfront Park bulkhead.

ISSUE: Consideration of an ordinance to amend the franchise awarded to the Tall Ship Providence Foundation.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

1. Introduce and pass the proposed Ordinance on first reading on January 13, 2026, to allow the amendment of the franchise agreement with Tall Ship Providence Foundation; and
2. Schedule the Ordinance for second reading, public hearing and final passage on Saturday, January 24, 2026.

BACKGROUND: The Tall Ship Providence Foundation (“TSPF”) is a 501(c)(3) organization formed to purchase and preserve the historic Tall Ship Providence. The docking of a historic tall ship is consistent with the City Council approved Waterfront Small Area Plan. TSPF and the City wish to amend the franchise awarded in 2022 to terminate on January 31, 2026.

DISCUSSION: On or about November 12, 2022, pursuant to §15.2-2100 et. seq. of the Code of Virginia (1950) as amended, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 5466, awarding a franchise to TSPF to moor a reproduction historic tall ship providing a living history museum, public cruises, private charters and retail

items, at the riparian area adjacent to the Waterfront Park bulkhead (1A Prince St.) in the City of Alexandria, Virginia consistent with Special Use Permit #2021-0001.

On or about June 9, 2023, the City and TSPF entered into a franchise agreement pursuant to the franchise granted by Ordinance No. 5466.

This proposed ordinance will allow the City and TSPF to amend that franchise agreement by changing its term to end on January 31, 2026, instead of the original termination date of May 31, 2032. The City and TSPF will, with subsequent Council approval, enter into a five (5) year lease for the property TSPF currently occupies under the franchise agreement. Council consideration of the lease is anticipated on January 24, 2026. This lease agreement is scheduled to be brought before Council for consideration at the January 24, 2026 public hearing.

FISCAL IMPACT: While the Franchise fee will terminate on January 31, 2026, it will be replaced by a similar fee for the lease agreement, pending Council's subsequent approval.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Cover Sheet
2. Proposed Ordinance to the Tall Ship Providence Foundation
3. Proposed Franchise Agreement

STAFF:

Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities
Shawn B. Lassiter, Assistant City Attorney