

City of Alexandria, Virginia

36
6-10-03

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 5, 2003
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*
SUBJECT: RESOLUTION TO REPEAL THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT REGULATION WHICH REQUIRES SHOWERS IN HEALTH CLUBS

ISSUE: Shower requirement for health club facilities.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council adopt the attached resolution which repeals a Health Department regulation which requires showers in health clubs (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION: Council included health clubs in its 1984 revision of Title 11 of the City Code which addresses swimming pools, spa pools and health clubs. Health clubs remained part of the Code revisions on swimming pools adopted in 1994. The Code was implemented by the issuance of Administrative Regulation 20.6 by the Health Department. The purpose of the regulation is to ensure that all swimming pools, spa pools, and health clubs are constructed, operated, and maintained in a manner which does not adversely affect the public welfare, safety, and health.

Since the Code was adopted and the regulation was issued, showers have been required and installed in all health clubs and other exercise facilities in the City. A staff review of local codes in 34 other jurisdictions found that these jurisdictions did not have requirements for showers in health clubs as part of their swimming pool codes. Staff checked the codes in effect in jurisdictions in Virginia (20), Maryland (4), Ohio (1), New York (2), Florida (3), New Mexico (1), West Virginia (1) and California (2). Alexandria has been the only Northern Virginia jurisdiction to require shower facilities in health clubs for the past 19 years.

We believe that it is not necessary to have a requirement for showers in such clubs, and adoption of the proposed resolution would make the City consistent with neighboring jurisdictions and the other jurisdictions surveyed.

ATTACHMENT: Resolution

STAFF:

Charles Konigsberg, Jr., M.D., M.P.H., Director, Alexandria Health Department
Robert Custard, Manager, Environmental Health

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, on March 20, 1993, as part of a joint effort among Northern Virginia jurisdictions to establish uniform regional standards for the construction, operation and maintenance of swimming pools, spa pools and health clubs, city council enacted Ordinance No. 3619 which authorizes the city's health department to adopt, following council approval, regionally developed model regulations governing swimming pools, spa pools and health clubs; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said ordinance, the health department prepared and, following council approval, adopted Administrative Regulation 20-6 ("A.R. 20-6") entitled "Regulation of Swimming Pools, Spa Pools and Health Clubs;" and

WHEREAS, section 20-6-106 of A.R. 20-6 currently requires all health clubs in the city to provide showers for the use of health club patrons; and

WHEREAS, section 20-6-111 of A.R. 20-6 further requires all health clubs that operate in the city to provide one shower for each forty patrons during the period of maximum facility use; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the city's adoption of the model regulations, several jurisdictions in Northern Virginia have amended their versions of the regulations concerning health clubs; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria is now the only jurisdiction in Northern Virginia that requires the installation of showers in health clubs; and

WHEREAS, the city wishes to make its health club regulations more consistent with those of neighboring jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the health department has determined that amendments to A.R. 20-6 are necessary to exempt such health clubs from the shower requirements set out in section 20-6-106 and section 20-6-111 of A.R. 20-6; and

WHEREAS, the amended sections of A.R. 20-6 are attached hereto as Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, section 11-11-1 of the Alexandria City Code requires that city council approve any amendments to A.R. 20-6 prior to the changes becoming effective;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA

1. That city council does hereby approve the amendments to A.R. 20-6 which have been prepared by the city's health department and are shown on Attachment 1 by italics and strikeouts;

Attachment 1

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SECTIONS 20-6-106 (“SHOWERS, WATER CLOSETS, LAVATORIES AND DRINKING FOUNTAINS”) AND 20-6-111 (“SHOWERS”) OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION 20-6 (“REGULATION OF SWIMMING POOLS, SPA POOLS AND HEALTH CLUBS”)

20-6-106 Showers, water closets, lavatories and drinking fountains.

- (a) There shall be adequate ~~showers~~, water closets; and lavatories provided at all health clubs in accordance with the provisions of Article E of these regulations or as required by law, assuming an even distribution of the sexes at the time of maximum facility usage *unless the proposed facility is designed for single sex use. If the proposed facility is designed for a single sex, it shall comply with current BOCA Code requirements for the provision of toilets and lavatories.* Each health club shall have at least one (1) drinking fountain readily accessible to patrons within the exercise area. *Showers, if provided, shall meet the requirements of Section 20-6-111.*
- (b) The maximum facility load of a health club shall be added to the total load for consideration of plumbing fixture units at health clubs which are provided in conjunction with swimming pools, spas, or other water recreation facilities.
- (c) A separate custodial mop sink shall be provided in each health club and shall be located within one hundred (100) feet in a line of travel of the shower and toilet rooms.

20-6-111 Showers.

Showers shall be provided in the proportion of one per each forty (40) persons at each swimming pool ~~or exercise facility~~ at the time of maximum swimming pool load ~~or maximum facility usage~~; *or Showers shall be provided in the proportion of one shower for each twenty (20) persons at each spa pool at the time of maximum spa pool load.* Each shower shall supply heated water through a device that will prevent scalding. The water temperature control valves shall be equipped with high-limit stops adjusted to a maximum hot water setting at the nozzle head of one hundred ten degrees Fahrenheit (110°F) or as required by the Uniform Statewide Building Code and a minimum water temperature of at least ninety degrees Fahrenheit (90°F) and at a rate of at least three (3) gallons per minute. Water from each shower shall drain separately or shall be located and have the floor pitched so that waste from one shower shall not flow over the floor serving another. Each shower shall be provided with a liquid soap dispenser and an adequate supply of liquid soap.

RESOLUTION NO. 2074

WHEREAS, on March 20, 1993, as part of a joint effort among Northern Virginia jurisdictions to establish uniform regional standards for the construction, operation and maintenance of swimming pools, spa pools and health clubs, city council enacted Ordinance No. 3619 which authorizes the city's health department to adopt, following council approval, regionally developed model regulations governing swimming pools, spa pools and health clubs; and

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WHEREAS, subsequent to the city's adoption of the model regulations, several jurisdictions in Northern Virginia have amended their versions of the regulations concerning health clubs; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria is now the only jurisdiction in Northern Virginia that requires the installation of showers in health clubs; and

WHEREAS, the city wishes to make its health club regulations more consistent with those of neighboring jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the health department has determined that amendments to A.R. 20-6 are necessary to exempt such health clubs from the shower requirements set out in section 20-6-106 and section 20-6-111 of A.R. 20-6; and

WHEREAS, the amended sections of A.R. 20-6 are attached hereto as Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, section 11-11-1 of the Alexandria City Code requires that city council approve any amendments to A.R. 20-6 prior to the changes becoming effective;

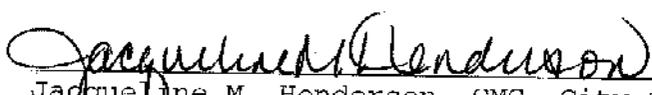
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE
CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:**

1. That city council does hereby approve the amendments to A.R. 20-6 which have been prepared by the city's health department and are shown on Attachment 1 by italics and strikeouts;
2. That city council does hereby approve A.R. 20-6, as amended by said amendments; and
3. That this resolution shall be effective upon the date and at the time of adoption.

ADOPTED: June 10, 2003


KERRY J. DONLEY MAYOR

ATTEST:


Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk

Attachment 1

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