City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER


ISSUE: City Council consideration of an ordinance deregulating coin-operated dry cleaning establishments and coin-operated laundries. Repeal of Chapter 4 (Coin-Operated Dry Cleaning Establishments) and Chapter 5 (Coin-Operated Laundries), Title 9 (Licensing and Regulation) of The Code of The City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, is needed to accomplish this.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve repeal of Chapter 4 (Coin-Operated Dry Cleaning Establishments) and Chapter 5 (Coin-Operated Laundries), Title 9 (Licensing and Regulation) of The Code of The City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended effective January 1, 2010, on first reading and set it for public hearing, second reading and passage on Saturday, October 7, 2009.

DISCUSSION: There is one coin-operated dry cleaner in Alexandria. There are six coin-operated laundries in Alexandria. Routine annual inspections by the Health Department have seldom uncovered problems with these facilities. The few problems noted have been minor.

In the past seven years there have only been four complaints about these facilities. Three of these complaints involved trash or rodents in the dumpster area outside one of the laundries. These complaints would normally be handled by Code Administration under other ordinances. The remaining complaint was that the restroom in a laundromat was locked. However, laundromats are not required to provide public restrooms.

Given that inspection of these facilities has little public health impact and that the Environmental Health Division now has fewer manpower resources as the result of recent
state budget cuts, deregulation of these facilities appears to be a reasonable course of action. Because the current permits for these facilities expire on January 1, 2010, that would be the logical effective date for repeal of the code chapters regarding coin-operated dry cleaners and laundries.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** $7.00. The annual fee for renewal of these permits is $1.00 per facility.

**ATTACHMENT:** Proposed ordinance

**STAFF:**
Lisa Kaplowitz, MD, MSHA, Director, Alexandria Health Dept.
Bob Custard, Environmental Health Division Chief, Alexandria Health Dept.
Karen S. Snow, Assistant City Attorney
AN ORDINANCE to repeal Chapter 4 (COIN-OPERATED DRY CLEANING ESTABLISHMENTS) and Chapter 5 (COIN-OPERATED LAUNDRIES), Title 9 (LICENSING AND REGULATION) of The Code of The City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

Summary

The proposed ordinance will deregulate coin-operated dry cleaners and coin-operated laundries.

There is one coin-operated dry cleaner in Alexandria. There are six coin-operated laundries in Alexandria. Routine annual inspections by the Health Department have seldom uncovered problems with these facilities. The few problems noted have been minor.

In the past seven years, there have only been four complaints about these facilities. Three of these complaints involved trash or rodents in the dumpster area outside one of the laundries. These complaints would normally be handled by the Office of Building and Fire Code Administration under other ordinances. The remaining complaint was that the restroom in a laundromat was locked. However, laundromats are not required to provide public restrooms.

Given that inspection of these facilities has little public health impact and that the Environmental Health Division now has fewer manpower resources as the result of recent state budget cuts, deregulation of these facilities appears to be a reasonable course of action.

Sponsor

None

Staff

Robert Custard, Environmental Health Division Chief, Health Department
Lisa Kaplowitz, MD, MSHA, Director, Health Department
Mary Elliott O'Donnell, Assistant City Attorney
Authority

§ 2.07 of The Charter of the City of Alexandria, as amended.

Estimated Costs of Implementation

$7.00. The annual permit renewal fee is $1.00 per facility.

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

None
ORDINANCE NO. ____

AN ORDINANCE to repeal Chapter 4 (COIN-OPERATED DRY CLEANING ESTABLISHMENTS) and Chapter 5 (COIN-OPERATED LAUNDRIES), Title 9 (LICENSING AND REGULATION) of The Code of The City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Chapter 9-4 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, repealed.

Section 2. That Chapter 9-5 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, repealed.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall become effective on January 1, 2010.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE
Mayor

Introduction: 10/13/09
First Reading:
Publication:
Public Hearing:
Second Reading:
Final Passage: