City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: ORDINANCE TO DEREGULATE COIN-OPERATED DRY
          CLEANERS AND LAUNDRIES BY REPEALING CHAPTER 4 (COIN-
          OPERATED DRY CLEANING ESTABLISHMENTS) AND CHAPTER
          5 (COIN-OPERATED LAUNDRIES) of TITLE 9 (LICENSING AND
          REGULATION) of The Code of The City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981,
          as amended.

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

1	Introduction and first reading:	10/13/09
2	Public hearing:	10/17/09
3	Second reading and enactment:	10/17/09

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6 <u>INFORMATION ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE</u>
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8 <u>Title</u>
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10 AN ORDINANCE to repeal Chapter 4 (COIN-OPERATED DRY CLEANING
11   ESTABLISHMENTS) and Chapter 5 (COIN-OPERATED LAUNDRIES), Title 9
12   (LICENSING AND REGULATION) of The Code of The City of Alexandria,
13   Virginia, 1981, as amended.
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15 <u>Summary</u>
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17   The proposed ordinance will deregulate coin-operated dry cleaners and coin-operated
18   laundries.
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20   There is one coin-operated dry cleaner in Alexandria. There are six coin-operated
21   laundries in Alexandria. Routine annual inspections by the Health Department have
22   seldom uncovered problems with these facilities. The few problems noted have been
23   minor.
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25   In the past seven years, there have only been four complaints about these facilities.
26   Three of these complaints involved trash or rodents in the dumpster area outside one
27   of the laundries. These complaints would normally be handled by the Office of
28   Building and Fire Code Administration under other ordinances. The remaining
29   complaint was that the restroom in a laundromat was locked. However, laundromats
30   are not required to provide public restrooms.
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32   Given that inspection of these facilities has little public health impact and that the
33   Environmental Health Division now has fewer manpower resources as the result of
34   recent state budget cuts, deregulation of these facilities appears to be a reasonable
35   course of action.
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37 <u>Sponsor</u>
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39   None
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41 <u>Staff</u>
42
43   Robert Custard, Environmental Health Division Chief, Health Department
44   Lisa Kaplowitz, MD, MSHA, Director, Health Department
45   Mary Elliott O'Donnell, Assistant City Attorney
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1   Authority
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3   § 2.07 of The Charter of the City of Alexandria, as amended.
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5   Estimated Costs of Implementation
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7       $7.00. The annual permit renewal fee is $1.00 per facility.
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9   Attachments in Addition to Proposed Ordinance and its Attachments (if any)
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3   ORDINANCE NO. _____
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5   AN ORDINANCE to repeal Chapter 4 (COIN-OPERATED DRY CLEANING
6   ESTABLISHMENTS) and Chapter 5 (COIN-OPERATED LAUNDRIES), Title 9
7   (LICENSING AND REGULATION) of The Code of The City of Alexandria,
8   Virginia, 1981, as amended.
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10   THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:
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12   Section 1. That Chapter 9-4 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,
13   1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, repealed.
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15   Section 2. That Chapter 9-5 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,
16   1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, repealed.
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18   Section 3. That this ordinance shall become effective on January 1, 2010.
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20   WILLIAM D. EUILLE
21   Mayor
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23   Introduction: 10/13/09
24   First Reading:
25   Publication:
26   Public Hearing:
27   Second Reading:
28   Final Passage:
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