



# CITY'S GUIDE

to Neighborhood Improvement





CITY OF RICHMOND  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



Dear residents of Richmond:

I am pleased to offer the new Resident's Guide to Neighborhood Improvement.

Living in our great city provides a wealth of amenities. From our beautiful neighborhoods, compelling cultural heritage, and striking architecture, Richmond is increasingly recognized for its countless qualities and livable neighborhoods. It is important that we all work together to keep our neighborhoods healthy and attractive.

On behalf of the city of Richmond, I hope you will find this guide helpful in preserving and improving our flourishing neighborhoods. I look forward to working with all residents as we continue to "Build a Better Richmond." If you have a question or concern that is not included in the booklet, please contact our Customer Care Center at 646-7000.

Sincerely,

**Dwight C. Jones**  
*Mayor*

# Resident's Guide to Neighborhood Improvement

Richmond is a city of neighborhoods — each with its own tradition and personality and each drawing its identity from its own rich history, natural beauty, and the people who live here. From the ironfronts of Jackson Ward to the turn-of-the-century Northside communities, to the restored warehouses Downtown or the row houses in the Fan District, your neighborhood is a unique section of the urban living that is so unique to Richmond.

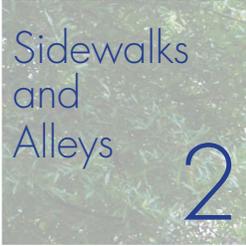
There are many factors that make Richmond such a livable city: Beautiful neighborhoods, unique architecture, numerous cultural and

educational opportunities, diversified workforce and residents and government working together to sustain these advantages.

In order to keep our neighborhoods thriving and safe, it is incumbent upon us as residents to know the laws and regulations in place for the health, safety and welfare of our neighborhoods and our neighbors.

This booklet is a helpful guide that covers the responsibilities of both residents and government in maintaining a safe, healthy and vibrant neighborhood and a wonderful city in which to live.

## Table of Contents

	 <p>Sidewalks and Alleys 2</p>	 <p>Parks and Playgrounds 3</p>
 <p>Animals 4</p>	 <p>Houses and Apartment Buildings 5</p>	
	 <p>Yards 5</p>	 <p>Motor Vehicles 7</p>
	 <p>Safety and Welfare 8</p>	 <p>Public Safety Bill of Rights 9</p>

## How to use this booklet

This booklet summarizes select city ordinances as of July, 2010, and is not meant to be a complete account of all ordinances. City Council often amends ordinances so it is important to check with the responsible department indicated to ensure there have been no changes since this booklet was published.

For questions not covered in this booklet, please contact customer care at 804-646-7000 or 311.

At the end of each code section, you will notice the penalty for violating an ordinance and the department to contact should you have questions. Contact information for each department is listed at the end of the booklet, as well as some additional information on penalties.

A complete listing and text of all city ordinances is available through the city's web page at [www.Richmondgov.com](http://www.Richmondgov.com)

# SIDEWALKS AND ALLEYS



## Residential Trash Collection

Residential trash is collected once per week in the city of Richmond. Supercans must be placed out by 6 a.m. the day of collection to ensure pick-up. The city recommends that you put yard debris, such as leaves, in biodegradable plastic or paper bags, so they can be recycled. Up to 6 bags of leaves will be removed during your weekly trash collection. Please call 311 to find out what day collection occurs at your address.

## Hazardous Waste

The East Richmond Road Convenience Center at 3800 East Richmond Road accepts household hazardous waste from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. There is no fee required, though users will be required to provide proof of residency, such as a valid driver's license, utility bill or vehicle registration.

Household hazardous waste items accepted at the facility include: Solvents (mineral spirits, paint thinner, turpentine, acetone); paints (oil or latex, polyurethane, tung oil, stains, varnish, shellac, tints, lacquer thinners, paint reducers, primers, varsol); Fuels (gasoline, gasoline additives, #2 fuel oil, kerosene, diesel, chain saw fuel, motor boat fuel, oil additives); propane tanks; car fluids (motor oil, transmission fluid, antifreeze); car batteries (lead acid batteries only) and cooking oil.

The facility cannot accept fire extinguishers, asbestos, road flares, herbicides or pesticides, explosives or materials that are shock-sensitive, radioactive or infectious. Hazardous waste items from commercial entities or from persons living outside of the city limits are also not accepted at the facility.

## Supercans

By City Code, one refuse Supercan is provided to each household free of charge. A second can may be purchased for \$55; just call 311 to order it and have the fee applied to your utility bill. You also may call 311 to request a replacement Supercan if yours is damaged. It may take up to a week for delivery.

## Recycling

The city of Richmond offers a curbside recycling collection service through its partnership with Central Virginia Waste Management Authority. The following items can be mixed all together in your recycling bin: newspapers, mixed paper, aluminum cans, steel cans, aluminum foil, glass bottles and jars, and narrow neck plastic bottles #1 & #2 (such as milk, soap, shampoo & detergent bottles). More information on this program is available on the Clean City Commission Web page.

## Bulk Item Collection

Items too large to fit in a Supercan or collected using our standard equipment typically include furniture and large amounts of yard waste, which should be placed beside your Supercan out of the roadway. Such items are collected by the city on a four-week, rotating schedule based on zip code. Residents should call 311 to schedule a pick up.

## Snow Removal

If snow removal becomes necessary, city crews will work around the clock to improve travel conditions on major transportation routes to allow emergency services, education, and commerce to continue with minimal interruption. Residents should understand that snow removal is a public safety initiative.

Streets are cleared in the following order: Bridges, major thoroughfares, and major arterial streets will be cleaned to bare pavement as quickly as possible during and immediately after snowfall. Secondary arterial streets will be cleared to bare pavement within 24 hours of the snow's cessation. These streets include some GRTC bus routes.

Private property owners should not move snow from their driveways or parking lots into city streets. Doing so hampers the city's ability to clear roadways and could become a public safety hazard.

## Richmond Code §90-42, §38-152

### Removal of Rubbish, Debris and Snow from Sidewalks

If you own property bordering on a public sidewalk, it is your responsibility to keep the sidewalk free of rubbish, debris, litter and snow.

Snow must be removed within six hours after a snowfall ends. If snow stops falling during the night, snow must be removed from the sidewalk before 11 a.m. the following morning.

Contact the Department of Public Works, 311. Violation of the snow removal ordinance is a Class 4 misdemeanor. Violation of the debris ordinance is a Class I misdemeanor.

## Richmond Code §90-31

### Unauthorized Encroachments and Uses of Street, Alley, Sidewalks and Public Ways

No one may trespass, use, or encroach upon a street, alley, sidewalk, or public right of way without authorization. For example, if you build a tool shed on your property and it extends out into the alley, this is an encroachment and requires authorization by filing an application with the Department of Public Works in Room 110 of City Hall.

Similarly, a hedge or shrub that extends beyond the property line onto the sidewalk is considered to be an unauthorized encroachment, as it blocks the right of way of pedestrians. Permit required. Contact the Department of Public Works at 311. Violation of this ordinance is a Class I misdemeanor.

## Richmond Code §90-232

### Sidewalk Paving and Maintenance

City ordinances authorize property owners to construct a sidewalk crossing for a driveway if they first obtain a permit from the city. Construction materials and procedures must be those prescribed by the Department of Public Works. Once a sidewalk crossing is built, the property owner is responsible for its maintenance.

If the city implements a sidewalk repair or replacement program in which more than 50 percent of the sidewalk along your block is being replaced, the city will not assess the cost of repairing or replacing the portion of the sidewalk that crosses your driveway.

Permit required. Contact the Department of Public Works, 311 and the Department of Community Development. Permits and Inspections, 646-6955.

**Richmond Code §66-315**  
**Skateboarding Prohibited**  
**in Certain Areas**

City ordinance prohibits skateboarding on the premises of the main branch of the Richmond Public Library, City Hall, or Festival Park. Contact the Police Department, 646-5100. Violation of this ordinance is a Class I misdemeanor.

**Richmond Code §31-23;**  
**Ordinance # 2007-230-275,**  
**§ 1, 11-26-2007**  
**Times and Places of Refuse**  
**Collection**

Refuse receptacles and recycling bins must be placed out for collection by 6 a.m. of the scheduled collection day but not earlier than 4 p.m. of the day preceding, except for any special times as deemed necessary by the Director of Public Works. The refuse receptacles and recycling bins must be removed by 7 a.m. on the day following collection from city property and right-of-ways to include, but not be limited to, sidewalks, alleys and median strips between sidewalks and roadways.

The public utility account holder of any property to which a refuse receptacle has been assigned shall be responsible for removing the refuse receptacle from city property by 7 a.m. on the day following collection. Any account holder who allows a refuse receptacle or recycling bin to remain on city property after 7 a.m. on the day following collection shall receive a notice from the Department of Public Works advising of the violation and allowing the account holder an opportunity to remove the refuse receptacle or recycling bin.

If the refuse receptacle or recycling bin is not timely removed from city property, the Department of Public Works shall cause the account holder to be assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$50 for each and every calendar day that each and every refuse receptacle or recycling bin remains on city property beginning with the date of the most recent past scheduled pick up time from the Department of Public Works. Such civil penalty shall be included on the account holder's monthly utility statement and shall be subject to collection in the same manner as other utility charges, including delinquent charges for utilities.

# PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS



The city of Richmond maintains more than 43 parks, 20 community centers and 34 playgrounds and sports fields. For updates on athletic activities, please call the "Rainline" at 804-646-1175. Our community centers are open from 1:30 to 10 p.m. weekdays. For information and upcoming events, call 646-5733.

**Richmond Code §10-174**  
**Dogs are Prohibited in Parks**  
**& Recreation Areas**

Whether leashed or unleashed, dogs are prohibited in certain parks such as Maymont Park, the Azalea Gardens in Bryan Park, recreation and children's play areas and other posted areas unless an exception is granted by special permit. Permit required. Contact the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities at 646-5733. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 4 misdemeanor.

**Richmond Code §10-175**  
**Restraint of Dogs in certain Parks**

You must keep dogs on a leash in city parks where dogs are permitted. Contact the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities at 646-5733. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 4 misdemeanor.

**Richmond Code §26-387**  
**Glass not Allowed**  
**on Public Grounds**

Glass bottles and containers are not allowed on any public grounds, parks, playing fields or playgrounds. Contact the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities. 646-5733. Violation carries a maximum fine of \$100.

**Richmond Code §26-390**  
**Camping**

Camping and tenting are not allowed on any public grounds, parks or playing fields; neither is lying on any benches located on any such public property. Contact the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities at 646-5733. Violation is a Class I misdemeanor.

**Richmond Code §26-397**  
**Hours**

Parks, playgrounds and recreation areas are open at sunrise and close at sunset each day of the year unless a permitted special event is in progress.

- Opening and closing hours are posted at the entrances of the various parks.
  - From April 1 to October 31. Lighted recreational facilities close at 10:30 p.m.
  - The recreational area surrounding Fountain Lake in Byrd Park opens at 5 a.m. and closes at midnight each day of the year.
  - People are prohibited from entering into or occupying a park when the park is closed.
- Contact the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities. 646-5733. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 4 misdemeanor

**Richmond Code §26-396, §26-398,**  
**§42-131**  
**Fees**

Portions of parks and recreation facilities may be reserved for special events. User fees are charged based on the size and length of the event. Contact the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, 646-5733.

**Richmond Code §26-403**  
**Relic Hunting**

Relic hunting is prohibited in all city parks except when special permission is granted by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities for official archeological investigations. Contact the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, 646-5733. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 4 misdemeanor.

**Richmond Code §66-3**  
**Alcoholic Beverages**

You cannot carry an open alcoholic beverage container in a public park, playground or city street without a special permit issued by the city and Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. Contact the Virginia Department of ABC, 213-4624. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 4 misdemeanor.

# ANIMALS



While a dog may be our best friend, we have a responsibility to help our four-leg friend to be a good neighbor, too.

### Richmond Animal Care and Control

Main line ..... 646-5573  
Lost/Found Animal ..... 646-5573  
Animal Abuse Hotline..... 240-1040  
After Hours Emergencies..... 646-5123

The hotline may be used to report dog fights and acts of cruelty against animals. Situations of this nature should be directed to this hotline or the emergency number of the Police Department.

The Richmond SPCA is a no-kill humane organization dedicated to tackling the problem of pet overpopulation through education, adoption, rehabilitation and spay/neuter serviced. The organization saves the lives of 3,000 homeless animals each year and cares for approximately 350 cats and dogs daily. Call (804) 643-6785 for more information.

The Richmond SPCA is not affiliated with any other private animal welfare organization or SPCA but has a formal partnership with Richmond Animal Care and Control. Animals from the municipal shelter are transferred to the SPCA to be placed for adoption.

### Richmond Code §10-86 Animal Waste

You are responsible for removing waste deposited by your pets on public or private property, including your own property. A pooper-scooper or a plastic bag may be used to remove waste. The waste must be placed in a plastic bag and in a container that is rat proof and air tight. Contact Richmond Animal Care and Control at 646-5573. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 4 misdemeanor.

### Richmond Code §10-92 Cruelty to Animals

It is illegal to torture, ill-treat, abandon, maim or mutilate animals. Depriving animals of necessary food, drink, shelter or causing unnecessary suffering is both unlawful and abusive. Contact Richmond Animal Care and Control at 646-5573. Violation of this ordinance is a Class I misdemeanor. Additional penalties are provided by state law/Virginia Code §3.1-796.94).

### Richmond Code §10-92(c) Abandoning Animals in a Public Place is Prohibited.

Violation of this ordinance is a Class 3 misdemeanor.

### Richmond Code §10-146, §10-147 Animal Licenses

If you own a dog or cat over the age of 4 months, it must be licensed and vaccinated against rabies. Your pet must wear a metal identification tag including, but not limited to, City license and rabies tags, when not indoors or on the property of the owner. Permit required. Contact Richmond Animal Care and Control at 646-5573. Violation of these ordinances is a Class 3 misdemeanor.

### Richmond Code §10-1 & §10-171 Dangerous and Vicious Dogs

A dangerous dog is one that has injured a person or a companion animal, or killed a companion animal. If a court finds an animal to be dangerous, the owner must pay a fee of \$50 to register the dog as a dangerous dog, post warnings about the dog and keep it secured. A vicious dog is one that has killed or seriously injured a person or continued to exhibit dangerous behavior after the owner was ordered by a court to take steps to control it. A court must order vicious dogs to be euthanized. Contact Richmond Animal Care and Control at 646-5573. Violation of a court order concerning a dangerous or vicious dog is a Class I misdemeanor.

### Richmond Code §10-172 Restraints

All dogs must be kept under restraint by a hand-held leash or lead, confined within a fenced area. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 4 misdemeanor. Contact Richmond Animal Care and Control at 646-5573.

### Richmond Code §10-1 & §10-173 Proper Care and Control

Owners must exercise proper care and control

of dogs and cats and prevent them from becoming a nuisance. A nuisance animal is any animal that molests passersby, attacks other animals, trespasses on school property, recreational areas or playgrounds; is repeatedly at large; damages property, or barks, whines, or howls excessively. Animal control may issue a summons to the owner of a dog that is determined to be a nuisance.

You must confine every female dog and cat in heat within a secure enclosure to avoid contact with a male dog or cat. Contact Richmond Animal Care and Control at 646-5573. Violation is a Class 4 misdemeanor.

### Richmond Code §10-177 Disposition of Deceased Dogs or Cats by Owner

Owners are responsible for the proper disposal of deceased cats and dogs. Owners may call the city Animal Shelter to pickup and properly dispose of the dog or cat. The animal shelter will pickup a dead animal for a \$10 fee to defray the cost of providing the service. The animal for pick up must be placed inside a labeled, large plastic bag and moved onto public property such as the curb or the rear alley. The owner may bury or cremate (by an authorized dealer) instead of contacting animal control. Contact Richmond Animal Care and Control at 646-5573.

### Richmond Code §10-201 & §10-202 Impounding Unrestrained and Unlicensed Dogs and Cats Generally

Animal control officers may impound unrestrained dogs of unknown ownership and dogs whose owners are known but cannot be located. Unlicensed dogs and cats may be impounded based upon a resident complaint which is verified by an animal control officer after an investigation of such complaint. Animal control may dispose of impounded animals or place them with a new owner if the owner fails to pick it up after five days. Contact Richmond Animal Care and Control at 646-5573. The fine for having an unrestrained dog is \$15 on the first offense and \$25 for a second or subsequent offense.

### Richmond Code §10-228 & §10-229 Breeding Permits

If you are selling or transferring a dog or cat in a public place, you must get a breeding permit from the city. Contact Richmond Animal Care and Control at 646-5573. Violation of this ordinance carries a maximum \$150 fine.

### Richmond Code §10-286

#### Vaccination of Dogs and Cats Required

Dogs and cats four months of age or older must be vaccinated against rabies and against other diseases as specified by the medical certificate. Contact Richmond Animal Care and Control at 646-5573. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 4 misdemeanor.

### Richmond Code §10-291 & §10-293 Reporting of Dogs or Cat Bites and Rabid Animals

Any one bitten by either a dog or a cat should report it within 24 hours to the Richmond City Health District. If the bite occurs at night, on weekends or on holidays, the report may be made to the Police Department. Any person having knowledge of a dog or cat afflicted with rabies should report this to the Richmond City Health District at 205-3500.

## YARDS



Property owners and the Recreation and Parks Department share responsibilities for the natural beauty of Richmond neighborhoods. To promote a safe and clean city, several nuisance abatement codes are enforced by the Division of Property Maintenance. Some of the property maintenance standards enforced include:

- trash accumulation in yards, sidewalks and alleys;
- grass and weeds taller than a foot in height and shrubs and weeds that protrude into the sidewalks, street and alleys;
- inoperable vehicles on private property that have neither a current license plate or sticker or are not kept in a garage out of the public view;
- all structures (including houses, fences, walls, sheds and garages) that are not structurally sound and in good repair.

### Richmond Code §38-151

#### Unlawful Dumping

You cannot dump trash, garbage, refuse, litter, junk, demolition materials, hazardous wastes or other unsightly, unsanitary or unhealthy substances on another person's property or in any waters within the city. Contact the Department of Public Works at 311. Violation of this ordinance is a Class I misdemeanor.

### Accumulation of Trash, Junk and Waste on Property

Property owners and tenants are responsible for removing all trash, garbage, refuse, litter, junk, demolition materials or other offensive, or unhealthy substances on their property or on any alley, sidewalk, public right-of-way, grass strips, or street bordering the property. Contact the Department of Planning and Review at 311. Violation of this ordinance is a Class I misdemeanor.

### Yard Trees

Property owners are responsible for the removal of fallen trees, detached limbs, or branches on their property. The city does not haul away trees, limbs, or branches from private property. Contact the Department of Planning and Review at 311. Violation of this ordinance is a Class I misdemeanor.

### Richmond Code §38-152, §38-154(d), §38-154

#### Grass and Weeds in Yards

Owners are responsible for ensuring the cutting of vegetation from the centerline of alleys to the centerline of the street and for ensuring that no grass, weeds or any other vegetation in yards grows higher than 12 inches. Trees, shrubbery, agricultural plants, garden vegetables, flowers or ornamental plants are exceptions to this requirement. When in doubt about what is a weed versus an ornamental plant, call customer care and they will refer you to the appropriate department.

Owners must also ensure the removal of any unsafe conditions caused by tree limbs and shrubs encroaching on the public right-of-way. Contact the Department of Planning and Review at 646-3908. Violation of this ordinance is a Class I misdemeanor.

### Richmond Code §102-362 Inoperative Motor Vehicles on Private Property

Inoperable motor vehicles must be stored inside of fully enclosed buildings. Inoperable vehicles include those that have been partially

or totally disassembled by the removal of tires, wheels, the engine or other essential parts required for operation of the vehicle for 60 days or more, or on which there are neither valid license plates nor inspection stickers. Contact the Department of Planning and Review at 311. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

## HOUSES AND APARTMENT BUILDINGS



Whether you rent or own your home, housing should be safe and healthy. The city of Richmond prohibits certain types of occupancy. For any property owner considering renting to lodgers or tenants, please contact the city's Office of Zoning Administration at (804) 646-6340 to obtain information specific to your property. Following are some of Richmond's regulations and standards.

### Richmond Code §14-1

#### Minimum Standards for Existing Housing and other Structures

The city of Richmond has adopted the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code for maintenance of existing houses and other structures. Virginia follows the standards laid out in the International Property Maintenance Code, 2006 Edition.

These standards for the interiors of residential buildings include:

- properly functioning kitchen sink
- properly functioning bathroom sink; toilet; bathtub or shower
- running hot and cold water
- adequate and safely functioning heat and electricity

- adequate ventilation
- well-maintained interior walls, floors and stairs
- smoke detectors are required in all residential units (homes and apartments)

Standards for the exteriors of all structures, whether residential or commercial, include:

- well-maintained paint and exterior surfaces
- no deterioration
- no cracks in foundation walls
- rain-tight roofs
- gutters and downspouts in good repair
- porches, railings and balconies in good repair

Violation of these standards carries a maximum \$250 (1st fine, with increased penalties for repeat offenses). Contact the Department of Planning and Review at 646-6419 for more information.

### **Richmond Code §14-9** **Permits Required for Work on Buildings**

Property owners are required to obtain permits from Building and Inspections for repairs, remodeling work, additions, decks, new windows and doors, garages, sheds, and fences more than six feet tall. The building permit ensures the work will be done to building code standards.

The Commissioner of Buildings and Inspections has a booklet for property owners and tenants listing the kinds of repairs and remodeling that require a building permit.

According to Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC Sec 109.2), an application for a building permit can be submitted by the owner, lessee, or agent: or licensed architect, contractor, subcontractor employed in connection with the work, or professional engineer acting on behalf of the owner.

Once the application has been submitted, work cannot begin until an approved copy of the issued permit from Building and Inspections is received. This approved permit must be displayed at the site for public inspection until the work is complete.

The time for issuance of a permit varies. Some permits are issued when the application is submitted, and most (about 80 percent) are issued within seven days. Others take longer, depending on the nature of the work plan, the completeness of documents submitted for review, and the number of departments assigned to approve the intended modifications.

A building permit is valid as long as construction is active and underway. Any permit issued becomes invalid if the work on the site authorized by permit is not started within six months of the issuance of the permit, or when construction activity lapses for a period of six months after the time of starting the work. A property owner whose building permit is invalid may be issued a code violation citing the need to restore the property. Code violations may be prosecuted in court.

Contact the Department of Planning and Review, Permits and Inspections at 646-6955 for more information. Violations of this ordinance are a Class I misdemeanor.

### **Richmond Code §90-43** **Identification of Houses, Buildings and Apartments**

Every house and building must have address numbers that can be easily read from the street. Contact the Department of Planning and Review at 646-6419. Violation of this ordinance is a Class I misdemeanor.

### **Richmond Code §38-111 – §38-116** **Posting of Signs or Advertising Prohibited on Public Property**

It is unlawful to paint, mark, write on, post or put up any sign or any type of communication on a public passageway (streets, alleys and bridges for instance) or fixture (including telephone and light poles and mail boxes, among others). No advertising signs of any type are permitted in the public right-of-way.

Exceptions include Neighborhood Watch signs and those authorized by City Council through the encroachment or other processes. Contact the Department of Public Works at 311. Violation of this ordinance carries a maximum \$50 fine for each sign.

### **Richmond Code §66-154** **Disorderly Conduct**

State law gives landlords the right to take appropriate action against tenants or tenants' guests who are disorderly on the property. Disorderly use of the property includes loud music, overcrowding, unlawful sale of alcoholic beverages, gambling, indecent conduct, participating in a disorderly house or drug and weapons offenses. Contact the Police Department at 646-5100. Violation of this ordinance is a Class I misdemeanor.

### **Richmond Code §14-116 – §14-118** **Drug Blight**

A property owner who allows the presence

of persons under the influence of controlled substances or the use of the property for the purpose of illegally possessing, manufacturing or distributing controlled substances may be found responsible for drug blight on the property.

Upon affirmation that drug blight exists on a property, the Chief of Police executes an affidavit which is then served on the property owner, who is given 30 days to take corrective action. If the property owner fails to do so, the city may commence corrective action. Penalties may include removal, repair or securing of any building, the costs for which may be charged to the property owner and constitute a lien against the property with the same priority as liens for unpaid local taxes.

Property owners are urged to contact the Police Department if they have questions about illegal drug usage on their property. Under Virginia law, property owners who have received notice about drug use on their properties may be criminally charged. Under Virginia Code §18.2-258 owners can be criminally and civilly liable if their properties are frequented by persons who use, sell, or are under the influence of illegal drugs. Contact the Police Department, CAPS Unit, at 646-2277. Violation of this law is a Class I misdemeanor.

### **Alcohol Nuisance**

Under Virginia Code §4.1-317 property owners can be criminally and civilly liable if their properties are maintained or otherwise used in violation of any law concerning the possession, consumption or distribution of alcoholic beverages. Contact the Police Department, CAPS Unit at 646-2277. Violation of this law is a Class I misdemeanor.

### **Richmond Code §54-42, §54-43** **Removal of Noxious Matter and Nuisances**

It is illegal to dump filth or noxious matter that could cause illness, or for the property owners or occupants to allow it to accumulate on their property. Contact the Department of Planning and Review at 646-7448. Violation of this ordinance is a Class I misdemeanor.

### **Richmond Code §54-44** **Stagnant Water**

Owners and occupants are responsible for removing stagnant water from their properties. (Mosquitoes breed not just in untreated swimming pools, but also in old tires and barrels.) Contact the Richmond City Health District at 205-3500. Violation of this ordinance is a Class I misdemeanor.

# SAFETY AND WELFARE



Richmond's curfew ordinance is designed to protect the public, minors and parents set appropriate boundaries for their children. Other ordinances preserve the peace and quiet. Graffiti removal preserves the appearance of the community and may assist in preventing the entrenchment of gangs. Collectively, all of these ordinances help a neighborhood to communicate to criminals that the neighborhood cares and will not welcome or allow criminal activities.

## Richmond Code §66-416 – §66-422 Curfew

Children under the age of 18 are not permitted on public streets, alleys, parks, playgrounds, public buildings or grounds, places of amusement, entertainment, refreshment or vacant lots between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. It is the responsibility of the parent, guardian or other adult responsible for the child to make sure that curfews are observed. In administering the curfew law, consideration is given to:

- a child who is with a parent, guardian or other adult person authorized by the parents;
- a child who is on an emergency errand as directed by their parent, guardian, or approved adult;
- a child who is working; a child traveling directly to and from work and home; or,
- a child who is traveling to and from an event officially designated as a school activity.

Owners and operators of places of amusement, entertainment or refreshment are responsible for making sure children on the premises are accompanied by a parent, guardian or other authorized adult during the restricted hours. To report a curfew violation, contact the Police Department at 646-5100. Violation of

curfew contains a maximum fine of \$500 and a mandatory 20 hours of community service.

## Richmond Code §38-31, §38-32 Noise

No one should make noise that annoys or disturbs the quiet, comfort or rest of other people in any dwelling, hotel or other type of residence. There are exceptions for acts declared loud and disturbing which are deemed as emergencies. The following acts are considered loud and disturbing noises:

- The sounding of horns or signal devices on vehicles except as a danger signal;
- The playing of any radio, phonograph, or any musical instrument at a high volume, particularly during the hours between midnight and 7 a.m. so as to disturb others;
- Continuous noise from animals;
- Operation of vehicles that create loud, disturbing, grating, grinding, rattling or other noises;
- Excessive noise in any area where signs are displayed indicating a school, institution of learning, court (while in session) and any hospital;
- The blowing of steam whistles except to provide notifications associated with work or danger warnings;
- The creation of loud and excessive noise while loading or unloading any vehicle or the opening of and destruction of bales, boxes, crates and containers;
- The shouting and crying of peddlers, hawkers and vendors;
- The use of any drum, loudspeaker or other instrument or devices;
- Amplified sound from vehicles.

To report a noise violation, contact the Police Department, 646-5100. Violation of these ordinances is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

## Richmond Code §38-56; §38-57 Sound Trucks and Sound-Amplifying Equipment

You cannot operate a sound truck for commercial advertising purposes within the City. You also cannot use sound amplifying equipment if the sound emits onto public property. To report a violation, contact the Police Department at 646-5100. Violation of this ordinance is a Class I misdemeanor.

## Richmond Code §38-58; §38-59 Non-Commercial Use of Sound Trucks and Sound-Amplifying Equipment

Sound amplifying equipment and sound

trucks may be used for non-commercial purposes with the following limitations:

- The only sounds permitted are music and human speech;
- Sound trucks may be operated only between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.;
- Stationary sound equipment may only be used between the hours of 10 a.m. and 11 p.m.;
- Human speech or music that is amplified should not be slanderous in nature;
- The volume of sound should not be audible above the level of conversational speech 200 feet from the property on which the sound originates;
- These provisions do not apply to the operation of sound amplifying equipment at sporting or athletic exhibitions, entertainments, performances, religious gatherings or other public gatherings;

Violation of this ordinance is a Class I misdemeanor. To report a violation, contact the Police Department at 646-5100.

## Richmond Code §38-60 License Required for Operation of Sound Trucks

Anyone operating a sound truck in the city is required to obtain a license through the city's Department of Finance at 646-5700.

## Richmond Code §38-191; §38-192 Graffiti

You cannot write, paint, draw, etch, scratch or mark an inscription, word, figure or design of any type on any public or private building without permission of the owner. Violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor. Contact both the Department of Public Works at 311, and the Police. Graffiti Hotline at 646-1406.

## Richmond Code §38-193 Parents Responsible for Damages from Graffiti

When graffiti is applied to public property by a minor, parents are responsible for the damages.

## Richmond Code §66-1 Expectorating (Spitting) in Public Places

Spitting in public places is against the law. Public places include any public building, public conveyances (such as buses), and sidewalks bordering any public alley, street or lane. Contact the Police Department at 646-5100. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 4 misdemeanor.

**Richmond Code §66-3; §66-4**  
**Drinking Alcoholic Beverages  
in Public Places**

It is unlawful for any person to have in his possession an open alcoholic beverage container while in a public place (street, alley, public building). It is also unlawful to take a drink of an alcoholic beverage or to offer a drink to another, whether the drink is accepted or not, at or in any public place. Contact the Police Department at 646-5100. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 4 misdemeanor.

**Richmond Code §66-5**  
**Drinking or Possessing Alcoholic  
Beverages in or upon Public  
School Grounds**

No one can possess or drink any alcoholic beverage in or on the grounds of any public elementary or secondary school during school hours or at any time when school or student activities are being conducted on the school grounds. Contact the Police Department at 646-5100. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

**Richmond Code §66-342**  
**Willfully Discharging Firearms  
in Public Places**

No one can willfully discharge a firearm in any public place. Call 911 immediately if you hear gunfire. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

**Richmond Code §66-343, §66-344**  
**Shooting Arrows**

It is unlawful for any person to discharge arrows from a bow or crossbow in any street or public alley of this city or to shoot an arrow from any type of bow at or upon the property of another without permission. To report a violation, contact the Police Department at 646-5100. Violation of these ordinances is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

**Richmond Code §46-121**  
**Fireworks**

Under Virginia law, fireworks displays are limited to those intended for public viewing outdoors. The use, sale or possession of all fireworks is illegal, except by a licensed pyrotechnician with a municipal permit granted by the Fire Marshall. The display must meet the requirements of the State of Virginia Fire Prevention Code and must be covered by a bond in an amount set by the Fire Marshall to cover any damages that may arise. Contact the Department of Fire and Emergency Services at 646-6640. Failure to follow these regulations is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

## MOTOR VEHICLES



Safe use and storage of motor vehicles is everyone's responsibility.

**Richmond Code §102-363**  
**Abandoned Motor Vehicles  
on Private Property**

You cannot leave a motor vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer on the private property of another person without that person's consent. If the owner of that property complains in writing that a vehicle has been left without consent for more than 72 hours, the motor vehicle may be moved by the Police Department to a storage garage or area. Contact the Police Department at 646-5100. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

**Richmond Code §102-327**  
**Privately Owned Parking Areas**

Owners of businesses and apartment buildings who maintain parking areas for patrons and residents may tow or immobilize vehicles that are left in their parking areas without permission. The owners of these vehicles can be charged for towing, storage and other fees only if the parking area has a conspicuous sign at least 36" x 30" with 3" letters warning that the parking area is for private parking and has a telephone number to contact when vehicles are towed.

**Richmond Code §102-188**  
**Enhanced Speeding Penalty on  
certain Residential Streets; Signs**

The purpose of this section is to implement the enhanced speeding penalties authorized by Code of Virginia, §46.2-878.2 for operation of a motor vehicle in excess of the maximum speed limit on certain residential streets. Operation of any motor vehicle in excess of a maximum speed limit established for a highway in a residence district of the city, when

indicated by signs placed in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall be unlawful and shall constitute a violation of this section. Violation of this section shall constitute a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of not more than \$200, in addition to other penalties provided by law.

**Richmond Code §102-361, §102-363**  
**Unattended Motor Vehicles  
on Public Property**

A motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer on public property that unattended may be towed by or under the direction of a police officer if it: Constitutes a traffic hazard: Is illegally parked: Is left unattended for more than 10 days: or is immobilized by weather conditions or other emergency situations. Contact the Police Department at 646-5100.

**Richmond Code §102-361, §102-362.1**  
**Inoperable and Abandoned  
Motor Vehicles on Public Property**

A motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer is abandoned and may be towed if it is not in operating condition or it does not display valid license plates and valid inspection decals and it has been left unattended on public property for more than 48 hours. Contact the Police Department at 646-5100. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

**Richmond Code §102-243**  
**Vehicle Parking, Stopping  
or Standing**

There are numerous regulations regarding the parking of a vehicle on the public streets in the city of Richmond. These regulations include but are not limited to restrictions to parking in a loading zone, bus stop or taxicab stand; parking within 20 feet of a crosswalk; parking on the wrong side of the road, parking during peak traffic times of 7 a.m.-9 a.m. and 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Contact the Department of Finance at 646-5700. Parking in violation of these regulations may incur a fine ranging from \$20-\$120.

**Richmond Code §102-227**  
**Parking of Trucks, Trailers,  
Mobile Homes in Residential  
Areas**

Vehicles weighing more than 6,500 pounds may not be parked anywhere in residential areas. Trailers and motor homes of any weight may not be parked on streets in residential areas. This ordinance applies to all trailers, including those containing boats. The Richmond Police Department enforces these ordinances by issuing parking citations to the owners or operators of violating vehicles.

Contact the Police Department at 646-5100. The fine is \$120 for each citation.

**Richmond Code §102-302  
Restricting Parking Districts**

Eligibility for obtaining a permit to park in a restricted parking district is limited to residents and property owners. A parking citation may be issued to those who park a vehicle in a restricted district without the necessary permit. Contact the Police Department at 646-5100 to report a violation, or the Department of Finance at 646-5700 for permit information and payment of fines. Fines range from \$40 for each citation, to \$100 for illegal possession or use of a residential parking permit.

**Classification of Misdemeanor Offenses**

**Class 1**

Up to twelve (12) months in jail and \$2,500 in fines, either or both.

**Class 2**

Up to six (6) months in jail and \$1,000 in fines, either or both.

**Class 3**

Up to \$500 in fines.

**Class 4**

Up to \$250 in fines.



**PUBLIC SAFETY BILL OF RIGHTS**

**The Community**

**The community has the right to:**

1. Safe public places and schools that are free of crime and the fear of crime
2. The absence of gunfire and illegal guns
3. A clean and safe environment
4. A safe neighborhood in which our children can grow
5. Public activity centers throughout the city
6. A school system that provides excellent education and promotes good citizenship and civic mindedness
7. Excellent customer service and timely responses from the city

**The community has the responsibility to:**

1. Set examples of and insist upon responsible behavior
2. Report incidents of crime that they observe or learn about
3. Volunteer information to assist police in making arrests
4. Willingly and accurately testify in court as a witness to crime if called upon to do so
5. Refuse to harbor known or suspected criminals, criminal activity and the fruits of crime, even if a family member is involved
6. See that children stay in school and complete high school education
7. Provide appropriate supervision for children
8. Refrain from criminal activity and not associate with those who engage in it
9. Maintain properties that are neat, clean and well-kept

**The City**

**The city has the right to expect:**

1. Residents obey the law
2. Residents actively contribute to public safety initiatives
3. Residents make their expectations known
4. Residents work with the city to achieve shared goals
5. Residents support and participate in city initiatives designed to train youth in the area of citizenship

**The city has the responsibility to:**

1. Provide for the safety of its residents
2. Coordinate all aspects of the criminal justice system to provide a safe and tranquil environment for its residents
3. Provide high quality public education so that children graduate prepared for success in life
4. Teach civil responsibility and character building in the public schools
5. Attract businesses that provide job opportunities
6. Provide recreational and leisure opportunities for our youth
7. Support job-training opportunities for youth
8. Foster community policing that identifies and solves problems based upon the needs and preferences of the community
9. Provide excellent and accountable customer service to its residents.



## Important Contact Information

Emergency	911
Customer Care	311
Natural gas, water, sewer	804-646-3000
Electricity	1-888-667-3000
Public Works	804-646-0999
Health Department	804-205-3500
Social Services	804-646-7212
Hispanic Liaison Office	804-646-0145
City Web Site	<a href="http://www.richmondgov.com">www.richmondgov.com</a>
Schools Web Site	<a href="http://www.richmond.k12.va.us">www.richmond.k12.va.us</a>

## City of Richmond Context Index

### Animal Care & Control

1600 Chamberlayne Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23222  
Animal Care & Control Main line:  
(804) 646-5573  
Lost/Found Animal: (804) 646-5573  
Animal Abuse Hotline: (804) 240-1040  
After Hours Emergencies: (804) 646-5100

### Planning and Development Review

900 E. Broad Street, Room 110  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Customer Service: (804) 646-6304  
Permits and Inspections: (804) 646-4169  
Fax: (804) 646-6948  
Zoning Administration: (804) 646-6340  
Zoning Administration Fax: (804) 646-6948  
[AskCommunityDevelopment@richmondgov.com](mailto:AskCommunityDevelopment@richmondgov.com)

### Finance

900 E. Broad Street, Room 100  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Customer Service: (804) 646-5700  
Parking Inquiries: (804) 646-7000  
[finance@richmondgov.com](mailto:finance@richmondgov.com)

### Fire & Emergency Services

201 E. Franklin Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Fire Marshall: (804) 646-2500  
[fire@richmondgov.com](mailto:fire@richmondgov.com)

### Richmond City Health District

400 E. Cary Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Customer Service: (804) 205-3500 or 311  
Fax: (804)646-3111  
[askhealth@richmondgov.com](mailto:askhealth@richmondgov.com)

### Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities

900 E. Broad Street, Room 407  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Customer Service: (804) 646-5733  
Fax: (804)646-6931  
[AskParkRec@richmondgov.com](mailto:AskParkRec@richmondgov.com)

### Police

200 W. Grace Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23220  
Emergency: 911  
Non-emergency: (804)-646-5100

### Public Utilities Customer Service Center

900 E. Broad Street, Room 115  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Customer Service: (804) 644-3000  
[dpucustserv@richmondgov.com](mailto:dpucustserv@richmondgov.com)

### Public Works

900 E. Broad Street, Room 704  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Customer Service: (804) 646-0999 or 311  
Fax: (804) 646-6629  
[dpw@richmondgov.com](mailto:dpw@richmondgov.com)

