

# A Citizen's Guide to Neighborhood Improvement

- \* What the Law Requires
- \* Ordinance Highlights

*Revised May 2006*



# City of Richmond



L. DOUGLAS WILDER  
MAYOR

"SIC ITUR AD ASTRA"  
SUCH IS THE WAY TO THE STARS



On behalf of the City of Richmond, I am pleased to provide you a copy of "A Citizen's Guide to Neighborhood Improvement," an informative booklet that empowers our citizens to protect Richmond's beautiful neighborhoods. This guide covers a variety of topics that address everyday quality-of-life measures, from property maintenance to animal control.

Armed with the information in this guide, citizens can learn more about our local ordinances in terms of individual responsibility and municipal enforcement. Important telephone numbers are shown so that undesirable situations can be brought to the City's attention.

I would also like to bring your attention to the "Public Safety Bill of Rights," found at the end of this guide, which outlines the responsibilities and expectations among both citizens and our local government.

Of course, this booklet does not include all of the ordinances of the City nor even all the details of those ordinances that are listed. If you have questions about areas not listed here, contact City Hall at 646-7000 for further assistance. With your help, we can make Richmond the City of the Future.

Sincerely,

L. Douglas Wilder  
Mayor

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

This booklet summarizes select city ordinances 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.

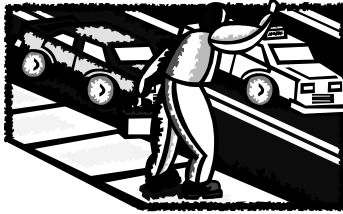
For questions not covered in this booklet, please contact Citizens Assistance at **646-7000**.

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 Richmond ordinances is available through the City's Web page at [www.Richmondgov.com](http://www.Richmondgov.com)

*The City, as a matter of policy, does not discriminate based on color, creed, race, religion, national origin, sex, disabilities or family status.*

## SIDEWALKS AND ALLEYS



*Let's keep them safe and open.*

**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.

All 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, 646-0999. Violation of the snow removal ordinance is a Class 4 misdemeanor. Violation of the debris ordinance is a Class 1 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, 646-0999. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 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, 646-0999 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 1 misdemeanor.*

## PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS



*The City of Richmond maintains more than 43 parks, 20 community centers and 34 playgrounds and sports fields.*

- Richmond Code §10-174**      **Dogs are prohibited in parks and recreation areas**
- Whether leashed or unleashed, dogs are prohibited in certain parks such as Maymont Park, the Azalea Gardens in Bryan Park, Byrd Park and Forest Hill 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 and recreation, 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 and recreation, 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 and recreation, 646-5733. Violation is a Class 1 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.
- The hours of opening and closing 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 12 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**      **Fees**  
§26-396  
§26-398      Portions of Parks and Recreation facilities may be reserved for special events. User  
§42-131      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**      **Relic hunting**  
§26-403  
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 and  
recreation, 646-5733. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 4 misdemeanor.*

**Richmond Code**      **Alcoholic beverages**  
§66-3  
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. *Permit required. 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 it be a good neighbor.*

<b>Richmond Animal Care &amp; Control</b>	<b>646-5573</b>
<b>Lost/Found Animal</b>	<b>646-5573</b>
<b>Animal Abuse Hotline</b>	<b>240-1040</b>
<b>After Hours Emergencies</b>	<b>646-5123</b>

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.

**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 fly tight. *Contact Richmond Animal Care & Control 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 & Control 646-5573. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 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 & Control 646-5573. Violation of these ordinances is a Class 3 misdemeanor.*



**Richmond Code  
§10-1 and  
§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 & Control 646-5573 .** *Violation of a court order concerning a dangerous or vicious dog is a Class 1 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 & Control 646-5573.*

**Richmond Code  
§10-1 and  
§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, 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 & Control 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 pick up and properly dispose of the dog or cat. The Animal Shelter will pick up 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 & Control 646-5573.*

**Richmond Code  
§10-201 and  
§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 citizen 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 & Control 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 and  
§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 & Control 646-5573. Violation of this ordinance carries a maximum \$150 fine.*

**Richmond Code  
§10-286**

**Vaccination of dogs and cats required**

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

**Richmond Code  
§10-291 and  
§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 Department of Public Health. 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 *Department of Health, 646-3120.*

## YARDS



*Property owners and the Recreation and Parks Department share responsibilities for the natural beauty of our neighborhoods and city.*

**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 646-0999. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 misdemeanor.*

**Richmond Code  
§38-152**

**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 Community Development 646-7448. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 misdemeanor.*

**Richmond Code  
§38-154(d)**

**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 Community Development 646-7448. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 misdemeanor.*

**Richmond Code  
§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 Citizens' Assistance 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 Community Development 646-7448. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 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 sixty days or more, or on which there are neither valid license plates nor inspection stickers. *Contact the Department of Community Development 646-7448. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 misdemeanor.*

## HOUSES AND APARTMENT BUILDINGS



Whether you rent or own your dwelling place, 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 Statewide Building Code for maintenance of existing houses and other structures. Virginia follows the standards laid out in the International Property Maintenance Code, 2000 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 \$2,500 fine, with increased penalties for repeat offenses. Contact the Department of Community Development 646-6419.*

### **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 Building 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 (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.

*Permit required. Contact the Department of Community Development, Permits and Inspections, 646-6955. Violations of this ordinance are a Class 1 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 Community Development 646-6419. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 misdemeanor.*

**Richmond Code  
§38-111 through  
§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, 646-0999. 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 ranges from loud music, overcrowding, unlawful sale of alcoholic beverages, gambling, indecent conduct, participating in a disorderly house to drug and weapons offenses. *Contact the Police Department, 646-5100. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 misdemeanor.*

**Richmond Code  
§14-116 through  
§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 1 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 1 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 Community Development 646-7448. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 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 Health Department, 646-3121. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 misdemeanor.*

## SAFETY AND WELFARE



*Richmond's curfew ordinance is designed to protect the public, to protect minors, and to help parents control 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 these ordinances help a neighborhood to communicate to criminals that the neighborhood cares and will not welcome criminal activities.*



**Richmond Code  
§66-416 through  
§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, 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 12 midnight and 7 a.m., so as to disturb others
- Continuous noise from animals or birds
- 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, 646-5100. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 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 1 misdemeanor. To report a violation contact the Police Department, 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, 646-5700. *Permit required.*

<b>Richmond Code §38-191 and §38-192</b>	<b>Graffiti</b>  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. <i>Violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor. Contact both the Department of Public Works, 646-0999, and the Police, Graffiti Hotline – 646-1406.</i>
<b>Richmond Code §38-193</b>	<b>Parents responsible for damages from graffiti</b>  When graffiti is applied to public property by a minor, parents are responsible for the damages.
<b>Richmond Code §66-1</b>	<b>Expectorating in public places</b>  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.  <i>Contact the Police Department, 646-5100. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 4 misdemeanor.</i>
<b>Richmond Code §66-3 §66-4</b>	<b>Drinking alcoholic beverages in public places</b>  It is unlawful for any person to have in his possession an open alcoholic beverage container while in a public place (street, alley, park, 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.  <i>Contact the Police Department, 646-5100. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 4 misdemeanor.</i>
<b>Richmond Code §66-5</b>	<b>Drinking or possessing alcoholic beverages in or upon public school grounds</b>  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 other time when school or student activities are being conducted on the school grounds. <i>Contact the Police Department, 646-5100. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 2 misdemeanor.</i>
<b>Richmond Code §66-342</b>	<b>Willfully discharging firearms in public places</b>  No one can willfully discharge a firearm in any public place. <i>Call 911 immediately if you hear gunfire. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 misdemeanor.</i>
<b>Richmond Code §66-343 §66-344</b>	<b>Shooting arrows</b>  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.  <i>To report a violation, contact the Police Department. 646-5100. Violation of these ordinances is a Class 1 misdemeanor.</i>



**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, under 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. *Permit required. Contact the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, 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 removed by the Police Department to a storage garage or area.

*Contact the Police Department, 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. However, 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 giving a telephone number to contact when vehicles are towed.

**Richmond Code  
§102-361 and  
§102-362**

**Inoperable motor vehicles on private property**

Inoperable motor vehicles may be stored only inside of fully enclosed buildings or if otherwise screened from view. Inoperative vehicles include those that have been partially or totally disassembled for 60 days or longer by the removal of tires, wheels, the engine, or other essential parts required for operation of the vehicle, or on which there are neither valid license plates nor inspection stickers.

*Contact the Department of Community Development, 646-7448. Violation of this ordinance is a Class 1 misdemeanor.*

**Richmond Code  
§102-361 and  
§102-363**

**Unattended motor vehicles on public property**

A motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer on public property is unattended and may be towed by or under the direction of a police officer if it: constitutes a traffic hazard; it is illegally parked; it is left unattended for more than 10 days; or it is immobilized by weather conditions or other emergency situations.

*Contact the Police Department, 646-5100.*

**Richmond Code  
§102-361 and  
§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 hrs.

*Contact the Police Department, 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, 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, 646-5100 to report a violation, or the Department of Finance, 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.*

## CITY OF RICHMOND CONTACT INDEX

- **Animal Care & Control**  
1600 Chamberlayne Avenue, Richmond 23222  
Richmond Animal Care & Control (804) 646-5573  
Lost/Found Animal (804) 646-5573  
Animal Abuse Hotline (804) 240-1040  
After Hours Emergencies (804) 646-5123
  
- **Community Development Department**  
Room 110, 900 E. Broad Street, Richmond 23219
  - Customer Service/Permits and Inspections: (804) 646-6955
  - Fax: (804) 646-6948
  - Zoning Administration: (804) 646-6340
  - Zoning Administration Fax: (804) 646-6948
  
- **Finance Department**  
900 E. Broad Street, Room 100, Richmond 23219
  - Customer Service: (804) 646-5700
  - Parking Inquiries: (804) 646-5700
  
- **Fire & Emergency Services**  
550 E. Marshall St., Suite 202, Richmond 23219
  - Fire Marshall: (804) 646-6640
  - Fax: (804) 646-7465
  
- **Health Department**  
900 E. Marshall Street, Richmond 23219
  - Customer Service: (804) 646-3153
  - Fax: (804) 646-3111
  
- **Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities Department**  
Room 407, City Hall, 900 E. Broad Street, Richmond 23219
  - Customer Service: (804) 646-5733
  - Fax: (804) 646-6931
  
- **Police Department**  
200 W. Grace Street, Richmond 23220
  - Emergency 911
  - Non-emergency 646-5100
  
- **Public Utilities (DPU)**  
600 E. Broad Street, Richmond 23219  
DPU Customer Service Center, Room 115, City Hall, 900 E. Broad Street
  - Customer Service: (804) 644-3000
  
- **Public Works (DPW)**  
900 E. Broad Street, Room 704, Richmond 23219
  - Customer Service: (804) 646-0999
  - Fax: (804) 646-6629

## **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, ether 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 our children stay in school and complete high school education
7. Provide appropriate supervision for our 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

# **Public Safety Bill of Rights**

## *The City*

The City has the right to expect:

1. Citizens to obey the law and demand that their neighbors do the same
2. Citizens to actively contribute to public safety initiatives in the city
3. Citizens to make their expectations known
4. Citizens to work with the City to achieve shared goals
5. Citizens to support and participate in city initiatives designed to train our 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 citizens
3. Provide high quality public education so that our 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 our 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 citizens