



# CITY OF HARRISONBURG CITY MANAGER

409 SOUTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801  
OFFICE (540) 432-7701 • FAX (540) 432-7778

TO: Eric Campbell, City Manager  
FROM: Chris Brown, City Attorney  
DATE: February 16, 2021 (updated 3-16-21)  
RE: Amendment to Section 13-1-73 – Parking in spaces reserved for handicapped persons.

**Summary:** Proposal to amend Section 13-1-73 – Parking in spaces reserved for handicapped persons, to update the text to mirror State Code.

**Background:** Section 46.2-1242 of the Code of Virginia allows local governing bodies to adopt an ordinance governing parking in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities.

**Key Issues:** Section 13-1-73 has not been updated in many years. The amended text will bring the City Code in line with the State Code.

Since the meeting on February 32, 2021 staff has ensured that throughout the amended ordinance “handicapped persons” has been changed to “persons with disabilities”. We also ensured that “persons with disabilities” is the appropriate wording for the ordinance.

Staff also gathered some data from HPD. The number of calls for violations of the current version of the ordinance is difficult to determine for several reasons. First, HPD changed its data system in 2019 and it is difficult to access some earlier traffic related information. Also, when a complaint is received by HPD of a violation of the ordinance it is lumped together with other parking violations unless a ticket is written. And, usually people who violate the handicapped parking ordinance do with the intent of parking in a reserved spot very briefly. They are often gone when an officer arrives. With that preface, during the last half of 2019 HPD wrote 10 tickets for violations of the ordinance. In 2020 they wrote 17. HPD believes that they have received many more complaints for violations that were resolved before an HPD officer arrived.

Finally, staff checked with some comparably sized cities near Harrisonburg on their fine amounts. Lynchburg charges \$250.00, Charlottesville charges \$180, Winchester, Fredericksburg, Waynesboro, and Staunton all charge \$100.

**Environmental Impact:**



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**Fiscal Impact:**

**Prior Actions:**

**Alternatives:**

- (a) Amend Section 13-1-73 as presented
- (b) Decline to act

**Community Engagement:** None

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends alternative (a)

**Attachments:** Redlined Section 13-1-73

**Review:**

*The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.*

