



# City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

## Office of the City Manager

409 South Main Street  
Post Office Box 20031  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
(540) 432-7701 / FAX (540) 432-7778

G. Chris Brown  
City Attorney

TO: Kurt Hodgen, City Manager  
FROM: G. Chris Brown, City Attorney  
DATE: December 27, 2016  
RE: Parking Ordinance Amendments and Enactment

**Summary:** Consider enacting Section 13-1-51.1 Bicycle Lanes and amending and re-enacting Section 13-1-51 Methods, Section 13-1-58 Unlawful Opening of Doors, and Section 13-1-66 Guest Cards

**Background:** Presently, the locations of many bus stops require Harrisonburg Department of Public Transit (HDPT) vehicles to stop in bicycle lanes temporarily, in order to allow passengers to board and disembark. Section 13-1-51.1 clarifies that HDPT vehicles, including school buses, are permitted to stop in bicycle lanes for this limited purpose and only after ensuring it would be safe to do so, while additionally clarifying that this is the sole circumstance in which a vehicle is permitted to stop in a bicycle lane.

The amendments to Section 13-1-51 clarify language regarding parking methods and add a prohibition against parking or stopping a car in such a way that it blocks access to a mailbox.

The amendments to Section 13-1-58 clarify when opening a car door into traffic is prohibited, exempts law-enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel engaged in the performance of their duties, and adds a reference to the similar State Code section.

The amendment to Section 13-1-66 adds a provision requiring that guest cards issued to permit parking in a residential permit parking zone identify the address of the person(s) to whom the guest card is issued, and limits the area guest cards permit parking to within 500 feet of the property line of the address listed on the guest card. This provision is intended to ensure guest cards are only used for their intended purpose of providing parking to guests visiting a residence. Presently, there is concern that some residents of residential permit parking zones are abusing their guest cards by lending them to non-residents, who then use the guest card for personal convenience unrelated to time spent as a guest of a resident in the residential permit parking zone.

### **Key Issues:**

**Environmental Impact:** N/A

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A

### **Prior Actions:**

**Alternatives:** (a) enact new ordinance and approve amending and re-enacting of other ordinances;



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- (b); approve part of the amendments and enactment;
- (c) not approve all requested ordinance enactments and amendments.

### **Community Engagement:**

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of amendments and enactment of ordinances

**Attachments:** Proposed amended ordinances and proposed enacted ordinance

### **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.*

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