

**ADOPTED VERSION**

1 AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE A TEMPORARY  
2 CURFEW AND TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN ADDITIONAL  
3 ACTIONS TO ASSIST LAW ENFORCEMENT AT THE  
4 RESORT AREA  
5

6 WHEREAS, on the evening of March 7, 2026, there were multiple incidents of  
7 actual or threatened violent behavior, including a shooting that injured 6 persons, and  
8 several other near stampedes or riots arising from actual or perceived threats of violence,  
9 all of which represented an imminent threat to public health and safety;  
10

11 WHEREAS, exactly 35 days after March 7, on April 11, 2026, there was a shooting  
12 in the Resort Area that had eight victims between the ages of 17 and 24;  
13

14 WHEREAS, the experiences of March 7 and April 11 are consistent with the City's  
15 recent historical experience of unpermitted Oceanfront gatherings on warm evenings in  
16 the late winter and early spring;  
17

18 WHEREAS, the perils associated with such crowds create a complex and dynamic  
19 public safety problem, and notwithstanding a large police presence and other  
20 enforcement actions, these crowds continue to present an acute and imminent public  
21 safety problem;  
22

23 WHEREAS, in light of the April 11, 2026, shooting, the City Council finds the  
24 existing public safety enforcement mechanisms – including the existing city-wide curfew  
25 for unaccompanied minors and the Resort Area unaccompanied minors curfew adopted  
26 on March 12, 2026 – are not sufficient to effectively respond to urgent public safety  
27 threats, like those experienced on March 7 and April 11, and the public safety problems  
28 associated with large crowds, stampedes, and other lawless behavior are believed likely  
29 to imminently reoccur, and therefore, the City Council needs to implement other  
30 enforcement mechanisms to protect public safety, good order, and the general welfare in  
31 light of such threats;  
32

33 WHEREAS, based on the forgoing, the City Council finds there is an imminent  
34 threat of a civil commotion or disturbance in the nature of a riot which constitutes a clear  
35 and present danger such that a curfew is necessary;  
36

37 WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that there are ample alternative places  
38 in the City, other than the geographic area that will be subject to the curfew authorized  
39 herein, for residents and visitors to exercise their right to assembly and other rights  
40 protected by the First Amendment;  
41

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
43 OF VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA, THAT:  
44

- 45 (1) The City Council incorporates the findings set forth above.  
46
- 47 (2) The City Council takes this action as a matter of its exercise of the police power  
48 consistent with the general grant of such powers by Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1102, 15.2-  
49 1700, and City Charter § 2.01.  
50
- 51 (3) The City Council hereby authorizes and directs the Police Chief, upon the  
52 concurrence of the City Manager and Mayor, to enact a temporary curfew, applicable  
53 to all persons regardless of age, pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-925 and City Code  
54 § 23-2.1, for Friday, April 17, 2026, from 9:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. on the following  
55 morning; the same curfew shall commence for the same hours beginning at 9:30 p.m.  
56 and ending at 5:00 a.m. the following morning for Saturday, April 18, 2026; and the  
57 same curfew also shall commence for the same hours beginning at 9:30 p.m. Friday,  
58 April 24, 2026, and ending at 5:00 a.m. the following morning. The geographical area  
59 of such curfew shall be bounded to the south by Rudee Park, the west by the western  
60 boundary of Pacific Avenue, the north by the northern boundary of 31<sup>st</sup> Street (also  
61 referred to as Laskin Road), and the east by the Atlantic Ocean.  
62
- 63 (4) As provided by Virginia Code 15.2-925, the curfew authorized herein shall not apply  
64 to:
- 65 a. Any person traveling to or from home, including a temporary residence
  - 66 such as a hotel, work, a place of worship or a ticketed event;
  - 67 b. Medical personnel;
  - 68 c. Members of the press;
  - 69 d. Federal, state, and local employees and volunteers engaged in official
  - 70 business, including emergency response;
  - 71 e. Military personnel, including but not limited to National Guard troops;
  - 72 f. Travel to or from public meetings of the local governing body;
  - 73 g. Persons seeking emergency services or fleeing any emergency or danger
  - 74 or acting to save other persons from an emergency or danger; and
  - 75 h. Persons who are incapacitated or who are seeking medical care for
  - 76 themselves or others.  
77
- 78 (5) This curfew shall be in addition to the curfew for unaccompanied minors adopted on  
79 March 12, 2026, and the general curfew for unaccompanied minor curfew set forth in  
80 City Code § 23-2.  
81
- 82 (6) The City Manager shall provide appropriate public information using the City's  
83 website and other means of promulgating information to provide the public with  
84 information regarding the curfew and limitations upon pedestrian and vehicular traffic  
85 at the Resort Area.

Adopted by the Council of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rodriguez", is written above a horizontal line.

City Attorney's Office

CA17210

R-3

April 16, 2026