



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of February 21, 2009**

**DATE: February 1, 2009**

**SUBJECT:** Request to advertise a public hearing on proposed amendments to Chapter 14.2 (Motor Vehicles & Traffic) of the Arlington County Code, Section 14.2-73, to increase the fee on motor vehicle licenses from \$24 to \$25 per year.

**C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize advertising for a March 26, 2009, public hearing on proposed amendments to 14.2 (Motor Vehicles & Traffic) of the Arlington County Code, Section 14.2-73, as shown in Attachment I, allowing for a \$1 increase to the motor vehicle license fee from \$24 to \$25 per year.

**ISSUES:** Should the motor vehicle license fee be raised to \$25 per year?

**SUMMARY:** The Code of Virginia § 46.2-753 caps the fee that the County can charge for motor vehicle license fees at \$25 per year. By raising this fee from its current \$24 per year to the statutory limit, the County will generate \$140,000 in revenue and maintain a license fee that is comparable to license fees in other northern Virginia jurisdictions.

**BACKGROUND:** Motor vehicle owners in the County are required to obtain and display a local motor vehicle license tag or “decal” on their windshields within 30 days of acquiring situs in the County or purchasing a vehicle with situs in the County. The decal serves as proof of payment of the annual motor vehicle license fee. In subsequent years, this license must be renewed annually by October 5, and vehicle owners are mailed a decal with their annual personal property tax bill.

Under §14.2-73 of the Arlington County Code, the County’s motor vehicles license fee is \$24 per year. As shown in the table below, the County’s fee is \$1 lower than motor vehicle license fees charged in Loudoun County and the cities of Falls Church and Fairfax. In addition, it is \$9 lower than the fee charged in the City of Alexandria, which dedicates \$8 of its fee for transportation purposes. Fairfax County stopped charging a fee in 2006.

County Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

County Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff: Patricia Weth, Treasurer’s Office

**Annual Motor Vehicle License Fees in Other Northern Virginia Jurisdictions**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	Arlington	City of Alexandria	City of Falls Church	City of Fairfax	Fairfax County	Loudoun County	Prince William County
<b>Fee</b>	\$24	\$33	\$25	\$25	\$0	\$25	\$24

**DISCUSSION:** The local vehicle license fee has not been changed since 2000. A \$1 increase would bring Arlington’s fees into line with other jurisdictions.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The proposed increase in the motor vehicle license fee, which would generate an additional \$140,000 in FY 2010, is included in the County Manager’s FY 2010 Proposed Budget.

**Attachment I**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 14.2 (MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC)  
OF THE ARLINGTON COUNTY CODE RELATING TO THE FEE CHARGED FOR  
MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES**

**BE IT ORDAINED** that Chapter 14.2 of the Arlington County Code is amended as follows:

**§ 14.2-73 Motor vehicle license fee.**

The motor vehicle license fee shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) ~~twenty four dollars (\$24.00)~~ for all motor vehicles designed and used for the transportation of passengers as specified in Virginia Code Section 46.2-694 (A) (1--4),(9--11), as amended. The fee shall be payable prior to the issuance of a license for the first year or any portion thereof, until such time as the initial license expires. Licenses shall thereafter be renewed annually as provided for in section 14.2-71. There shall be a renewal fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) ~~twenty four dollars (\$24.00)~~ for subsequent licensing periods.

This section shall not apply to motor vehicle carriers which pay a privilege tax pursuant to section 11-70 of this Code.