

RESOLUTION

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR LITTER

WHEREAS, litter leaves a blighted stain on our quality of life and is destructive to wildlife and the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, littering is a crime and attracts additional criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, littering influences others to litter; and

WHEREAS, James City County continues to have a litter problem and spends tax dollars to pick up litter along our roadsides and in our public spaces; and

WHEREAS, littering creates a negative impression for tourists and visitors; and

WHEREAS, James City County will increase enforcement of this crime, raise awareness about the act of littering, reduce the overall amount of litter, and will not tolerate this crime through a policy of Zero Tolerance for Litter; and

WHEREAS, special attention will be given to vehicles hauling unsecured loads, acts of illegal dumping and motorist or pedestrians improperly tossing away items including cigarette butts. Other items of focus will be improperly containerized household garbage, commercial dumpsters and construction debris; and

WHEREAS, James City County is a leader in litter prevention and takes a proactive stance each day through litter education in the schools and partnering opportunities with neighborhoods and civic organizations as well as regional, state and national organizations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, does hereby proclaim a policy of Zero Tolerance For Litter and encourages all citizens to work together, stand firm against the act of littering, and to act responsibly throughout the year for a cleaner community to preserve the natural beauty, quality of life and health of our community.

Ruth M. Larson

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Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Teresa J. Fellows

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Deputy Clerk to the Board

	VOTES		
	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
MCLENNON	✓	—	—
ICENHOUR	✓	—	—
SADLER	✓	—	—
HIPPLE	✓	—	—
LARSON	✓	—	—

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, this 12th day of June, 2018.

ZeroTolLtr-res

JAMES CITY COUNTY, VA
ZERO TOLERANCE FOR LITTER
POLICY GUIDELINES

1. Decrease litter and related expenses by increasing enforcement through penalties and public service by offenders.
2. Establish a partnership with VDOT to clarify responsibilities and goals related to roadside litter, improve roadside appearance, maintain clean entrance and exit ramps, put out additional litter prevention signage, and prevent allocation of additional JCC budget expenditures related to littering.
3. Organize and implement a program for 'Catch a Litterbug' so that citizens may report roadside debris, dumping and other offensive littering actions.
4. Enforcement of the litter law and public education regarding requirements for covered loads to prevent truck debris will decrease roadside litter, improve public safety, minimize the attraction of additional litter and reduce crime.
5. Create stronger partnerships with law enforcement, VDOT, askHRgreen.org, Keep America Beautiful, and other national, state and local organizations to educate the community and prevent litter.
6. Partner with businesses on cigarette litter prevention to address problem areas near entrances, curbing, dumpsters and parking lots as well as bus stops and other transition sites.
7. Receptacles at construction sites for recycling and litter/cigarette disposal should be made available in addition to construction debris containers and dumpsters to minimize litter that accumulates as a result of contractors and transient workers.
8. Partner with churches, HOAs, school groups, and community organizations to establish community partnerships and partnerships through neighborhoods.
9. Educate building and construction contractors, developers, landscape companies, and property managers on the importance of litter prevention and James City County's zero tolerance for litter. Enforce litter control measures through inspections upon site permitting and approvals.
10. Work with all citizens to "Team Up to Clean Up", organize litter cleanups, and distribute bags and educational materials to groups and businesses.
11. Identify illegal littering and dump sites so that police enforcement can be increased in those problem areas through additional monitoring measures.
12. Partner with youth offenders to deter future criminal behavior, instill basic job skills, and offer education on the nuisance of litter and impact on the environment.

The U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, defined zero tolerance as "a policy that mandates predetermined consequences or punishments for specified offenses" (NCES, 1998).

Penalties:

- i. Section 10-7 of the County Code states that any person convicted of a violation of the Garbage and Refuse Ordinance shall be subject to a civil penalty. Continued violations could lead to \$3,000 in civil penalties in a 12-month period.
- ii. Section 33.1-346 of the Code of Virginia makes littering or dumping trash a Class 1 misdemeanor, punishable by up to 12 months in jail and/or a fine of up to \$2,500.
- iii. Section 10.1-1143 of the Forestry Code makes it unlawful to throw "any lighted smoking material" from a vehicle. This is a Class 2 misdemeanor violation, punishable by up to 6 months in jail and/or a fine of up to \$1,000.