



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mr. Timothy J. Baroody, City Manager  
**FROM:** Brian Layton, Chief of Police  
**DATE:** September 21, 2020  
**RE:** Petit Larceny City Code Revision (54-19)

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**ISSUE:**

Should the City Council make an amendment to the petit larceny ordinance to increase the value of goods from \$200 to \$1,000, consistent with the 2018 amendment to VA State Code 18.2-96?

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Council should amend the City Code to reflect an increase the value of goods from \$200 to \$1,000.

**BACKGROUND:**

An amendment to VA State Code Section 18.2-96 was adopted in 2020. The amendment mandated that petit larceny would be defined, in part, as the theft not from the person of another of goods and chattels of the value of less than \$1,000. City Code currently sets a \$200 threshold for petit larceny, and should be updated to bring it into compliance with the corresponding provision in the state code. Current ordinance with proposed amendments italicized:

**§ 54-19 Petit Larceny**

Any person who: (i) commits larceny from the person of another of money or other thing of value less than \$5; or (ii) commits simple larceny not from the person of another of goods and chattels of the value of less than ~~\$200~~*1000*; shall be deemed guilty of petit larceny, which shall be punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.



October 13, 2020  
Regular Meeting  
Ordinance No. 20-\_\_

**MOTION:**

**SECOND:**

**RE: Amending § 54-19 of the City Code to Raise the Threshold of Petit Larceny**

**ACTION: APPROVED: Ayes: 0; Nays: 0**

It is hereby ordained by the Fredericksburg City Council that Section 54-19 of the Fredericksburg City Code is amended as follows:

**Section I. Introduction.**

The 2020 General Assembly adopted legislation to raise the threshold dollar amount of money or value of goods taken at which the crime rises from petit larceny to grand larceny to \$1000.00. The Fredericksburg City Code currently sets a \$200.00 threshold for the offense of petit larceny. An update is needed to bring the City Code into compliance with the newly-revised analogous state code provision.

**Section II. City Code Amendment.**

Section 54-19 of the City Code is amended to delete the language shown in strikethrough and add the underlined language as follows:

**§ 54-19 Petit Larceny**

Any person who: (i) commits larceny from the person of another of money or other thing of value less than \$5; or (ii) commits simple larceny not from the person of another of goods and chattels of the value of less than ~~\$200~~1000; shall be deemed guilty of petit larceny, which shall be punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.

**Section III. Effective Date.**

This amendment to City Code § 54-19 is effective immediately.

**Votes:**

**Ayes:**

**Nays:**

**Absent from Vote:**

**Absent from Meeting:**

Approved as to form:

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Kathleen Dooley, City Attorney

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***Clerk's Certificate***

*I, the undersigned, certify that I am Clerk of Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and that the foregoing is a true copy of Ordinance No. 20- duly adopted at a meeting of the City Council meeting held October 13, 2020 at which a quorum was present and voted.*

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***Tonya B. Lacey, MMC***  
***Clerk of Council***