AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE CAR TAX RELIEF BY TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING CERTAIN VEHICLE LICENSE FEES.

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 46.2-752 of the Code of Virginia, the City is authorized to levy and assess taxes and charge license fees on motor vehicles (“Vehicle License Fee”), subject to the limitations and restrictions set forth in state law;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article X, § 4 of the Virginia Constitution and § 58.1-3500 of the Code of Virginia, the City is authorized to levy and assess taxes on motor vehicles as a form of tangible personal property, subject to the limitations and restrictions set forth in state law;
WHEREAS, the City has exercised said authority to require the Vehicle License Fee, in the manner and amounts set forth in § 24-160 of the Norfolk City Code, 1979, and also to require the payment of the tax on tangible personal property, including motor vehicles, in the manner and amounts set forth in § 24-3 of the Norfolk City Code, 1979;

WHEREAS, the City Council is aware that, due to irregular and exceptional economic circumstances throughout the United States, including in the Commonwealth of Virginia and in the City of Norfolk, the value of motor vehicles that are subject to the Vehicle License Fee and the tangible personal property tax is generally increasing in ways that are unanticipated and fiscally significant;

WHEREAS, the most recent estimates by the City’s Department of Budget and Strategic Planning at the time of the adoption of this Ordinance indicate that the revenues realized by the City as a result of the levy of the tangible personal property tax upon motor vehicles is approximately $10 million greater than was previously anticipated (“Additional Revenues”);

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council to provide temporary relief, in whole or in part and only temporarily, to taxpayers of the City who may be adversely affected by the irregular and exceptional economic increase in the value of motor vehicles generally, provided that the total value of such relief does not exceed the amount of the Additional Revenues; and
WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council that any portion of the Additional Revenues that exceed the aggregate amount of the temporary relief provide to taxpayers herein, if any, should be dedicated exclusively to road resurfacing projects that are shown on the City’s current five-year resurfacing plan; now therefore

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Norfolk:

Section 1:- That every owner of a motor vehicle, motorcycle, or motorbicycle who would otherwise be required to pay the Vehicle License Fee set forth in § 24-160 of the Norfolk City Code, 1979 shall be and hereby is made exempt from the requirement to pay the Vehicle License Fee for the calendar year commencing on January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2022 ("Tax Year 2022").

Section 2:- That the temporary exemption granted by this Ordinance does not and shall not be construed to extend beyond Tax Year 2022 such that, after Tax Year 2022, every owner of a motor vehicle shall be subject to the Vehicle License Fee in the manner set forth in the City Code, unless this relief is expressly reenacted by a subsequent Ordinance adopted by the City Council.

Section 3:- That the City Manager shall, in accordance with his best judgment regarding the needs of the City and the status of road resurfacing projects in the City, consider allocating all that portion of the Additional Revenues that exceed the aggregate amount of all funds not received because of the exemption from the payment of Vehicle License Fees granted by this Ordinance, if any, to road resurfacing projects approved as part of the City’s five-year resurfacing plan for fiscal years 2023 through 2027, the locations of which are shown on the map marked as “Exhibit A” and attached hereto.
Section 4: That this ordinance shall be in effect from the date of its adoption.

ATTACHMENT:
Exhibit A (1 page)

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDING
Account No.: 1000-105-020-4116
Amount: Up To $6,000,000

Adopted by Council March 22, 2022
Effective March 22, 2022

TRUE COPY
TESTE:

RICHARD ALLAN BULL

BY: