

CITY COUNCIL

READ FILE COVER SHEET

Subject: **Ordinance 1115 concerning Changing the Traffic Pattern
on Erie Street**

(Public Hearing)

Date: **7/18/2023**

Notice: Any comments made after 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the Council Meeting will not be seen in the agenda packet.

Purpose:

- FYI
- Read and Comment as Needed**
- Action Required by August 7, 2023**
- In Confidential File Drawer

Approve:

Johnny Boker

Yes

No

No Comment

Comment: _____

Casi Boyer

Yes

No

No Comment

Comment: _____

Vicki Jones

Yes

No

No Comment

Comment: _____

Jim Ringsaker

Yes

No

No Comment

Comment: _____

Jason Robertson

Yes

No

No Comment

Comment: _____

Tammy Lynn

Schneegas

Yes

No

No Comment

Comment: _____

Note: N/A

CITY COUNCIL
OF
HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 1115

Introduced by _____ Council Member Boyer

AN ORDINANCE BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND, ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF ARTICLE XI-E OF THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, AND SECTIONS 33, 34, 65, AND 66 OF THE HAVRE DE GRACE CITY CHARTER TO CHANGE THE TRAFFIC PATTERN ON ERIE STREET

On: July 17, 2023

at: 7:00 p.m.

Ordinance introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing is scheduled for August 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

EXPLANATION

Underlining indicates matter added to existing law.

[Bold Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Amendments proposed prior to final adoption will be noted on a separate page with line references or by handwritten changes on the draft legislation.

31 **WHEREAS**, in August 2008, the Maryland Transportation Authority and the City of
32 Havre de Grace closed Erie Street between Juniata Street and U.S. Route 40 in Havre de Grace for
33 the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge preservation project but allowed Erie Street to remain open
34 (two way) to local traffic only so residents could access it from eastbound U.S. Route 40.; and
35

36 **WHEREAS**, by Resolution 2011-11 the City Council made the westernmost part of the
37 800 block of Erie Street a one way street and prevented westbound traffic on Erie from entering
38 U.S. Route 40 and allowing two-way, local traffic only for the rest of the street; and
39

40 **WHEREAS**, in February 2016 the Mayor signed Executive Order 2016-01 re-opening the
41 800 block of Erie to two-way traffic with access to U.S. Route. 40, at the request of the State
42 Highway Administration, noting that the change of traffic flow on the 800 block of Erie Street had
43 caused severe traffic congestion and a safety issue at the intersection of Ohio and Ontario Streets;
44 and
45

46 **WHEREAS**, at the June 5, 2023 City Council meeting citizens residing on the 800 block
47 of Erie Street testified about ongoing property damage and personal safety concerns due to
48 increased car and truck traffic through the narrow residential street by vehicles accessing U.S.
49 Route 40 from Juniata Street; and
50

51 **WHEREAS**, the Mayor issued Declaration 2023-01 stating that emergency conditions
52 existed and executed emergency Executive Order 2023-01 effective on June 15, 2023 making the
53 800 block of Erie Street for one way eastbound traffic only from U.S. Route 40 to Juniata Street
54 for a thirty-day period subject to extension by the City Council for another thirty days to give the
55 City Council time to review the matter and enact an ordinance for a more permanent solution to
56 the traffic patterns on Erie Street; and
57

58 **WHEREAS**, the 800 block of Erie Street is a narrow residential street approximately 29
59 feet wide with 30 residences and only 11 driveways with parking permitted on both sides of the
60 street; and
61

62 **WHEREAS**, the street was clearly marked for no truck traffic, yet trucks over five (5) ton
63 Gross Vehicle Weight Rating ("GVWR") continuously used the 800 block of Erie Street to access
64 U.S. Route 40; and
65

66 **WHEREAS**, since 2016, the City received a steady volume of complaints from citizens
67 living on the 800 block of Erie Street reporting safety concerns as well as multiple reported cases
68 of destruction of personal property due to the high volume of two- way traffic on such a narrow
69 street; and
70

71 **WHEREAS**, the 800 block of Erie Street was used for both ingress and egress to U S.
72 Route 40 by a high volume of traffic inundating the residential street with nearly continuous traffic
73 and creating a public safety threat for citizens living in the area; and
74

