Administrative Directive

Title: Petitioning, Picketing and Other Expressive Activities in the Judicial Center and Correctional Center

Index Number: 3.02

Date of Adoption: September 30, 1994

Date of Revision: February 20, 2026 (Exhibit B Revised July 2026)

1.0 Purpose and Need

The Judicial Center and the Correctional Center are not public forums. This directive is established in view of the potential for disturbance caused by activities not related to the administration of justice or corrections, as applicable.

2.0 Definitions

Judicial Center also known as a courthouse is defined as a structure which houses judicial functions for a governmental entity. For purposes of this Directive, the Judicial Center, also referred to as the Courthouse, includes the structure identified as Building 10 in the map of the Virginia Beach Municipal Campus, includes the exterior steps and ramps leading to all entrances as well as the vehicular driveways and designated parking areas surrounding the building.

The Correctional Center is adjacent to the Judicial Center, and it is wholly under the control and jurisdiction of the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office (VBSO). For purposes of this Directive, the Correctional Center includes the structure identified as Building 7 in the map of the Virginia Beach Municipal Campus, includes the exterior steps and ramps leading to all entrances as well as the vehicular driveways and designated parking areas surrounding the building.

3.0 Administrative Directive

Restrictions

1. No expressive activities, including, but not limited to, petitioning, picketing, displaying signs or posters, solicitation, demonstrating, pamphlet distribution and conducting polls are permitted in the Judicial Center or the Correctional Center. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, in light of its significance in the role of administration of justice, there is a designated expressive activity area provided in the attached map, incorporated herein as Exhibit A. This

area shall be available for expressive activities, including but not limited to petitioning, picketing, displaying of signs or posters, solicitation, demonstrating, pamphlet distribution, and conducting polls. No signs may be posted or placed in such areas unless such sign is held or displayed by a person engaging in expressive activities. The expressive activity area shall be available during the hours when the Judicial Center is open for business. The expressive activity area may be subject to closure if the judges of the circuit court exercise their right pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-1800(F) to control such area.

2. Sales and soliciting orders for goods or services in City buildings and on public property are governed by Section 26-3 of the Virginia Beach City Code.

Scope

1. This directive shall be applicable to the interior of the Judicial Center building and the Correctional Center, the exterior steps and ramps leading to all entrances, and the vehicle driveways and designated parking lots surrounding the buildings. These guidelines do not restrict expressive activities conducted in compliance with the City Code on the public sidewalks outside the building. The public sidewalks do not include the area within the gates at the closed traffic circle, which will be appropriately marked as an area reserved solely for pedestrian access to the Judicial Center.

2. These rules are content neutral, subject to evenhanded application, irrespective of message content.

3. These rules shall not restrict informational activities or displays conducted or sponsored by the City, the VBSO or judicial authorities for the benefit of municipal employees or the general public, nor prevent public expression, conducted in accordance with established rules of procedure, at judicial hearings or authorized public meetings.

4. Nothing herein limits a security order issued by the chief judge of the circuit court. A copy of the most recent security order issued by the circuit court is attached hereto as Exhibit B

4.0 Procedure to Accomplish Administrative Directive

Any person in violation of this directive shall be advised of these provisions and afforded opportunity to comply. If the person thereafter fails to comply, the deputy sheriff in charge of the building(s), or his designee, should request him to leave; and if he refuses to do so, the person may be charged with trespassing.

5.0 Responsibility and Authority

The Sheriff shall be responsible for the administration of this directive. The senior deputy in any area affected by unauthorized expressive activity shall be responsible for initiating appropriate action to terminate such activity.