

Ordinance 13-18 and R-9-18

City Emblems – Prohibited Uses

Staff Report

The purpose of this legislation is to regulate the use of the City seal, City flag, and City logo. The companion Resolution 9-18 establishes the fine(s) for a violation of Section 1.08.060.

The City Council has adopted an official seal, flag, and logo, which are used in the authentication of the official documents and in the conduct of official City business. The authorized use of the City seal, City flag, or City logo informs the public that the City's reputation for integrity and service to the public is behind an event or organization acting in partnership with the City. The unauthorized use of the City seal, City flag, or City logo may mislead the public into believing that the City of Annapolis is supporting certain activities, individuals or entities. Appropriate regulations are necessary in order to insure that the City seal, City flag, and City logo are not utilized except in conjunction with official City business.

This legislation adds a new Section 1.08.060 to the City Code whereby unauthorized use of any City emblem (the City seal, City flag or City logo) is unlawful and punishable by imposition of a fine plus damages.

Unauthorized use of any City emblem, or any representation or near representation thereof, is stated to include for:

1. any political purpose, including but not limited to, mailers or handouts; or
2. any purpose which would mislead the public into believing that such representation implies the endorsement, support, approval, sponsorship, participation, involvement, or association with the City of Annapolis, the city council, or any department, official, or employee of the city.