

# **Transportation and Environmental Service's Solid Waste Division ADOPT-A-BLOCK AGREEMENT**

The City of Alexandria, Virginia, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, hereinafter called the "Department," and \_\_\_\_\_, hereinafter called the "Group," recognize the need and the desirability to effect litter-free streets and are entering into this Agreement to permit the Group to contribute toward the effort of maintaining litter-free streets.

## **BY SIGNATURE BELOW, THE GROUP AGREES TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

- Participants shall be at least eight years of age. When participants are 17 years of age or younger, the Group shall furnish adequate supervision, at least one adult for every three children.
- Groups shall adopt a section of roadway that is maintained by the City. The roadway should contain a minimum of four blocks (one block includes both sides of the street) in length and is required to adopt that section of roadway for a minimum of a two year period. At the conclusion of the period, groups may renew their contract, modify (example choose a different section of the roadway) or end their contract.
- The Group shall collect litter as many times as necessary to keep the area reasonably litter free, ( a minimum of four times per year). Although it is not mandatory, the Department would prefer that litter collection dates be planned to coincide with the Department's annual coordinated clean-up events. Those dates are available from the Department's Solid Waste Division, (703) 519-3486.
- The Group acknowledges that the condition of the adopted roadway will have a direct reflection upon the Group and its efforts.
- The Group shall obtain the required litter collection supplies and materials from the Department's Solid Waste Division located at 2900 Business Center Drive, during regular business hours. Materials and supplies furnished by the Department (vests and gloves) shall be issued one time to the Group leader and the Group leader will be responsible for maintaining these materials for future clean-ups. Bags for clean-up will be provided for each clean-up.

- The City will not be responsible for injuries to group members, or for injuries caused by group members to others, which arise out of cleanup work.

### **Safety Procedures**

The Group leader shall instruct participants to strictly adhere to the following safety procedures throughout the term of this agreement. A review of the safety procedures shall be presented to **all** participants by the Group leader prior to each cleanup event.

- Separate into groups if possible. Participants are strongly encouraged to work closely with at least one other person.
- Concentrate on cleaning one side of the roadway at a time. Do not crisscross the roadway to collect litter.
- Park your vehicle in a legal, on-street space, or attempt to obtain permission to park in a business parking lot or a private driveway. If this is not possible, park the vehicle at least ten feet off the shoulder of the roadway.
- Group participants are encouraged to form car-pools to reach the site.
- While collecting litter, participants shall face oncoming traffic working, and be prepared to move out of the way of emergency vehicles or vehicles in emergency situations.
- Avoid overexertion and drink plenty of water, especially on warm muggy days.
- Be aware of members' allergies, and bring a first aid kit in case of an emergency.
- Hold a safety refresher session prior to each pickup to remind members of potential safety hazards.
- Be aware of places where snakes may be located, such as around logs or in high grasses. Be alert for stinging bees, Poison Ivy or Oak and noxious weeds (Canadian Thistle, Wild Cucumber, Kudzu, etc.)
- To avoid potential injuries to Participants, do not overfill or squeeze trash bags, as the bags may contain glass or other sharp objects.
- When each litter collection event has been completed, the Group may leave bags several feet from the roadway, at a central location. The Department would prefer that the bags be placed on a straight stretch of the street rather than on curves or bridges.

### **What to wear:**

- Orange safety vests (provided by the Department; issued only once)

- Gloves to protect hands from sharp objects, insects or poison ivy (provided by the Department; issued only once).
- Light colored clothing for visibility
- A hat, shirt with long sleeves,
- Leather shoes or boots with ankle support.
- Use sun screen to avoid sunburn.
- Do not wear headphones while collecting litter. You must remain alert at all times to hear and see oncoming traffic or emergency vehicles.

**Do not pickup:**

- Hazardous items including hypodermic syringes, broken glass, or dead animals. The Group leader shall notify the Solid Waste Division for collection of such items.
- Large, heavy items such as appliances or barrels are to be left for Solid Waste personnel. Inform the Solid Waste Division of these items and their locations.
- Litter on bridges, overpasses, tunnels, construction or mowing sites. These areas are especially dangerous for participants.
- During rush hours, on very hot days, during rain or snow, at dusk or at night, or during holidays.

**THE DEPARTMENT AGREES TO ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING:**

- Install a sign, after first clean-up, at the entrance to each Adopt-A-Block with the Group name or organization printed in block letters on the blue and white Adopt-A-Block sign.
- Provide vest, trash bags, gloves, safety literature, and safety training to each group leader (as requested).
- Coordinate publicity efforts with the Group to solicit local media coverage (as requested).
- Remove filled litter bags from the adopted section following cleanups.
- To remove large, heavy, or hazardous items found and/or reported.

If in the sole judgement of the Department, it is found that the adopting Group is not meeting the terms conditions of this agreement, upon 15 days notice the Department may terminate the adoption agreement and remove the signs, or to assign a different

section of roadway for the Group's sponsorship. Either option shall be the sole discretion of the Department.

Only permanently established businesses, government entities or community and public organizations, will be considered to participate in the Adopt-A-Block Program.

Eligible organization shall comply with local, state, and federal laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, religion, color, age, sexual orientation, or national origin.

The Department recognizes the following Group as the adopting organization for this agreement and the Group accepts the responsibility to collect litter at the following site (please list site to include the four block minimum):

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And promote a litter-free environment in the community for a period beginning (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_ And ending (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_ ( a minimum of two years).

By signature below, I \_\_\_\_\_, Adopt-a-Block Group representative, has read and fully understand the requirements of the Adopt-A-Block Program and agree to adhere to the conditions and terms of this contract.

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Group Representative Signature

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Department Representative

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Address (physical address required)

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Authorized Signature

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Phone Number

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Date

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E-Mail Address

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Name of Adopting Group

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Name to appear on sign  
(If different than name of group)