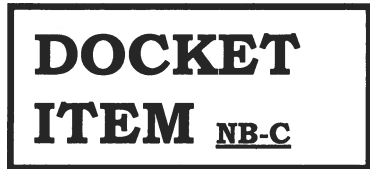


New Business Item C

July 13, 2021



NB (C) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE NATIONAL MOTTO “IN GOD WE TRUST” ON CITY VEHICLES-CITY MANAGER

At the request of Councilmember Carey, staff conducted research into the cost and timeline of placing the words “In God We Trust” on City vehicles. Fleet staff members determined that the cost to purchase laminated lettering and affix them to our vehicles would be approximately \$87,000. The decals themselves would cost \$6,000 and the \$81,000 in labor costs would be absorbed by the Department and will not require an additional appropriation from City Council.

Staff members have estimated that it will take up to one year to install decals on 1,500 City vehicles, assuming the decals would be added during regular maintenance appointments and not during a special visit.

Presented to City Council is a resolution authorizing the use of the National Motto “In God We Trust” on all City vehicles.

Staff: Robert Geis, Deputy City Manager

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council  
**FROM:** Robert Geis, Deputy City Manager *RG*  
**VIA:** Christopher M. Price, City Manager *OMP*  
**DATE:** June 15, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** "In God We Trust" Decals

In April 2021, Councilmember Carey asked the staff to research the cost and timeline of placing the words "In God We Trust" on city vehicles.

The city's Fleet Staff has determined that we can purchase the laminated lettering (decals) and affix them to our vehicles for approximately \$87,000. Decals would cost \$6,000 and we assess labor costs to be approximately \$81,600. The cost for this will be absorbed within the operational budget and will not require an additional appropriation from city council to execute this task. A picture of what the decals could look like is below.

It is assessed that it would take staff up to one year to install decals on all 1500 vehicles, assuming that we would conduct this work when the vehicle came in for routine maintenance and not a specially scheduled time.

We are prepared to move forward on this upon City Council's direction.



**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE NATIONAL MOTTO "IN GOD WE TRUST" ON CITY VEHICLES.**

**WHEREAS**, "In God We Trust" has been featured on U.S. currency since 1865, and this practice was affirmed by the U.S. Congress in 1907; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Congress again affirmed the usage on currency in 1955, and declared it the national motto by statute in 1956; and

**WHEREAS**, the motto has been displayed in the City Council chamber since 2016, and is displayed or inscribed on many federal, state, and local buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, public safety and other municipal vehicles in other jurisdictions throughout the country display the national motto as an expression of patriotism.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, hereby authorizes the use of the motto "In God We Trust" on all City vehicles.

**ADOPTED** by the Council of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney