

## M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: October 23, 2007

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Emmett H. Harmon, Chief of Police  
Adam R. Kinsman, Deputy County Attorney

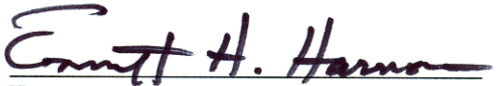
SUBJECT: Ordinance to Permit Use of Golf Carts on Public Highways in the County


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Several months ago, citizens living the Chickahominy Haven neighborhood approached the Board of Supervisors regarding the use of golf carts on the public roads in their neighborhood. Absent a statute to the contrary, the use of golf carts along public highways is strictly prohibited. The residents of Chickahominy Haven regularly use golf carts and requested that the Board consider adopting an Ordinance to permit the use of golf carts on the roadways in their neighborhood. At the request of the Board, a study group was formed to consider the potential implications of this request. The study group met on August 27 at the James City County Library and reached a general consensus that the use of golf carts on the public highways in Chickahominy Haven would not be objectionable, provided that certain safety considerations were addressed. We concur with the consensus of the study group.

The Code of Virginia requires that the Board adopt an Ordinance authorizing golf cart use on specifically designated public highways in the County. Because Chickahominy Haven may not be the only neighborhood that may request such a designation, we have drafted revisions to the County Code that establish universal standards for any public highway designated for golf cart use. Importantly, these universal standards incorporate safety measures that we feel are necessary for golf cart use along any public highway, regardless of where such highway is located. The proposed County Code revisions include an application procedure to ensure that each request for designation is considered in the same manner. Once an application for designation is submitted, it will be considered by the Chief of Police and he will then forward the application to the Board, along with his recommendation. We recommend adoption of these proposed changes to the County Code.

Following careful consideration of Chickahominy Haven's request and the issues raised by the study group, we feel that golf carts may be accommodated along these highways if the proposed safety standards are met. Should the Board choose to amend the County Code to permit the designation of certain streets for golf cart use, we also recommend adoption of the attached Ordinance designating each of the public highways in Chickahominy Haven for golf cart use.

  
Emmett H. Harmon

  
Adam R. Kinsman

EHH/ARK/gb  
GolfCartsOrd.mem

Attachment