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City of Fairfax
NEWS RELEASE
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fairfax City Joins the Starship Revolution to Provide Home Delivery of Food, Goods from Local Businesses

FAIRFAX, Va. — Beginning Friday, April 17, a number of central Fairfax City restaurants and stores will take to the streets — sending food and essential goods (including groceries) to customers via Starship robots.

The timing of this service is advantageous, providing a crucial lifeline during the COVID-19 pandemic by delivering essential materials to households under Governor Ralph Northam's executive order.

Christopher Bruno, director of the Fairfax City Economic Development Office, said, "Starship is an important addition to the city during this time of crisis. It's an innovative new business that helps directly connect city businesses with city residents while maintaining safe social distancing. I applaud businesses like Starship for helping to push the local economy forward while fostering innovation — something we strive for here in Fairfax City."

Using Starship is easy: download the app on your Android or Apple device, confirm your address is in the delivery zone, and choose from the current list of participating businesses. Addresses within in the delivery zone have received flyers explaining how the service works and which businesses are included.

Visit starship-fairfaxcity.com for more information.



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The first phase, which covers a little more than one square mile of central Fairfax City, includes about half a dozen businesses. (Customers will find a list of participating businesses in the app. Be sure to check the app regularly for the current, complete list of businesses that have joined the Starship revolution.) Don't see one of your favorite businesses? Contact them and encourage them to join the service.

The program is assisted in part by a \$10,000 support incentive from the Fairfax City Economic Development Authority. This incentive helps lower the average delivery commission charged by Starship to each participating business — which in turn reduces the delivery cost to businesses (and, subsequently, to customers).

The service will continue through the COVID-19 emergency, and the program will be reviewed weekly by the Economic Development Office. The city will evaluate the program after emergency declarations are lifted.

"We want this to benefit both our residents and businesses," Bruno said. "Both populations are vulnerable in very different ways, and both need assistance from each other. Together, we can weather this unprecedented event and support each other as best we can. That's what makes Fairfax City strong."