

Section 35.1-20.1. Inspection Warrants.

As provided by Section 15.2-2286(15) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this chapter, the zoning administrator, or his duly authorized agent, shall have the authority to apply for the issuance of inspection warrants by a magistrate or court of competent jurisdiction. The zoning administrator or his agent may present sworn testimony to a magistrate or court of competent jurisdiction and if such sworn testimony establishes probable cause that a zoning ordinance violation has occurred, request that the magistrate or court grant the zoning administrator or his agent an inspection warrant to enable the zoning administrator or his agent to enter the subject dwelling for the purpose of determining whether violations of the zoning ordinance exist. The zoning administrator or his agent shall make a reasonable effort to obtain consent from the owner or tenant of the subject dwelling prior to seeking the issuance of an inspection warrant under this section. It shall be a violation of the zoning ordinance for any owner, managing agent, tenant, occupant or other person, to deny the zoning administrator, or his duly authorized agent, access to any dwelling after the zoning administrator, or his duly authorized agent have obtained an inspection warrant from a magistrate or a court of competent jurisdiction.