

Chapter 26 - Parking

ARTICLE II. STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING AND OPERATION OF VEHICLES

SEC. 26-81. OWNER AND OPERATOR RESPONSIBLE FOR ILLEGAL PARKING.

It shall be unlawful for any person, having registered in his name or owning or operating or having in charge any vehicle, knowingly to allow or suffer or permit the same to stop, stand or be parked in any street in the city in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or other ordinances of the city regulating the stopping, standing or parking of vehicles.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07)

SEC. 26-82. PARKING CITATIONS ISSUED FOR RENTAL VEHICLES.

(a) The parking official shall cause notice to be provided by mail or electronic transmission to the registered owner of a rental vehicle that is the subject of a parking citation, provided that the registered owner has supplied information required by procedures adopted by the director in connection with this subsection. The notice shall be provided within 20 days after the issuance of the parking citation.

(b) If a parking citation is issued for a violation committed by the operator of a rental vehicle and the lessee or other person parking the vehicle fails to make an appearance on the parking citation within 45 days following the date of its issuance, then the lessor shall, within 30 days following the date of mailing of a written default notice from the parking official, pay the applicable fine for the citation including all applicable fees and costs on behalf of the lessee. Any default notice authorized to be mailed under this section may be deposited in the United States mail addressed as shown on the state vehicle registration records for the rental vehicle lessor or addressed to any other address used by the lessor for its rental vehicle business operations within the city.

(c) Nothing herein shall be construed to preclude rental vehicle lessors from obtaining a pledge of financial security from lessees or otherwise securing payment for or recovering the cost from the lessees on any parking citations that are paid on behalf of lessees hereunder.

(d) The parking official shall, from time to time, provide reports regarding collection activities under this section to the mayor and city council. Upon report that any lessor has failed to timely comply with any obligation under this section, the mayor may cause a hearing regarding the matter to be scheduled before the city council at one of its regular meetings or at a special meeting called for that purpose. The lessor shall be entitled to at least 20 days' prior written notice of the hearing and shall be provided a list of the parking citations for which the lessor is alleged to have failed to timely comply with any provision of this section. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with procedural rules developed and promulgated by the mayor, which shall be consistent with principles of due process. If, following the hearing, the city council finds the lessor to have violated this section, then the city council may, unless otherwise prohibited by law, terminate any city license, permit, franchise, lease, concession, occupancy agreement, or other regulatory or contractual authorization or agreement by or through which the lessor or any other entity affiliated with the lessor conducts any business activities upon any premises owned or

controlled by the city or upon the streets of the city. If the city council finds that the violation was not intentional and that the lessor has taken effective measures to prevent a recurrence, then it may issue a warning or suspension in lieu of a termination. The remedies provided in this section are in addition to any other action that is authorized in this Code or otherwise by law and shall not be deemed to preclude the taking of any other remedial action by the city.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07)

SEC. 26-83. VETERANS' PARKING PRIVILEGES.

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of Section 681.008 of the Texas Transportation Code, as amended, the exemption provided in subsection (a) of Section 681.008 shall also apply to payment of fees imposed by the city for parking in a public parking garage or public parking lot. This exemption shall not, however, extend to areas designated as hourly parking in Houston Airport System lots and parking garages.

(b) The exemption extended herein shall be applied in a manner that is consistent with the authorizing provisions of state law. As authorized by state law, the exemption shall apply to a vehicle in display of:

(1) Disabled Veterans license plates issued under Section 504.202(b) or 504.202(c) of the Texas Transportation Code;

(2) Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients license plates issued under Section 504.315(e) of the Texas Transportation Code;

(3) Former Prisoner of War license plates issued under Section 504.315(c) of the Texas Transportation Code;

(4) Pearl Harbor Survivors license plates issued under Section 504.315(d) of the Texas Transportation Code; or

(5) Purple Heart Recipients license plates issued under Section 504.315(g) of the Texas Transportation Code;

when the vehicle is being operated by or for the transportation of the registrant of the vehicle. The directors who have jurisdiction over the various city-operated parking garages and lots to which this privilege applies may promulgate rules for the operation of this exemption. The rules shall be consistent with applicable state law, and may include, but not be limited to, a requirement that persons requesting free parking provide a registration receipt and driver license or other evidence that the vehicle is in fact being operated by or for the transportation of the vehicle registrant.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07)

SEC. 26-84. BLOCKING ROADWAYS.

No person shall park any vehicle upon a street or alley in such a manner or under such conditions as to leave available less than ten feet of the width of the roadway for free movement of vehicular traffic.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07)

SEC. 26-85. PARKING OR STANDING ON TWO-WAY ROADWAY.

A driver who stops or parks on a two-way roadway shall do so in the direction of authorized traffic movement with the right-hand wheels of the vehicle parallel to and not more than 18 inches from the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, unless otherwise indicated by one or more signs, curb markings, or other traffic-control devices applicable to the roadway.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07; Ord. No. 09-2, § 7, 1-7-09)

SEC. 26-86. PARKING OR STANDING ON ONE-WAY ROADWAY.

In the event traffic is restricted to one direction upon a roadway, a driver who stops or parks on the roadway shall park the vehicle in the direction of authorized traffic movement with the right-hand wheels parallel to and not more than 18 inches from the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway. Where authorized by one or more signs, curb markings, or other traffic-control devices applicable to the roadway, a vehicle may be parked on the left-hand side of the roadway, but only with the left-hand wheels parallel to and not more than 18 inches from the left-hand curb or edge of the roadway.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07; Ord. No. 09-2, § 7, 1-7-09)

SEC. 26-87. PARKING PROHIBITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON SPECIFIC STREETS GENERALLY.

(a) When one or more signs are erected giving notice thereof, no person shall park a vehicle at any time upon any of the streets so signed.

(b) When one or more signs are erected in each block giving notice thereof, no person shall park a vehicle between the hours designated by such signs on any day, unless otherwise designated.

(c) When one or more signs are erected in each block giving notice thereof, no person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle between the hours specified on such signs on any day, unless otherwise designated.

(d) When one or more signs are erected in each block giving notice thereof, no person shall park a vehicle for longer than the specified period at any time between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. of any day, except Sundays and legal holidays.

(e) The provisions of this section prohibiting the standing or parking of a vehicle shall apply at all times or at those times herein specified or as indicated on an official sign, except when it is necessary to stop a vehicle to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or traffic-control device.

(f) The provisions of this section imposing a time limit on parking shall not relieve any person from the duty to observe other and more restrictive provisions prohibiting or limiting the stopping, standing or parking of vehicles in specified places or at specified times.

(g) When one or more signs prohibiting parking are erected upon narrow streets as authorized in section 45-117 of this Code, no person shall park a vehicle upon any such street in violation of any such sign.

(h) When one or more signs are erected indicating no parking upon either side of a street adjacent to any school property as authorized in section 45-118 of this Code, no person shall park a vehicle in any such designated place.

(i) When one or more signs are erected at hazardous or congested places as authorized in section 45-119 of this Code, no person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle in any such designated place.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07; Ord. No. 09-2, § 7, 1-7-09)

SEC. 26-88. PARKING AREAS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

(a) Unauthorized use of parking spaces designated pursuant to section 45-128 of this Code for the exclusive use of vehicles transporting persons with disabilities shall be unlawful and shall be punished as provided by Chapter 681 of the Texas Transportation Code.

(b) Pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of Section 681.006 of the Texas Transportation Code, as amended, the owner of a vehicle transporting persons with disabilities is exempt from payment of parking meter fees required in section 26-157 of this Code, provided, the vehicle may not remain in the metered space beyond the maximum legal parking limit applicable to the parking meter zone.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07; Ord. No. 09-2, § 7, 1-7-09)

SEC. 26-89. RESTRICTED USE OF BUS ZONES AND TAXI ZONES.

No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle other than a bus in a bus zone, or other than a taxicab in a taxi zone, when any such zone has been officially designated and appropriately signed, except that the driver of a passenger vehicle may temporarily stop therein for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading passengers when such stopping does not interfere with any bus or taxicab waiting to enter or about to enter such zone.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07)

SEC. 26-90. USE OF ESPLANADE, MEDIAN STRIP OR TRAFFIC ISLAND.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, operate, leave unattended any animal and/or livestock or park any vehicle on, over or across any esplanade, median strip or traffic island.

(b) In addition to any applicable fine or penalty, any animal and/or livestock left unattended or vehicle parked upon an esplanade, median strip or traffic island in violation of this section shall be subject to being removed or towed at the direction of any law enforcement officer.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any city employee, city contractor or employee thereof, or any person whose duty it is to maintain the esplanade, median strip or traffic island or any equipment thereon.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07)

SEC. 26-91. PARKING ON RESTRICTED CITY PROPERTY.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to park, or leave unattended, or drive a vehicle into or upon any property owned and controlled by the city and restricted to use by authorized persons and vehicles only, without first obtaining permission in writing to do so from the proper city officer, agent or employee, authorized by the city council to give such permission. The director of the department to which such property is inventoried is hereby

authorized to restrict the use of such property only to persons and vehicles authorized in writing by such director to use such property.

(b) All property of the city that has been restricted, either by the city council or by its duly authorized agent, to use by authorized persons and vehicles only, shall be designated by one or more appropriate and conspicuous signs posted at all vehicular entrances thereto, and such signs shall advise that the property is restricted to authorized persons and vehicles only, that all other vehicles will be towed or driven away, and that the driver of any illegally parked vehicle shall be subject to a civil fine. The department to which such property is inventoried shall cause such signs to be prepared and posted. The city shall incur no liability for damage caused to any such vehicle by such removal and the owner, by permitting his vehicle to be placed on such property, thereby impliedly waives claim for any damages thereto that may be caused by such towing and storage.

(c) In addition to any other penalty provided for such violation, any vehicle parked, left unattended or driven upon any such restricted property of the city without permission from the proper authority having been first obtained in the manner above provided, is hereby declared to be an obstruction, and shall be subject to being towed or driven away by, or at the direction of any person designated by the head of the department to which such property is inventoried, or any city police officer, to a place of impoundment in the manner provided by law.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07; Ord. No. 09-2, § 8, 1-7-09)

SEC. 26-92. VEHICLES ON PARKING LOTS NOT TO PROTRUDE OVER PROPERTY LINE.

It shall be unlawful for any person who operates, keeps or maintains, or causes to be operated, kept or maintained, a parking lot where automobiles or other vehicles are parked on private property adjacent to public streets or sidewalks to permit any automobile or vehicle parked thereon to be parked in such a manner so as to protrude over the property line of such parking lot or to obstruct in any manner any public street or sidewalk adjacent to such private property.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07)

SEC. 26-93. PARKING IN EXCESS OF TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly leave parked or standing in any public street, alley or other public place any vehicle for a longer continuous period of time than 24 hours.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07)

SEC. 26-94. TIME LIMIT FOR TRAILER PARKING.

It shall be unlawful for any person to leave, stand or park a trailer, semi-trailer, pole trailer or house trailer, either attached or unattached to a motor vehicle, on the public streets of the city for a period of time in excess of two hours.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07)

SEC. 26-95. PARKING OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES PROHIBITED BETWEEN CERTAIN HOURS.

It shall be unlawful for any person to park or stand any commercial vehicle on or upon the streets between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. except during the act of loading or

unloading. It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the commercial vehicle is actually in the process of being loaded or unloaded.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07)

SEC. 26-96. LARGE VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS.

No person shall park or cause to be parked or permit to remain parked any large vehicle upon any street or highway in any residential district. It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the large vehicle is:

- (1) Actually in the process of being loaded or unloaded;
- (2) Parked while the driver or operator is performing a service visit; or
- (3) Leased or borrowed and parked for a period of not more than 72 hours.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07; Ord. No. 08-442, § 3, 5-14-08)

SEC. 26-97. USING VEHICLE FOR PRIMARY PURPOSE OF ADVERTISING.

No person shall operate or park on any street any vehicle for the primary purpose of advertising, except where such operation or parking is specifically permitted by the terms of some provisions of this Code or other ordinance of the city.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07)

Sec. 26-98. PARKING FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES PROHIBITED.

No person shall park a vehicle upon any roadway for the principal purpose of:

- (1) Displaying such vehicle for sale.
- (2) Washing, greasing, or repairing such vehicle, except repairs necessitated by an emergency.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07)

Secs. 26-99--26-150. Reserved.