

III | RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION #3

TO ADDRESS VEHICLES STORED ON STREETS FOR EXTENDED TIMES



ISSUE

Vehicles that are stored on the street for extended periods of time is a common complaint received by the Police Department and Code Enforcement personnel.

Vehicles that are stored on the street can create a visual obstruction for drivers that are attempting to navigate in and out of their homes. Many residents that initiate these calls, view this condition as a safety hazard for drivers and pedestrians which create a visually blighted appearance due to un-swept and overcrowded neighborhood streets.

BACKGROUND

Currently, the City Code does not regulate the “storage” of vehicles on private streets. However, the statute that governs this area relates to abandoned vehicles and is enforced by law enforcement authorities using the Arizona Revised Statutes and not the municipal code. Police have discretion to require owners of unattended vehicles to move said vehicles by posting green warning tags currently issued by the police department or orange tags notifying an owner that the vehicle has been left unattended and may be removed from the roadway by a police officer. The green sticker is simply a warning while the orange sticker is a notice of abandonment. See Section IV Appendix, Exhibit #4 to view the Orange Notice Sticker and Exhibit #5 to view the Green Violation Warning Sticker.

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDED ACTION

The City should perform increased enforcement through collaborative efforts between Police and Code

Enforcement. Additionally, the City should consider revised ordinance amendments to the Traffic Rules in Chapter 12 of the Municipal Code to include the following:

- Adopt a “Stored Vehicle” Ordinance.
- Define a “Stored Vehicle” within the new Ordinance and consider a time frame that dictates when a vehicle is deemed to be “stored.” The Committee discussed a possible time frame of 48 to 72 hours. They also recommend that other municipal ordinances be reviewed for similar and consistent practices.
- Develop protocol for noticing and marking vehicles. Remove current exception for boats, and recreational vehicles found in Chapter 12 of the Chandler Municipal Code, which would not allow them to be parked on residential streets. See Exhibit #8 Comparison of Other City Ordinances Regulating Stored, Abandoned and Oversized Vehicles on Residential Streets.
- Define “Inoperable Vehicle.”
- Include language regarding reasonable time period for loading and unloading of boats and recreational vehicles which would be allowed only for this purpose.

The aforementioned ordinance amendments should be accompanied by enhanced enforcement procedures to include the following:

- Consistency in Enforcement.
- Stricter enforcement.
- Increase parking signage in problem areas.
- Directed or saturated parking enforcement.
- Collaborative enforcement efforts with Police and Code Enforcement.
- Enhance program of citizen volunteers for parking enforcement and explore volunteer program for code enforcement. The police department already uses volunteers through their VIP program for this effort.
- Perhaps broaden staff who can enforce this code.

LEGAL CONSIDERATION

State statutes allow cities to regulate parking on public streets so changes made to Chandler City Code Chapter 12 should regulate parking activities only. If parking for some consecutive time period is allowed then procedures will have to be instituted to show that a vehicle has been unremoved for longer than that time period. Reasonable efforts to inform residents of parking limitations need to be made if this is instituted on some streets and not others.