

III | RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION #4

TO ADDRESS PARKING RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, BOATS, UTILITY TRAILERS & COMMERCIAL VEHICLES THAT IMPEDE VISIBILITY AND TRAFFIC CIRCULATION



ISSUE

Many residential streets are becoming overcrowded due to the rise in parking recreational vehicles, boats, utility trailers and commercial vehicles on the street rather than in designated parking areas for these types of vehicles. The primary complaint from residents who live next door or down the street from this type of condition indicate that it is a safety hazard because it impedes visibility and traffic circulation throughout the neighborhood. Currently, these vehicles may be left on the streets for days, months or even years giving the appearance that they are being stored by the homeowner. This is a common complaint that is received by the Code Enforcement Unit and Police Department.

BACKGROUND

Currently, the informal Police Department practice is to allow recreational vehicles, boats and certain commercial vehicles registered to nearby owners to remain on the street without time limits because it is very difficult to determine whether that vehicle is abandoned under the state statute and thereby not covered by any other city ordinance. The reason for this allowance is because under the current Chapter 12 Code, these types of vehicles are exempt from enforcement unless there is a statutory violation. Furthermore, A.R.S. Title 28 only addresses issues of abandoned vehicles, which is the current practice used by the police department. Therefore, in the current process, boats and recreational vehicles are not

addressed as are other unattended vehicles. This practice causes frustration for residents whose visibility is impeded daily by these types of parked vehicles along their neighborhood streets.

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDED ACTION

The City should amend the Traffic Rules in Chapter 12 to remove the exemption for boats and trailers. This recommendation is a conforming change to the recommendations already addressed in Recommendation #3 by the Parking Task Force.

LEGAL CONSIDERATION

Adequately defining which types of vehicles are prohibited from parking on public streets by using a standard such as gross vehicle weight classifications, etc. which can be determined conclusively and easily by the enforcement officials. 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.