

City Code

Chapter 29

Traffic

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Article 1. General Conditions

Sec. 29-1. Regulations Adopted.

(1) **Minnesota Statutes.** The provisions of Minnesota Statutes which regulate traffic, including but not limited to Chapters 168, 169, 171 including all amendments thereof, are adopted as a traffic ordinance regulating the use of highways, streets, alleys, semi-public property, and certain private property within the City. The cited Minnesota Statutes are hereby incorporated in and made a part of this Chapter as completely as if set out here in full.

(2) **Semi-Public Property Defined.** Semi-public property is defined for the purposes of this Chapter as shopping center parking lots, mobile home parks, City-owned parking lots, parking lots at City facilities, and lots at an apartment complex. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 321, 7-24-73; Ord. No. 535, 12-10-85; Ord. No. 551, 8-11-87; Ord. No. 552, 8-11-87; Ord. No. 564, 5-25-88; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-2. Truck Traffic.

By resolution, the City Council may designate streets or highways, or portions thereof, over which thru traffic by trucks in excess of a designated gross weight shall be prohibited.

(1) Gross weight is defined for the purposes of this Chapter as the stenciled or marked gross weight displayed on the vehicle pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 168.013, Subdivision 3.

(2) When any street or highway has been posted as prohibiting through truck traffic over a stated gross weight by way of a sign stating "No Trucks Over _____ G.W." at the boundaries of such limited area, it shall be unlawful to drive a truck with a gross weight over the stated limit on that street or highway. (Code 1966; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-3. Street Weight Limits.

The City's administrative authority shall have the following responsibilities:

- (1) Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 169.87, the operation of vehicles upon any street, road, or alley may be prohibited whenever any such street, road, or alley, by reason of its deterioration, rain, snow, or other climatic conditions will be seriously damaged or destroyed unless the use of vehicles is prohibited or the permissible weights thereof reduced.
- (2) Signs shall be erected and maintained upon declaration of any such prohibition or restriction. The signs shall be plainly visible indicating the prohibition or restriction at each end of all portions of any street, road, or alley affected thereby. The prohibition and restriction shall not be effective until the signs are erected and maintained.
- (3) The enactment of a prohibition or restriction shall be in writing and shall not be effective sooner than 24 hours after being recorded. The written record shall specify the date of commencement of the prohibition or restriction and shall specify with exactness each and every highway, road, or alley included within the prohibition or restriction. (Code 1966; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-4. Stop Streets.

- (1) The driver of a vehicle shall stop in obedience to a stop sign at an intersection where a stop sign is erected at one or more entrances thereto and shall proceed cautiously yielding to the vehicles not so obliged to stop which are within the intersection or approaching so close as to constitute an immediate hazard unless the intersection is controlled by an Officer of the Public Safety Department. In the event that an Officer is present, the directions of the Officer shall be followed.
- (2) The City Council shall designate stop streets by resolution.
- (3) The City shall cause suitable signs to be posted for all through streets, one-way streets, alleys, and stop intersections. (Code 1966; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-5. Unreasonable Acceleration.

- (1) Unreasonable acceleration of any motor vehicle on a public or private road or way is declared to be a public nuisance and is prohibited.
- (2) Unreasonable acceleration of a motor vehicle is defined as acceleration without apparent reason and accomplished in such a manner as to cause squealing or screeching sounds by the tires or the throwing of sand or gravel by the tires of the vehicles or both.
- (3) Prima facie evidence of unnecessary and unreasonable acceleration shall be squealing or screeching sounds emitted by the tires or the throwing of sand or gravel by the tires of the vehicles or both. (Code 1966; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-6. Use of Sidewalks.

No person shall operate a motorized vehicle on any sidewalk. Motorized vehicles authorized by the City for snow removal, snow plowing, or sidewalk maintenance shall not be covered by the provisions of this Section. (Code 1966; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-7. Limited Travel on Posted Streets.

(1) No driver of a motor vehicle shall travel through or past a barricade or sign forbidding passage along any street, alley, or throughway in the City.

(2) By resolution, the City Council may designate limited travel streets whenever necessary to promote general safety or preserve the free flow of traffic.

(3) The City shall cause signs to be posted or barricades to be placed on all streets designated as limited travel streets pursuant to this Section. (Ord. No. 510, 10-11-83; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-7.1. Private Parking Lots and Semi-Public Property.

(1) The City may post signs at the entrances to such lots from public streets to designate one-way traffic for entrance or exit. Drivers of vehicles entering or leaving these lots shall comply with these signs.

(2) No person shall operate a motor vehicle on the lot at a speed greater than is safe and reasonable under existing conditions and in no event at a speed greater than fifteen miles per hour.

(3) No motor vehicle shall be parked or allowed to stand in a lot except in a stall or position that is designated by either a sign or by markings on the surface of the parking area.

(4) There shall be one parking space reserved for emergency vehicles and so signed and/or marked in strip shopping centers. For purposes of this Section, a strip shopping center is defined as a shopping center where two or more businesses share parking spaces and there is no lane for moving traffic between the businesses and the parking area.

(5) No motor vehicle shall be parked or allowed to stand in the lot in any area that is designed or used as a lane for moving traffic.

(6) No motor vehicle shall be parked or allowed to stand in the lot at a curb that is painted yellow.

(7) No motor vehicle shall be parked or allowed to stand in the lot in front of any entrance to any business open to public patronage, except:

A. For a period not to exceed fifteen minutes in designated, signed spaces, during the loading and unloading of the vehicle and while the vehicle's four-way flashers are in operation; or

B. When parking would be permitted in the manner provided in Section 29-7.1 (3).

C. The exceptions in this Subsection also apply to the restrictions in Sections 29-7.1 (3), and 9-41. (Ord. No. 535, 12-10-85; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-8. Escorts.

(1) No person, company, organization, or similar group shall conduct, hold, sponsor, perform, or in any way undertake any parade, run, procession, or other activity upon public streets, alleys, or thoroughfares which reasonably may be expected to disrupt or suspend normal traffic control and/or traffic flow without first obtaining a permit to do so from the City and being assigned a City escort. A funeral procession shall be exempted from the requirements of this Section.

(2) The fee for the permit shall be determined by City Council resolution. (Ord. No. 556, 12-8-87; Ord. No. 562, 2-9-88; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Secs. 29-9--29-15. Reserved.

Article 2. Stopping, Standing, and Parking

Division 1. General Terms

Sec. 29-16. No parking places.

At all times it shall be unlawful to permit a vehicle to park in any of the places cited in this Section except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of an Officer of the Public Safety Department or a traffic-control device:

- (1) In any intersection or crosswalk.
- (2) Upon any bridge or viaduct or in any subway or tunnel or the approach thereto.
- (3) Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within thirty feet of a point of the curb immediately opposite the end of a safety zone.
- (4) Within thirty feet of a traffic signal, beacon, or sign on the approaching side.
- (5) Within thirty feet of any intersection or crosswalk.
- (6) At any place where the parking of a vehicle would reduce the useable width of the roadway for moving traffic to less than eighteen feet.
- (7) Within fifteen feet of a fire hydrant.
- (8) At any place where the vehicle would block the use of a driveway.
- (9) Within fifty feet of the nearest rail of a railroad grade crossing.
- (10) Within twenty feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station and on the side of the street opposite the entrance to the station within 75 feet of such entrance when properly signed. While on official duty, employees of the Public Safety Department are exempt from this provision.
- (11) On any sidewalk or parkway.
- (12) At any place where official signs prohibit parking.
- (13) On a sidewalk or that portion of the street right-of-way known as a boulevard lying between the roadway and the private property line. (Code 1964; Ord. No. 223, 2-23-67; Ord. No. 383, 1-25-77; Ord. No. 412, 2-23-78; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-17. Parking at the Curb.

The terms of this Section shall apply to parking a vehicle on the street.

(1) No vehicle shall be parked with the left side of the vehicle next to the curb except on a one-way street.

(2) Vehicles shall be parked parallel to the curb and with the two right wheels of the vehicle within twelve inches of the regularly established curb line except that upon those streets that have been marked for angle parking.

(3) When marked for angle parking, the vehicle shall be parked at the angle to the curb indicated by the marks. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 223, 2-23-67; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-18. Vehicles for Sale.

No vehicle shall be parked upon any street for the purpose of displaying it for sale or to peddle merchandise. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 223, 2-14-67; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-19. Loading Zone.

The conditions of this Section shall apply to any marked loading zone that has been established by resolution.

(1) No driver of a passenger vehicle shall park the vehicle for a period of time longer than is necessary for the loading or unloading of passengers. The parking period shall not exceed three minutes.

(2) No driver of any freight carrying vehicle shall park the vehicle for a period of time longer than is necessary to load, unload, and deliver materials. The parking period shall not exceed thirty minutes.

(3) At any place not to exceed 75 feet along the curb before the entrance to a hospital or hotel at any time.

(4) At any place not to exceed 75 feet along the curb before the entrance to a public building between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., except on Sunday. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 223, 2-14-67; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-20. Parking Limits at Night.

No vehicle shall be parked or allowed to stand unattended on any street or roadway for longer than thirty minutes between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. except a physician on an emergency call. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 223, 2-14-67; Ord. No. 535, 12-10-85; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-21. Limited Day and Evening Parking.

No vehicle shall be parked or allowed to stand unattended on any street or roadway for longer than six hours between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. of the next day unless posted otherwise. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 223, 2-14-67; Ord. No. 535, 12-10-85; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-22. Alleys.

No person shall park a vehicle within any alley in such a manner or under such conditions as to leave available less than ten feet of the width of the roadway for the free movement of vehicular traffic. No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle within an alley in such a position as to block the driveway entrance to any abutting property. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 223, 2-14-67; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-23. Time Limit Parking.

Except on Sundays or holidays, no person shall park a vehicle for a longer consecutive period of time than that posted between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in an area designated as a limited parking area and so marked. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 223, 2-14-67; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-24. Parking Motor Vehicles on Private Property.

No person shall park a motor vehicle on any private property without the consent of the property owner. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 223, 2-14-67; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-25. Parking Motor Vehicles on Public Property.

No person shall park a motor vehicle on public property other than streets and alleys except in areas posted and designated as parking areas. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 223, 2-14-67; Ord. No. 412, 2-23-78; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-26. Temporary Emergency Actions.

(1) The City may temporarily prohibit or limit vehicular parking or traffic upon any public street to provide for maintenance or the making of improvements to the streets or when necessary for public safety.

(2) Any person parking or driving a vehicle on a public street after it has been posted with signs prohibiting traffic or parking pursuant to Section 29-26 (1) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 223, 2-14-67; Ord. No. 535, 12-10-85; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-27. Emergency Vehicles Excepted.

None of the provisions of this Article shall apply to emergency vehicles parking while on official duty. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 223, 2-14-67; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-28. Signs.

The City shall cause signs to be posted in all areas covered and defined in this Article indicating the parking area where parking is limited, prohibited, or permitted. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 223, 2-14-67; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-29. Designation of Areas.

The areas included under this Article shall be designated from time to time by resolution. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 223, 2-14-67; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-30. Impoundment.

(1) Under the conditions prescribed in this Section, the Public Safety Department is authorized to remove a vehicle from a street or highway to the nearest garage or other place of safety or storage.

A. When any vehicle is left unattended upon any bridge, viaduct, causeway, freeway, or in any moving traffic lane of any highway so as to constitute an obstruction to traffic.

B. When any vehicle upon a street or highway is disabled so as to constitute an obstruction to traffic, or the person or persons in charge of the vehicle are, by reason of physical injury, alcohol, narcotics or personal illness, incapacitated to such an extent as to be unable to provide for its custody or removal.

C. When any vehicle is permitted to remain on any public street or highway in the same location for more than 48 hours in succession.

D. When any vehicle is left unattended in any posted fire lane.

(2) The Public Safety Department shall provide prompt written notice to the owner of the vehicle that the removal has taken place.

A. The notice shall advise the owner as to the location of the garage or storage place where the vehicle has been taken.

B. The registration records for the vehicle shall be used to obtain ownership information.

C. In the event that the vehicle is stored in a public garage or other public place of safety or storage, a copy of the notice shall be given to the proprietor of the place.

(3) A removal report shall be provided to the registrar of motor vehicles of the State of Minnesota when the Department is unable to notify the owner and the vehicle remains unclaimed after five days.

A. The report shall include a complete description of the vehicle, the date, time, and place from which the vehicle was removed, the reasons for the removal, and the name of the place where the vehicle is stored.

B. A copy of the report shall be given to the proprietor of the place where the vehicle is stored.

(4) The reasonable costs of impounding and storage of a vehicle shall be paid before the vehicle is returned to the owner.

(5) A surcharge shall be assessed by the City for impounding services. The surcharge shall be collected before the vehicle is returned to the owner.

(6) The fees required by this Section shall be determined by resolution of the City Council. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 223, 2-14-67; Ord. No. 535, 12-10-85; Ord. No. 556, 12-8-87; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-31. Keys in Ignition.

No person shall leave the key to the ignition in the ignition switch or other conspicuous place within a motor vehicle while the motor vehicle is parked and unattended. Whenever any employee of the Public Safety Department shall find any motor vehicle parked in violation of this Section, the Officer shall be authorized and directed to remove the keys. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 223, 2-14-67; Ord. No. 535, 12-10-85; Code of 1988)

Sec. 29-32. No Parking After Snowfall.

No person shall park or leave standing any vehicle on any street or roadway after a snowfall of at least three inches. Parking may be resumed on the streets or roadways after the snow has been removed or plowed to the curb line. (Code 1966; Ord. No. 249, 2-11-69; Ord. No. 535, 12-10-85; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-33. Prima Facie Evidence.

The operation, use, or parking of a motor vehicle in violation of the provisions of this Article shall be prima facie evidence that the motor vehicle was at the time of such violation, controlled, operated, and used by the owner thereof. (Ord. No. 535, 12-10-85; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Secs. 29-34--29-37. Reserved.

Division 2. Parking for the Physically Disabled

Sec. 29-38. Definitions.

The definitions in this Section shall apply when these words and phrases are used in this Division.

(1) **Identifying Certificate.** The certificate or insignia issued to physically handicapped persons by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 169.345, Subdivision 3.

(2) **Physically Disabled Person.** Any person who meets the definition of Minnesota Statutes, Section 169.345, Subdivision 2. (Ord. No. 384, 3-8-77; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-39. Parking Restrictions.

(1) The parking restrictions specified in this Section shall apply to both public and private property and to parking spaces designated and reserved for physically disabled persons by State and local law and to those spaces created through the action of persons who own or are in lawful possession of the subject property.

(2) No person shall park a motor vehicle in a parking space designated and reserved for the physically disabled unless:

A. That person is physically disabled or is operating the vehicle under the direction and for the use of a physically disabled person; and

B. Such vehicle visibly bears or contains a proper identifying certificate.

(3) Failure to obey these provisions shall constitute a petty misdemeanor. Vehicles in violation may be removed, impounded, and kept in custody of the City.

(4) In the prosecution of any of these provisions, proof of the identity of the registered owner of the particular vehicle described in the citation or complaint at the time of the violation shall create a prima facie presumption that this individual was the person who parked the vehicle at the point where the violation occurred. (Ord. No. 384, 3-8-77; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-40. Signage.

(1) The location of parking spaces reserved for physically disabled persons shall be designated according to provisions of the Chapter 55 of the Uniform Building Code.

(2) Notice of such designation of handicapped parking spaces shall be given by posting of permanent, nonportable signs. The signs shall be designed in accordance with the requirements of the manual of the Commissioner of Public Safety on uniform traffic-control devices.

(3) No person shall erect signs reserving or designating parking spaces for physically disabled persons unless the location, number, and method of signing of these spaces is first approved by the City. (Ord. No. 384, 3-8-77; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Secs. 29-41--29-43. Reserved.

Article 3. Snowmobiles and All-Terrain Vehicles

Sec. 29-44. Incorporation by Reference.

Unless provided otherwise herein, any person operating a snowmobile shall be subject to the provisions of the Statutes and regulations specified in this Section. These Statutes and regulations are hereby incorporated by reference.

(1) Minnesota Statutes, Sections 84.81 to 84.929, as amended.

(2) Regulations of the Commissioner of Natural Resources, Minnesota Rules, Parts 6100.5000 to 6100.6000. (Ord. No. 373, 9-28-76; Ord. No. 574, 1-28-89; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-45. Limitation of Operation.

(1) No person shall operate a snowmobile except on public trails, waterways, streets, and highways specifically designated for such use by City Council resolution or on private property where written permission has been obtained from the property owner, occupant, or lessee.

(2) No person shall operate a snowmobile within 150 feet of any residential building except when traveling in a direct route from a permissible snowmobiling area and the home of the operator. (Ord. No. 373, 9-28-76; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-46. Hours of Operation.

No person shall operate a snowmobile between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., prevailing time in Ramsey County. (Ord. No. 373, 9-28-76; Code of 1988; Ord. No. 644, 6-23-98; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-47. Speed.

No person shall operate a snowmobile at a speed in excess of eight miles per hour on any street or at a speed in excess of eight miles per hour within 150 feet of any person fishing, fish house, pedestrian, skier, skater, skating rink, sliding area, ski tow area or other area where such operation would conflict with or endanger other persons or property. (Ord. No. 373, 9-28-76; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-48. Tow Bars.

No person shall operate a snowmobile so as to tow any person, sled, or other conveyance except by use of a rigid tow bar attached to the rear of the snowmobile. Disabled snowmobiles shall be exempt. (Ord. No. 373, 9-28-76; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-49. Mandatory Lights.

No person shall operate a snowmobile unless the vehicle is equipped with a headlight and taillight that are illuminated at all times during operation. Snowmobiles equipped with an engine of five horsepower or less shall be exempt. (Ord. No. 373, 9-28-76; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-50. Mandatory Pennant.

No person shall operate a snowmobile unless the vehicle is equipped with a red or orange blaze pennant flag of at least forty square inches in area and displayed at a height of not less than five feet above the treadway. (Ord. No. 373, 9-28-76; Code of 1988; Code of 2001)

Sec. 29-51. All-Terrain Vehicles.

No person shall operate an all-terrain vehicle on any street or highway or upon any land or frozen water surface owned or under the control of the City. This Section shall not apply to operation of an all-terrain vehicle owned by or operated under the auspices of the City or any other governmental unit. (Ord. No. 574, 11-28-89; Code of 2001)

Secs. 29-52--29-57. Reserved.

Editor's Notes

Chapter 29

Traffic

Introduction. This Chapter regulates the use of vehicles, bicycles, and ATVs in the City.

This Chapter has been renumbered to be consistent with the numbering system used throughout the Code:

The first division within a Section is numbered “(1)” followed by “(2)”, etc.

The next division of a Section is numbered with an “A” followed by “B”, etc.

As with all other parts of the codification, the language in this Chapter has been simplified and made general neutral.

General Comments. To simplify the Code, the City has been designated as the responsible party, thereby deleting reference to the Police Chief, Community Development Director, and the Public Works Director.

Section 29-3, (2), Filing. To comply with current practice, road restrictions must be recorded in writing. In the current text of the Code, the restriction was to be filed with the Police Chief and the City Clerk.

Margaret A. Egan
Finance Director/
City Clerk

September, 1997

Sections 29-58 to 29-63; Article 4 – Bicycles was dissolved by Ord. No. 851 on June 13, 2017

Terri Marohn, City Clerk