

DATE ISSUED: November 24, 2004

REPORT NO. 04-257

ATTENTION: Land Use and Housing Committee
Agenda of December 1, 2004

SUBJECT: Parking of Oversized Vehicles on Residential Streets

SUMMARY

This is an information item only. No action is required on the part of the Land Use and Housing Committee or City Council

BACKGROUND

Currently, the City of San Diego regulates the parking of non-motorized vehicles and oversized vehicles on City streets in accordance with Municipal Code Sections 86.23(i) and 86.27. Section 86.23(i) prohibits the parking of unattached semi-trailers on any City street and Section 86.27 prohibits parking of heavy duty commercial vehicles having a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or more on residential streets. In addition to the two Municipal Code parking regulation sections cited above, Section 86.23(g) prohibits the storage of vehicles on a City street. A vehicle is considered to be stored when it has been left standing on a street without having been moved more than one-tenth of a mile within a 72-hour period. Municipal Code Section 86.23(f) prohibits the use of a parked vehicle as a temporary or permanent living quarters City-wide.

For the purposes of this report, an oversized vehicle is any vehicle that exceeds 22 feet in length or 80 inches in height. Storage boxes are containers rented from moving companies for the purpose of hauling belongings when moving. They are typically left on the street for the duration needed to load or unload them.

DISCUSSION

The Transportation Engineering Division has recently received input from several communities regarding the parking of oversized vehicles on residential streets. Concern has been expressed with parking of vehicles such as large trucks, attached boat trailers, recreational vehicles, unattached trailers or camper shells and storage/moving boxes.

The input cited several concerns associated with the parking of these vehicles including traffic safety, perceived security, littering, and community ambiance. Summarized below are concerns that have been expressed:

- Traffic safety: oversized vehicles typically have a high profile. Therefore, when parked close to an intersection, they may impair the sight distance for vehicles attempting to enter the main street. In addition, the parking of these vehicles on narrow streets may impede access and block visibility of oncoming traffic on curves. In addition to being large, storage boxes do not have wheels and constitute a hazard if hit by a vehicle since they are fixed and resist movement.
- Perceived security: the size of oversized vehicles and the inability to see inside the vehicle make the residents of a neighborhood uncomfortable with these vehicles parking on their streets.
- Littering, noise and loitering: the parking of recreational vehicles in some cases is associated with their use as living quarters, which results in the generation of trash. This trash is sometimes dumped onto the street. Also, the use of recreational vehicles as living quarters may result in noise and loitering.
- Neighborhood ambiance: the parking of oversized vehicles and trailers with boats on residential streets blocks the view of neighborhood children playing, neighbors and surrounding landscaping. In addition, parked oversized vehicles may restrict the views of mountains, canyons, and the ocean, where the views exist. Therefore, oversized vehicle parking affects the residential character of a neighborhood.

Staff has done research on existing parking regulations in other cities in the State. Several cities were found to have regulations specific to oversized vehicles. The regulations varied widely and were formulated according to type, weight or size of vehicle, type of street, time of day, and allowable duration of parking. Table 1 summarizes the various regulations that exist for these cities.

As indicated above, existing City regulations only deal with large commercial vehicles and semi-trailers, and the storage of all vehicle types for a period longer than 72 hours as well as prohibiting the use of vehicles for living quarters. No existing City regulations apply to the types of vehicles associated with many of the community concerns listed above.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Boekamp
Director
Engineering & Capital Projects

Approved: Richard Mendes
Deputy City Manager

Van Wanseele/HYH

Attachment: Summary of oversized vehicle parking regulations in other cities in the State

TABLE 1: Summary of oversized vehicle parking regulations in other cities in the State

City	Vehicle type/weight/size	Street Type	Time of day	Allowed parking duration
Redwood	Truck, bus, trailer, trailer coach, house car, camper, commercial vehicles	All	2 AM-5 AM	One hour
	Commercial vehicles more than 10,000 pounds MGWV	Residential	All	None
Berkeley	Heavy duty commercial vehicles	All	2 AM-5 AM	One hour
Citrus Heights	Motor truck, trailer, semi-trailer, truck tractor, commercial vehicles	Residential	All	One hour
	Recreational vehicles	Residential	All	72 Hours
San Francisco	Motor truck, truck tractor, road tractor, van, trailer, delivery wagon, commercial vehicles	Residential	All	One hour
San Jose	Commercial vehicles over 10,000 pounds MGWV	Residential	All	None
Santa Rosa	Vehicles more than 2-ton capacity	All	All	Five hours
	Unattached trailer or semi-trailer	All	All	None
	Commercial vehicles more than 10,000 pounds GVW	Residential and business	All	None
	Commercial vehicles more than 10,000 pounds GVW	All	2 AM-6 AM	N/A

City	Vehicle type/weight/size	Street Type	Time of day	Allowed parking duration
Oakland	Commercial vehicles more than 10,000 pounds GVW	Residential	All	None
	Commercial vehicles between 7,000 and 10,000 pounds curb wt. signs required)	All	All	None
	Commercial vehicles with one- ton capacity (Resolution required)	All	All	Five hours
	Vehicles six feet or more in height (signs required)	Within 100' of intersection	All	None
Los Angeles	Trucks exceeding 22 feet in length	Residential	All	None
	Trucks exceeding 22 feet in length	All other areas	All	Three hours
Del Mar	Vehicles exceeding 20' in length, 84" in width or 78" in height, and non-motorized vehicles (trailer, camp trailer, semi-trailer, trailer coach, recreational vehicle)	All	All	Four hours