




MEMORANDUM

TO: City Parking Services, Homeless Response, and Code Enforcement Staff
FROM: Rich Hoey, P.E., Interim Assistant City Manager 
DATE: January 12, 2023
SUBJECT: RV Parking – Interim Policy on Enforcement of OMC 10.16.030

As the City of Olympia awaits the outcome of a lawsuit challenging the City of Lacey's recreational vehicle parking ordinance (*Potter v. City of Lacey*), the City of Olympia is choosing to limit its enforcement of certain aspects of Olympia's RV parking ordinance, OMC 10.16.030. This limitation on enforcement of Olympia's RV parking ordinance is intended to reduce localized impacts of vehicular camping on City rights-of-way.

The City of Olympia's RV parking ordinance, OMC 10.16.030¹, says:

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Olympia Municipal Code (OMC), no recreational vehicle may park on any City street longer than 24 hours or between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. including holidays and weekends, without a City of Olympia Parking Services issued permit affixed to the front window of the recreational vehicle in a place clearly visible from the outside of the vehicle. Parking the vehicle in another location within the City within the 24 hour period on a City street is a violation of this section.

The City will continue to enforce this ordinance but, until further notice, two provisions of this ordinance will not be enforced:

- The provision that prohibits parking between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.; and
- The provision that says that "[p]arking the vehicle in another location within the City within the 24-hour period on a City street is a violation."

This means that a person may park an RV in a parking spot on City right-of-way (if the parking spot is otherwise legal for parking) for up to 24 hours, including between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., and then must move the RV, but may move the RV to another appropriate location within the City. A person will be considered to have moved the RV to another appropriate location in the City if it is: (1) a legal parking spot; (2) at least one-half mile or 10 blocks away from where the person was parked in the previous 24 hours; and (3) not within 500 feet of any other RV parked on the City right-of-way.

¹ For purposes of this ordinance, "recreational vehicle" is defined as "a vehicular-type unit primarily designed for recreational camping or travel use that has its own motive power or is mounted on or towed by another vehicle. The units include travel trailers, fifth-wheel trailers, folding camping trailers, truck campers, motor homes, and conversion vans."