

Subject

Report on Recreational and Oversized Vehicle Parking on City Streets

Objective

For the Traffic Commission to consider the recreational and oversized vehicle parking regulations of neighboring cities and recommend to City Council a preferred course of action for addressing Garden Grove's own RV parking concerns.

Background

At the January 24, 2016, City Council Meeting, the City Council directed staff to survey the parking ordinances, rules and regulations of neighboring cities in order to address public safety and aesthetic concerns with the parking of recreational and oversized (including Big Rig) vehicles in Garden Grove. More specifically, the City Council requested that staff conduct a best practices study to learn from the successes of neighboring cities. At the February 28, 2016, City Council Meeting, the City Council received an informational report on the subject and directed staff to conduct additional research on other cities' practices for further consideration by the Traffic Commission.

Discussion

In recent months, Garden Grove residents have expressed concerns with the parking of recreational and oversized vehicles along City streets. Given that recreational and oversized vehicles occupy both large and numerous spaces throughout the City, they not only impact the aesthetic appearance of the City but also raise a number of public safety concerns. According to the Garden Grove Police and Fire Departments, these types of vehicles obstruct access to roadways during emergency responses, reduce visibility at intersections, increase opportunities for vehicular thefts and fires, and create unsafe environments for those dwelling within and around them.

Garden Grove's Parking Rules and Regulations

Currently, the City of Garden Grove's Municipal Code includes general parking provisions that seek to regulate the parking of ALL vehicles on City streets. For instance, Title 10 of the Municipal Code restricts any vehicle from being parked on a street for more than a consecutive period of 72 hours (GGMC 10.56.100A). Similarly, Title 9 prohibits commercial vehicles from being parked or stored in residential zones or on properties used for residential purposes, except while the operator of the vehicle is making normal deliveries or providing services to the residential premises (GGMC 9.08.040L). Furthermore, Title 9 also prohibits "any commercial vehicle, trailer, **recreational vehicle**, camper, camper shell or vessel from being parked on any property zoned commercial, industrial, open space, specific plan or PUD" (GGMC 9.12.040.170M). Yet despite these regulations, recreational and oversized vehicle parking continues to remain a concern for the City of Garden Grove.

Neighboring Cities' Parking Ordinances & Enforcement Policies

Per Council's direction, City staff surveyed the municipal codes and enforcement policies of comparable cities surrounding Garden Grove to determine alternative methods for addressing the City's vehicle parking concerns. Staff researched several cities, ultimately focusing on the City of Orange, the City of Westminster, and the City of Fullerton.

City of Orange

Much like the City of Garden Grove, the City of Orange prohibits the parking of recreational and oversized vehicles in designated areas throughout the City. According to the Orange Municipal Code, parking oversized trucks and recreational vehicles is prohibited on any public street, public or dedicated alley, public or private property, and in **any residentially developed area** (OMC 10.34.060). However, the Orange Municipal Code differs from that of Garden Grove in that it includes explicit language prohibiting the parking of recreational and oversized vehicles in “any residentially developed area.” In contrast, the Garden Grove Municipal Code does NOT prohibit recreational and oversized vehicles from parking in residential areas.

In addition, the City of Orange’s Municipal Code includes exceptions that allow for recreational and oversized vehicles to temporarily park on City streets. These exceptions include a parking allowance of two consecutive days for the purpose of loading and unloading related to travel, as well as a seven day parking permit issued by the Chief of Police for visiting, non-City residents. With both exceptions, the recreational vehicle must be parked adjacent to the resident’s home. For recreational vehicles with dimensions measuring less than 36ft in length and 12ft in height, residents of Orange also have the option to park in their driveways.

City of Westminster

The City of Westminster’s recreational and oversized vehicle parking ordinances are more stringent than those of Garden Grove and Orange. Like the City of Orange, the City of Westminster also prohibits recreational and oversized vehicles from parking on streets in residentially developed areas, only allowing residents to park their recreational vehicles in their driveways. Yet unlike the City of Orange, the City of Westminster does not offer more than a 24-Hour parking exception. The Westminster Municipal Code states that, “no person who owns or has possession, custody, or control of a recreational vehicle shall park such a vehicle upon any street or alley for more than **twenty-four consecutive hours**. Recreational vehicles may not be re-parked at any location within **two-tenths of a mile** from any prior parking location used within the preceding twenty-four hours (WMC 10.44.050B).” This parking regulation is further augmented by the Westminster Municipal Code on large vehicle parking which prohibits any vehicles with a width in excess of 84 inches and a weight in excess of 10,000 pounds from parking on any public street within the City (WMC 10.44.250).

City of Fullerton

The City of Fullerton regulates all vehicle storage on city streets through its overnight parking restriction (FMC 8.44.080). The Fullerton Municipal Code states that, “No person shall park a vehicle on any street or highway, or any City-controlled parking facility in the City between the hours of two a.m. and five a.m. unless the street has been exempted from the ordinance.” This parking restriction applies to all vehicles, including recreational and oversized vehicles. However, the City does allow recreational vehicles to park on residential streets during the day as long as they are moved during the previously mentioned hours.

Additionally, residents requiring overnight parking have the option to park recreational vehicles in their driveways as long as they do not protrude into the sidewalk or street and are not being occupied for living purposes. Residents may also apply for temporary parking permits that allow recreational vehicle

owners to park on the street overnight. These temporary permits allow residents to park a recreational vehicle for a total 28 days of the calendar year.

Additional Research

In addition to the cities of Orange, Westminster and Fullerton, City staff surveyed the parking regulations of additional cities in Orange County to gain a more comprehensive perspective. City staff looked at 10 additional cities, ultimately coming to the conclusion that the majority of cities in Orange County have some sort of parking restriction against oversized, recreational vehicles. Of the additional cities surveyed, staff found that 8 of the 10 cities prohibit recreational and oversized vehicle parking on residential streets. City staff also found that almost all of the cities offer temporary, permitted parking exceptions to accommodate their residents’ needs. In fact, cities like Buena Park, Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley have already implemented automated, permitted parking systems that have been effective in allowing both residents and city staff to manage temporary parking requests.

Thus, based on the information provided in this report, the Traffic Commission may consider a range of alternative methods to addressing the City’s vehicle parking concerns. Although the City of Garden Grove currently allows for recreational vehicles to park in residential areas, it is clear that many of our neighboring cities have chosen to prohibit this allowance all together. In addition, neighboring cities have chosen to take it a step further and adopt temporary parking permit systems in an attempt to balance residents’ needs and concerns with City staff’s ability to properly enforce the rules.

Recreational Vehicle Parking Regulations – City Comparison

City	RV Parking Allowed on Residential Streets?	RV Parking Allowed in Driveway?	RV Loading/ Unloading Allowance	Temporary Parking Permits Available?	Parking Permit Options	Oversized Vehicle Parking Allowed?
Garden Grove	Yes	Yes	72 Hours w/o Permit	No	N/A	No
Orange	No	Yes	48 Hours w/o Permit	Yes	7 Day Permit for Visitors	No
Westminster	No	Yes	24 Hours w/o Permit	No	N/A	No
Fullerton	Yes (Daytime Only)	Yes	24 Hours w/ Permit	Yes	24 Hour Permit (28 per year) Hardship Exemption	No
Buena Park	No	Yes	48 Hours w/ Permit	Yes	48 Hour Permit (Unlimited) 7 Day Permit for Visitors	No
Huntington Beach	No	Yes	24 Hours w/ Permit	Yes	24 Hour Permit (12 per month)	No

Fountain Valley	No	Yes	36 Hours w/ Permit	Yes	36 Hour Permit (8 per month) 24 Hour Permit for Visitors (3 per month)	No
Brea	No	Yes	24 Hours w/ Permit (Self-issued)	Yes	24 Hour Permit (7 per month)	No
Seal Beach	Yes	Yes	24 Hours w/ Permit	Yes	24 Hour Permit 24 Hour Permit for Visitors (14 per year)	No
Yorba Linda	No	Yes	24 Hours w/o Permit	No	N/A	No
Placentia	Yes (Daytime Only)	Yes	N/A	Yes	7 Day Permit for Visitors	No
Irvine	No	Yes	6 Hours w/ variance	No	N/A	No
La Palma	Yes	Yes w/ Permit	24 Hours w/ Permit	Yes	24 Hour Permit (50 per year) 24 Hour Permit for Visitors (30 per year)	No
Cypress	Yes (Daytime Only)	Yes	24 Hours w/ Permit	Yes	24 Hour Permit (50 per year) 7 Day Permit for Visitors (1 per year)	No

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact to the City at this time.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Traffic Commission:

- Provide staff with further direction regarding a preferred course of action for addressing Garden Grove’s RV parking concerns.

By: Shawn Park, Administrative Analyst