



CITY COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Commission

DATE: May 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Discussion and possible action on amending Section 17-19 – Parking over catch basins. – **Commissioner Shrouder**

RECOMMENDATION:

Commissioner Shrouder is requesting a discussion and possible action to amend Section 17-19, “Prohibited parking, additional regulations,” to revise the existing prohibition on parking over catch basins so that enforcement applies only when a parked vehicle obstructs the catch basin’s function or creates an environmental concern, including the leakage of fluids into or near the catch basin.

BACKGROUND OF ITEM:

Section 17-19 currently defines a catch basin as “a receptacle used for the collection and transmission of storm water runoff from roadways.” The section also regulates parking over catch basins, public rights-of-way, and swales. As currently written, the Code provides that, except in an emergency or when a catch basin is located within a residential driveway, no person may park, stop, stand, or leave any vehicle unattended over any catch basin within the City. A violation of Section 17-19j results in a \$100.00 parking violation.

The current language establishes a broad prohibition on parking over any catch basin. While this language provides a clear enforcement standard, it may also apply in situations where a vehicle is parked over or near a catch basin but does not interfere with drainage, obstruct stormwater flow, prevent maintenance access, or pose an environmental hazard.

ANALYSIS:

The proposed discussion item would allow the City Commission to consider narrowing the current prohibition so that enforcement focuses on situations where parking over or near a catch basin creates a specific operational or environmental concern.

Under a narrowed approach, the Code could prohibit parking, stopping, standing, or leaving a vehicle unattended over or upon a catch basin only when one or more of the following conditions exist:

Enforcement Concern	Description
Functional Obstruction	The vehicle blocks, covers, impedes, or interferes with the catch basin’s ability to collect or convey stormwater runoff.
Maintenance Access Obstruction	The vehicle prevents City staff, contractors, or emergency personnel from inspecting, cleaning, maintaining, or accessing the catch basin.
Environmental Concern	The vehicle is actively leaking or discharging oil, fuel, coolant, grease, or other fluids that could enter the catch basin or stormwater system.
Public Safety or Drainage Concern	The vehicle contributes to flooding, standing water, blocked drainage, or other conditions that may affect roadway safety or stormwater performance.

The approach would maintain the City’s ability to protect drainage infrastructure and stormwater quality while reducing the likelihood of enforcement where no actual obstruction, drainage impact or environmental concern exists.

A narrower ordinance may also provide a more tailored enforcement mechanism for Code Enforcement and law enforcement personnel. Rather than prohibiting all parking over catch basins, the amended language would focus on measurable impacts, such as obstruction of stormwater flow, interference with City maintenance, or leakage into the drainage system.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Section 17-19 Code of Ordinances