



Shopping Cart Regulations

**City Council Work Session
April 25, 2023**



Background

- Abandoned shopping carts have become a growing nuisance issue on both public and private property throughout the community. Left in place they block sidewalks, roll into streets and into parked cars, collect blown trash, and block drainage ways.



Community Impact

- **Private Property:**

- Remedy is to cite owner of property to remove cart
 - Cart may have been left/dumped on the property by another
 - Cart may not have store identification
 - Will most often simply be relocated to another property or to the public right-of-way

- **Public Property:**

- Picked up by various city crews
 - May be returned to store if labeled
 - Stored at a city facility
 - Disposed of

Regulatory Response

- Legislative Intent:
 - Provide for the prompt removal of lost, stolen or abandoned shopping carts to promote public safety and improve the appeal of the community
 - Require owners and operators of businesses providing shopping carts to use available means to deter, prevent or mitigate the removal of carts from their sites and to retrieve carts taken despite their efforts
 - Prevent the illegal removal of shopping carts from business premises, continued possession of illegally removed carts and to prevent the accumulation of carts on public and private property

Public Nuisance

- Removal and abandonment of a shopping cart from the premises of the business and left on public or private property constitutes a **public nuisance and potential hazard** to the health and safety of the public in the following ways:
 - Can create conditions of blight
 - Obstruct sidewalks, streets and other rights-of-way
 - Interfere with pedestrian and vehicular traffic on pathways, driveways, streets and impede emergency services

Requirements

- Identification signs on shopping carts is required:
 - Owner of the cart or name of the business establishment
 - A current telephone number or address for returning carts to the owner or business
- Once notified of an impounded cart the owner must retrieve the cart within 48 hrs.

Impoundment & Retrieval

- City may immediately impound any lost, stolen or abandoned shopping carts, or any cart missing the identification sign
- Carts held for more than 14 days following notification to the business owner, or carts without notification, may be disposed of or sold by the city
- Violations are punishable through the administrative code violation section of the Greeley Municipal Code
 - Fines and violations may be mitigated if the business takes steps for theft prevention or to secure carts to the premises

Next Steps

- Meet with stakeholders who provide shopping carts
 - Feedback on challenges retaining shopping carts on premises
 - Share resources on theft prevention devices available
 - Determine lead time needed to accomplish cart labeling and customer notice preparation*

** The City provided template forms when smoking prohibitions were put into effect that businesses could personalize and print off for posting on their premises; this in-kind support could be explored further*

- Identify options for cart retrieval and storage (city crews, contract service) and cost
- Return to City Council with final recommendations

Questions

