



# Work Session Agenda Summary

April 25, 2023

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## Title:

Review of Proposed Regulations Concerning Abandoned Shopping Carts

## Background:

Many retail establishments provide shopping carts for customer convenience in transporting purchased goods from their stores to vehicle parking areas. Customers will typically return their carts to 'cart corrals' located in the parking lot, to the front of the store or elsewhere on the site. However, some parties take the carts off the premises and abandon them in other locations where they become a nuisance to other property owners, may impede sidewalks and become an obstacle or hazard to traffic or parked cars, as well as a form of litter in parks and open spaces and on private property.

City crews have collected abandoned carts from public streets, by bus stops, and in alleys when they pose an issue. Without identification on the carts, it is hard to reunite them with owners, nor is it the City's responsibility to do so. When abandoned on private property, the owner of property can be cited for trash, even if they did not leave the cart on their property. As a result, the carts, again, get pushed on to other properties or left in the public rights-of-way.

The level of abandoned carts the city staff has observed and for which we are receiving complaints has taken a noticeable uptick and consuming more resources to manage. The attached draft ordinance has been modeled from best practices in other communities and is something the staff would like the Council to consider.

If there is support, and before presenting an ordinance for formal consideration, staff proposes to conduct a stakeholder meeting with shop owners who offer shopping carts for customer convenience and will also formulate a tactical and operational proposal to manage cart retrieval, storage and return.

## Strategic Focus Area:



**Community Vitality**



**Quality of Life**



**Safe and Secure Communities**

**Attachments:**

Appendix A – Abandoned Shopping Carts (body of proposed regulations)  
Slide presentation