

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-__

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LOS ALTOS AMENDING SECTION 8.20 OF THE LOS ALTOS
MUNICIPAL CODE GOVERNING STOPPING, STANDING AND
PARKING**

WHEREAS, the City Council expressed an interest in exploring expanding enforcement of parking regulations by agents of the City; and

WHEREAS, Proposed modifications to LAMC Section 8.20 would allow enforcement officers under the broader definition to remove vehicles found to be “parked or left standing upon a street, highway, or public parking lot for seventy-two (72) or more consecutive hours” and “any vehicle which remains parked or standing longer than sixty (60) minutes after a citation has been issued in any area where parking is prohibited, provided signs are posted giving notice of such removal;” and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State Guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Los Altos does hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF CODE: Chapter 8.20 of the Los Altos Municipal Code as set forth in Appendix A to this Ordinance.

SECTION 2. CONSTITUTIONALITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this code is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this code.

SECTION 3. PUBLICATION. This ordinance shall be published as provided in Government Code section 36933.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be effective upon the commencement of the thirty-first day following the adoption date.

The foregoing ordinance was duly and properly introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Los Altos held on _____, 2025 and was thereafter, at a regular meeting held on _____, 2025 passed and adopted by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Pete Dailey, MAYOR

Attest:

Melissa Thurman, CITY CLERK

Exhibit A

Chapter 8.20 STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING

Sections:

Article 1. Stopping, Standing, and Parking

8.20.010 Application of regulations.

- A. The provisions of this chapter prohibiting the stopping, standing or parking of a vehicle shall apply at all times or at those times herein specified except when it is necessary to stop a vehicle to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or official traffic control device.
- B. The provisions of this chapter imposing a time limit on standing or parking shall not relieve any person from the duty to observe other and more restrictive provisions of the Vehicle Code of the state or of this code prohibiting or limiting the standing or parking of vehicles in specified places or at specified times.

(Prior code § 3-2.901)

8.20.020 Standing, stopping, and parking in roadways and parkways prohibited.

- A. No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle within any parkway. No person shall stop, stand, park or leave standing any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, upon any street in the city when it is practicable to stop, park or leave the vehicle of such travelled portion of the roadway, but in every event an unobstructed width of the roadway opposite a standing vehicle shall be left for the free passage of other vehicles, and a clear view of the stopped vehicle shall be available from a distance of two hundred (200) feet in each direction upon the roadway. This section shall not apply where a roadway is bounded by adjacent curbs.
- B. This section shall not apply to the driver of any vehicle which is disabled in such a manner and to such an extent that it is impossible to avoid stopping and temporarily leaving the disabled vehicle on the roadway.

(Prior code § 3-2.902)

8.20.030 Parking for certain purposes prohibited.

No person shall park a vehicle upon any roadway for the principal purpose of:

- ~~A. Displaying such vehicle for sale;~~
- ~~B~~A. Washing, greasing, or repairing such vehicle except repairs necessitated by an emergency; or
- ~~C~~B. Obstructing any portion of the regular lanes of travel.

(Prior code § 3-2.903)

8.20.040 Angle parking.

The city engineer shall mark, sign, or paint any street or any other public parking area indicating the angle at which vehicles shall be parked, in any such area designated by the city council for such purposes. Whenever such signs, markings or painting are in place, no person shall park or stand a vehicle other than at the angle to the curb

or the edge of the roadway indicated by such signs, markings, or painting and the right front wheel of such vehicle shall be within eighteen (18) inches of the curb or edge of the roadway.

(Prior code § 3-2.905)

8.20.050 Parking on narrow streets.

- A. The city engineer is hereby authorized to place signs or markings indicating no parking upon any street where the width of the roadway does not exceed twenty (20) feet, or upon one side of a street as indicated by such signs or markings where the width of the roadway does not exceed thirty (30) feet.
- B. When official signs or markings prohibiting parking are erected upon narrow streets as authorized by the provisions of this section, no person shall park a vehicle upon any such street in violation of any such sign or marking.

(Prior code § 3-2.908)

8.20.060 Parking in disabled zones prohibited.

- A. It is unlawful for any person to stop, stand or park a vehicle in any disabled parking zone unless the vehicle displays either distinguishing license plates or a placard issued pursuant to the California Vehicle Code for disabled persons or disabled veterans.
- B. It is unlawful for any person to park a vehicle within three feet of any sidewalk access ramp which has been constructed adjacent to a crosswalk so as to be accessible to and usable by the physically disabled.

(Prior code § 3-2.909)

8.20.070 Reserved.

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 2014-398, § 1, adopted Feb. 11, 2014, repealed § 8.20.070 which pertained to unlawful parking of peddlers and vendors and derived from § 3-2.910 of the prior code.

8.20.080 Emergency parking signs.

- A. Whenever the chief of police shall determine that an emergency traffic congestion is likely to result from the holding of public or private assemblages, gatherings, or functions, or for other reasons, the chief of police shall have the power and authority to order temporary signs to be erected or posted indicating that the operation, parking, or standing of vehicles is prohibited on such streets and alleys as the chief of police shall direct during the time such temporary signs are in place. Such signs shall remain in place only during the existence of such emergency, and the chief of police shall cause such signs to be removed promptly thereafter.
- B. When the signs authorized by the provisions of this section are in place giving notice thereof, no person shall operate, park, or stand any vehicle contrary to the directions and provisions of such signs.

(Prior code § 3-2.911)

8.20.090 Parking for more than 72 hours.

No person who owns or has possession, custody, or control of any vehicle or trailer shall park such vehicle or trailer upon any street, alley, or public place continuously for more than a consecutive period of seventy-two (72)

hours. For the purposes of this section, a vehicle or trailer shall be considered to have been parked or left standing for seventy-two (72) or more consecutive hours if it has not been moved at least one thousand (1,000) feet during such seventy-two (72) hour period.

(Prior code § 3-2.913)

8.20.100 Removal of vehicles parked more than 72 hours.

Any ~~regularly employed and salaried officer of the police department~~ enforcement officer as defined in 8.04.020 may remove, or cause to be removed, any vehicle which has been parked or left standing upon a street, highway, or public parking lot for seventy-two (72) or more consecutive hours.

(Prior code § 3-2.914)

8.20.110 Establishment of preferential parking zones.

- A. The city engineer may issue regulations regulating parking, stopping, or standing in public parking areas, both on-street and off-street. Any regulation issued pursuant to this section shall not be effective until signs notifying of such regulation have been erected.
- B. In addition to subsection A, the city engineer may designate by resolution approved by the city council certain public parking areas, residential streets, alleys or any portions thereof as a preferential parking zone for the benefit of the city and residents. Said preferential parking program is solely voluntary and vehicles in said preferential parking zone displaying a permit or other authorized indicia may be exempt from the city's parking prohibitions or restrictions. The resolution shall include the following, as well as other matters deemed pertinent by the city engineer:
 - 1. The boundaries of the preferential parking zone;
 - 2. The hours during which preferential parking shall apply;
 - 3. The procedures for obtaining preferential parking permits, including the fee therefor.
- C. Upon the adoption of a preferential parking resolution, no person shall park in the designated area during the hours specified for preferential parking without a preferential parking permit.

(Ord. 07-305 § 1 (part))

8.20.111 Findings and use of fees.

- A. Each preferential parking zone may be designated only upon findings that such zone is required to enhance or protect the quality of life in the area of the proposed zone and that such zone is necessary to provide reasonably available and convenient parking for the benefit of the city.
- B. The fees for preferential parking permits shall be established by a resolution of the city council. The revenue generated by the fees from a preferential parking shall be deposited in a separate fund. No moneys shall be disbursed from this fund except for the purposes set forth in this chapter.
- C. The revenue generated by the fees from a preferential parking program shall be used for funding the city's costs of its preferential parking programs, such as maintenance and striping of parking areas and other parking program costs.
- D. The revenue generated by the fees from a preferential parking program may also be authorized by the city council to be used for such other private programs which benefit the city as follows:

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1. Promotion of business and retail activities within the downtown business area or in the general area where the funds are raised;
 2. Promotion of public events which are to take place on or in public places within the downtown business area or in the general area where the funds are raised;
 3. Furnishing of music and decorations in any public place within the downtown business area or in the general area where the funds are raised;
 4. Providing public improvements such as landscaping, trash receptacles, litter removal and sidewalk cleaning in any public place within the downtown business area or in the general area where the funds are raised;
 5. Acquisition, construction or maintenance of parking facilities for the benefit of the city.
- E. If the city council authorizes the use of revenue generated by the fees from a preferential parking to benefit the city, such authorization shall be by a resolution of the city council designating such city or private program to receive said funds. The resolution shall also require the program applicant to provide, upon completion of the program and/or improvements, a detailed accounting of the use of said funds, and any unused funds shall be promptly returned to the city.

(Ord. 07-305 § 1 (part))

8.20.112 Notice of preferential parking.

- A. The city engineer or his or her designee shall install, at such public parking areas, streets or alleys or portions thereof as have been declared to be preferential parking zones, appropriate signs or markings giving notice of such parking restriction.
- B. No preferential parking resolution shall apply until signs or markings giving adequate notice thereof have been placed.

(Ord. 07-305 § 1 (part))

8.20.114 Issuance of permits.

- A. The police department shall be responsible for the issuance of permits pursuant to this chapter. Applicants for such permits shall present such proof, as may be required by said department. Not more than one permit shall be issued for each such motor vehicle. The police department shall prescribe appropriate application forms and procedures with respect to such permits. The form of the permit shall be prescribed by the police department and shall be affixed in a visible location on the subject vehicle.
- B. Permits issued pursuant to this section shall remain effective for a period of one calendar year or fraction thereof, or until the preferential parking zone for which such permit was issued is eliminated, whichever period of time is less.
- C. Each permit shall be subject to all conditions and restrictions set forth in this chapter and of the preferential parking zone for which it was issued, including conditions or restrictions which may be altered or amended from time to time. The issuance of such permit shall not be construed to be a permit for, or approval of, any violation of any provisions of this code or any other laws or regulations.
- D. It shall be unlawful for any person to alter, forge, counterfeit, or falsify any permit relating to a preferential program or display or cause or permit to be displayed any such altered, forged, counterfeited or false permit with the intent to represent the permit as issued by the city.

(Ord. 07-305 § 1 (part))

8.20.120 Use of parking areas by other than motor vehicles.

No item (including, by way of example, but not limited to, dumpsters and construction materials) other than a motor vehicle may be placed in any lawful public parking area or loading zone, either on-street or off-street, or on any sidewalk, unless the owner or authorized user of the item has first obtained a permit from the city engineer for such use of the area, and paid a fee as set in the municipal fee schedule.

(Prior code § 3-2.916)

Article 2. Stopping for Loading or Unloading Only

8.20.130 Authority to establish loading zones.

- A. The city engineer is hereby authorized to determine and mark loading zones and passenger loading zones near any entrance to any place of business or in front of any hall or place used for the purpose of public assembly.
- B. Loading zones shall be indicated by yellow painted curbs or by signs.
- C. Passenger loading zones shall be indicated by white painted curbs or by signs.
- D. The city engineer may determine to permit general parking for all, or parts, of any day in loading zones and shall post signs in accordance with such determinations.

(Prior code § 3-2.1001)

8.20.140 Curb markings to indicate no stopping and parking regulations.

- A. The city engineer is hereby authorized, subject to the provisions and limitations of this chapter, to place, and when required herein shall place, the following curb markings to indicate parking or standing regulations. Such curb markings shall have the following meanings:
 - 1. Red shall mean no stopping, standing, or parking at any time, except as permitted by the Vehicle Code of the State and except that a bus may stop in a red zone marked or signed as a bus zone.
 - 2. Yellow shall mean no stopping, standing, or parking at any time between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. of any day, not including Sundays and holidays, and except where the city engineer has designated general parking during those hours by posting signs in such areas, for any purpose other than the loading or unloading of passengers or materials; provided, however, the loading or unloading of passengers shall not consume more than three minutes and the loading or unloading of materials other than twenty (20) minutes.
 - 3. White shall mean no stopping, standing, or parking for any purpose other than the loading or unloading of passengers which shall not exceed three minutes. Such restrictions shall apply between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. of any day, except Sundays and holidays, except when such zone is in front of a theater. Restrictions shall apply at all times, except when such theater is closed.
 - 4. Green shall mean no standing or parking for longer than twenty (20) minutes at any time between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. of any day, except Sundays and holidays.

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5. Blue shall mean parking for the exclusive use of physically handicapped persons in accordance with Sections 8.20.270 through 8.20.290 of this chapter.
- B. When the city engineer, as authorized under this chapter, has caused curb markings to be placed, no person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle adjacent to any such legible curb marking in violation of any of the provisions of this section.

(Prior code § 3-2.1002)

8.20.150 Effect of permission to load or unload.

- A. Permission herein granted to stop or stand a vehicle for the purposes of loading or unloading of materials shall apply only to commercial vehicles and shall not extend beyond the time necessary therefor and in no event for more than twenty (20) minutes.
- B. The loading or unloading of materials shall apply only to commercial deliveries and the delivery and pickup of express and parcel post packages and United States mail.
- C. Permission herein granted to stop or park for the purposes of loading or unloading passengers shall include the loading or unloading of personal baggage but shall not extend beyond the time necessary therefor and in no event for more than three minutes.
- D. Within the total time limits specified in this section, the provisions of this section shall be enforced so as to accommodate necessary and reasonable loading or unloading but without permitting the abuse of the privileges hereby granted.

(Prior code § 3-2.1003)

8.20.160 Standing for loading or unloading only.

No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle in any yellow loading zone for any purpose other than loading or unloading passengers or materials for such time as is permitted by Section 8.20.150 of this chapter.

(Prior code § 3-2.1004)

8.20.170 Standing in passenger loading zones.

No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle in any passenger loading zone for any purpose other than the loading or unloading of passengers for such time as is specified in Section 8.20.150 of this chapter.

(Prior code § 3-2.1005)

8.20.180 Parking in alleys.

- A. No person shall park a vehicle within an alley except during the necessary and expeditious loading and unloading of merchandise, and no person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle within an alley in such position as to block the driveway entrance to any abutting property or interfere with free movement of traffic through the alley.
- B. No vehicle shall be so parked as to constitute a fire hazard or any obstruction to fire fighting apparatus.

(Prior code § 3-2.1006)

8.20.190 Bus zones to be established.

- A. The city engineer is hereby authorized to establish bus zones opposite curb space for the loading and unloading of buses of common carriers of passengers and to determine the location thereof subject to the directives and limitations set forth herein.
- B. The word "bus" as used in this section shall mean any motor bus or passenger stage used as a common carrier of passengers.
- C. No person shall stop, stand or park any vehicle except a bus in a bus zone.

(Prior code § 3-2.1007)

Article 3. Stopping, Standing, or Parking Restricted or Prohibited on Certain Streets

8.20.200 Parking time.

When authorized signs are in place giving notice thereof, no person shall stop, stand or park any vehicle between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. of any day except Sundays and holidays for a period of time longer than as indicated by sign.

(Prior code § 3-2.1101)

8.20.210 Parking prohibited at all times on certain streets.

When signs are erected giving notice thereof, no person shall park a vehicle at any time upon any street.

(Prior code § 3-2.1102)

8.20.220 All night parking prohibited.

- A. No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle on any street for a period of time longer than thirty (30) minutes between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. of any day if notice thereof is posted in the block.
- B. No person shall stand or park any commercial vehicle having a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of ten thousand (10,000) pounds or more on any residential street between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. of any day, unless authorized in advance by the chief of police. This section not apply to any vehicle owned or operated by the city or any public utility, nor to an authorized emergency vehicle, nor to any vehicle making pickups or delivering goods, wares, or merchandise or delivering materials to be used in the actual and bona fide repair, alteration, remodeling, or construction of any building or structure located upon such residential street for which a building permit has previously been obtained.

(Prior code § 3-2.1103)

8.20.230 Parking space markings.

The city engineer is authorized to install and maintain parking space markings to indicate parking spaces adjacent to curbs where authorized parking is permitted. When such parking space markings are placed in the

highway, subject to other and more restrictive limitations, no vehicle shall be stopped, left standing, or parked other than within a single space, unless the size or shape of such vehicle makes compliance impossible.

(Prior code § 3-2.1104)

8.20.240 Removal of markings—Movement of parked vehicles before reparking.

It shall be unlawful, and an infraction, for any person to remove, obliterate, or obscure chalk marks or other indicia placed by city employees on any vehicle to enforce time-limited parking, or to park a vehicle more than once a day in any time-limited parking area or street during the time such time limits are in force, without moving the vehicle at least one thousand (1,000) feet prior to such parking.

(Prior code § 3-2.1105)

8.20.250 Continued parking violations.

Whenever the stopping, standing, or parking of a vehicle has been prohibited, restricted, or limited as to time by this chapter or any resolution enacted pursuant to this chapter, the continued standing or parking of such vehicle after a citation for the violation of such provision has been issued shall constitute a separate and additional violation of the provision for which the citation was issued when such standing or parking continues for an additional period longer than the maximum permissible period of parking in such space or location, or, if no such period of time is designated, when such stopping, standing, or parking continues for an additional period longer than one hour.

(Prior code § 3-2.1106)

8.20.260 Removal of illegally parked vehicles.

Any ~~full time police officer of the city~~ enforcement officer as defined in 8.04.020 may cause to be removed any vehicle which remains parked or standing longer than sixty (60) minutes after a citation has been issued in any area where parking is prohibited, provided signs are posted giving notice of such removal.

(Prior code § 3-2.1107)

8.20.265 Reserved parking for electric vehicle charging station use.

When authorized signs are in place giving notice thereof, no person shall stop, stand, or park any vehicle in a spot demarcated as an electric vehicle charging station except when using the electric vehicle chargers, as indicated by sign.

(Ord. No. 2013-393, § 2, 6-11-2013)

Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 2013-393, § 1, adopted June 11, 2013, repealed Ord. No. 2013-392, adopted April 9, 2013 and enacted § 8.20.265 as set out herein.

Article 4. Parking for the Physically Handicapped

8.20.270 Blue curb markings.

Blue curb markings or a sign consisting of a profile view of a wheel-chair with the occupant in white on a blue background posted immediately adjacent to and visible from each parking space shall indicate parking for the exclusive use of physically handicapped persons where vehicles display either one of the distinguishing license plates issued to disabled persons pursuant to Section 22511.5 of the Vehicle Code of the state or to disabled veterans as specified in Section 9105 of said Vehicle Code.

(Prior code § 3-2.1401)

8.20.280 Parking zones.

The city engineer is authorized to establish and maintain parking zones limited exclusively for the vehicles of physically handicapped persons displaying either one of the distinguishing license plates issued to disabled persons pursuant to Section 22511.5 of the Vehicle Code of the state or to disabled veterans as specified in Section 9105 of said Vehicle Code.

(Prior code § 3-2.1402)

8.20.290 Exclusive parking.

No person, on any public parking lot which is municipally owned or operated, shall park or place any vehicle in any area designated exclusively for the vehicles of physically handicapped persons, unless such vehicle displays either one of the distinguishing license plates issued to disabled persons pursuant to Section 22511.5 of the Vehicle Code of the state or to disabled veterans as specified in Section 9105 of said Vehicle Code.

(Prior code § 3-2.1403)