

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
LOS ALTOS AMENDING SECTION 8.04 OF THE LOS ALTOS  
MUNICIPAL CODE GOVERNING VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC**

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

**WHEREAS**, LAMC Section 8.04 provides the general provisions, administration, and enforcement of vehicles and traffic. It limits authority for street traffic laws to only sworn peace officers within the City. The recommended modifications create the definition of enforcement officer incorporating language from LAMC 1.30. Additionally, it will allow directed enforcement officers to enforce all parking laws and issue citations to any person responsible for violation of the city parking code; 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 8.04 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



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## Chapter 8.04 GENERAL PROVISIONS, ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Sections:

### *Article 1. Definitions*

#### **8.04.010 Vehicle Code definitions incorporated.**

Except as defined hereinafter, every term or phrase used in this chapter shall have the meaning set forth in the Vehicle Code of the state of California.

(Prior code § 3-2.101)

#### **8.04.020 Terms and phrases defined.**

Whenever appearing in this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning as follows hereinafter:

"Enforcement officer" means any city employee or agent of the city with the authority to enforce any provision of the city code, including, but not limited to, the city manager, or his or her designee, as set forth in a resolution adopted by the city council.

"Holidays" are January 1st, the third Monday in both January and February, the last Monday in May, July 4th, the first Monday in September, the second Monday in October, the second Monday in November, the third Thursday in November, and December 25th.

"Loading zone" means the space adjacent to a curb reserved for the exclusive use vehicles during the loading or unloading of passengers or materials.

"Passenger loading zone" means the space adjacent to a curb reserved for the exclusive use of vehicles during the loading or unloading of passengers.

~~"Police officer" means every sworn peace officer of the city meeting the standards of the Penal Code of the state of California and so designated by the chief of police.~~

(Prior code § 3-2.102)

### **Article 2. Enforcement and Obedience to Traffic Regulations**

#### **8.04.030 Authority of police and fire department officials.**

- A. It shall be the duty of the officers of the police department, or such officers as are assigned by the chief of police, to enforce all street traffic laws of the city and all of the state vehicle laws applicable to street traffic in the city.
- B. Officers of the police department, or ~~enforcement officers such officers as are assigned by the chief of police~~, are hereby authorized to direct all traffic by voice, hand or signal in conformance with traffic laws, provided that in the event of a fire or other emergency, or to expedite traffic or safeguard pedestrians,

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officers of the police department may direct traffic as conditions may require, notwithstanding the provisions of the traffic laws.

- C. Officers of the fire department, when at the scene of a fire, may direct or assist the police in directing traffic threat or in the immediate vicinity.

D. It shall be the duty of directed enforcement officers to enforce all parking laws of the city and all of the state vehicle laws applicable to parking in the city.

(Prior code § 3-2.201)

#### **8.04.040 Required obedience to traffic regulations.**

It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required in this chapter.

(Prior code § 3-2.202)

#### **8.04.050 Obedience to police and fire department officials.**

No person shall ~~wilfully~~willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order of a police officer, enforcement officer, or fire department official when directing traffic.

(Prior code § 3-2.203)

#### **8.04.060 Persons other than officials shall not direct traffic.**

No person, other than an officer of the police department, ~~or enforcement officer, or fire department official~~a person deputized by the chief of police or person authorized by law, shall direct or attempt to direct traffic by voice, hand or other signal, except that persons may operate, when and as herein provided, any mechanical pushbutton signal erected by order of the council.

(Prior code § 3-2.204)

#### **8.04.070 Public employees to obey traffic regulations.**

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to the driver of any vehicle owned by or used in the service of the United States government, the state, any county, or any city. It shall be unlawful for any said driver to violate any of the provisions of this chapter except as otherwise permitted in this chapter or by state statute.

(Prior code § 3-2.205)

#### **8.04.080 Exemptions to certain vehicles.**

- A. The provisions of this chapter regulating the operation, parking and standing of vehicles shall not apply to any vehicle of the police or fire department, any public ambulance or any public utility vehicle or private ambulance, which public utility vehicle or private ambulance has qualified as an authorized emergency vehicle, when any vehicle mentioned in this section is operated in the manner specified in the Vehicle Code of the state in response to an emergency call.

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B. The provisions of this chapter regulating the parking or standing of vehicles shall not apply to any vehicle of a city department or public utility while necessarily in use for construction or repair work or any vehicle owned by the United States while in use for the collection, transportation or delivery of United States mail.

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