



# AB 6718 Shopping Cart Regulations (First Reading of Ord. No. 25C-18)

July 1, 2025



# Background

- October 15, 2024 - City Council motioned to amend the 2025-2026 Work Plan to include the consideration of an ordinance to regulate shopping carts.
- Five Town Center businesses—Metropolitan Market, QFC, Rite Aid, True Value, and Walgreens—provide shopping carts for their customers.
- Abandoned or stolen shopping carts can obstruct access to sidewalks, streets, and rights-of-way, interfere with pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and impede emergency services.

# Background

- State law prohibits the removal shopping carts from parking areas of retail establishments but does not require businesses to have signage on their shopping cars and retrieve the carts.
- Many cities – like Bellevue, Issaquah, and Renton – have addressed this issue by adopting shopping cart ordinances.
- The ordinance presented for adoption was a result of researching other cities' ordinances and implementation success.

# Ordinance No. 25C-18

- The Sound Transit Light Rail Station is anticipated to open on the Island in early 2026.
- Staff anticipate changes in the foot traffic in Town Center and the potential for an increase in unlawful activities.
- Ordinance No. 25C-18 is a proactive measure that intends to prevent the illegal removal of shopping carts from business premises, to mitigate the illegal possession and accumulation of shopping carts on public or private property, and to limit the operation of shopping carts in public right of ways.



# Ordinance No. 25C-18

Ordinance No. 25C-18 adds a section to Title 9 MICC that includes the following regulations:

- All shopping carts are required to be labeled, and signage posted on the business' property, in accordance with State law.
- Owners are required to retrieve a shopping cart within 48 hours of the City providing notification of a lost, stolen, or abandoned cart.
- Removal of shopping carts from the premises of the retail establishment is illegal.
- Operating a shopping cart in the right-of-way, or in a park, is illegal.
- The ordinance will go into effect on October 1, 2025.

# Next Steps

- Staff are in contact with impacted businesses and will continue to communicate changes upon adoption of Ordinance No. 25C-18.
- Work on the other public safety ordinances added to the 2025-2026 Workplan is ongoing. Staff will present an update to the City Council in Q3 2025 on this work.

# Questions?

