

# City of Norman

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Shopping Cart Ordinances





# Shopping Cart Ordinance – Examples

- Individuals can't
  - Remove cart from business
  - Be in possession of a cart when it is not on the owner's premises
  - Leave or abandon the cart somewhere off premises
- Businesses must
  - Put signage/identification on their carts
  - "Abandoned Cart Prevention/Retrieval Plan"
  - Use physical disabling device
- City can
  - Contact cart owner to retrieve carts (typically only when on public property)
  - Impound carts (each Municipality has different procedures)
  - Require a fee for retrieval of carts impounded by City



# City Impoundment – Example Procedures

- Identifying abandoned carts
  - Staff generated activity; or
  - Residents can call or email (some Cities do it through their app)
- Notice
  - City notice to retailer before impoundment, some just impound and then notice
  - Requires information about cart ownership (i.e., signage on all carts)
- Retrieval
  - Retailers generally given a set time to retrieve carts before impoundment
  - If impounded, retailers must claim carts within period of time, otherwise the carts are disposed of
  - If impounded, retailers must pay fee to retrieve carts (most of the time around \$50)



# City Impoundment – Considerations

- Impoundment and retrieval
  - Some City department would be charged with compliance and abatement (would also need appropriate vehicle to transport)
  - City would need to designate area to store impounded carts and the responsible staff to facilitate retrieval
  - Carts not recovered would be disposed at City's cost (costs likely not able to be recouped)
- Cost to businesses
  - More aggressive measures (e.g., magnetic boundary system requirement) might be costly to businesses
- Criminal enforcement challenges
  - Generally, should avoid punishing victims of theft
  - Prohibition on possession of shopping cart poses enforcement difficulties
  - City ordinance would not extend to those located on private property (unless we obtain permission)



# QUESTIONS?

[NormanOK.gov](http://NormanOK.gov)

