



# SHOPPING CARTS & THE UNHOUSED UPDATE

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE MEETING

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JUNE 5, 2025

LIEUTENANT LEE MCWHORTER, POLICE COMMUNITY OUTREACH,  
PRO-ACTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (PACE)

SHANNON STEVENSON, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER



# Impact on City Resources

## Law Enforcement

- Citizens Call 911 to Report Abandoned Carts
- Safety Concerns

## Transportation and Traffic Management

- Roadway Safety
- Sidewalk & Street Repairs

## Utility Services

- Waste Management: Litter Control & Disposal
- Water, Stormwater & Sewage System Concerns

## Diverts City Resources to Address

- Average 30 Abandoned Carts/Month



# Recent Activity

- Continued Conversations with Walmart
  - Improved communications → quicker response times
  - Adding signage to all carts
  - Installation will begin week of June 9
- Met with Chamber & Impacted Businesses
- Enhanced City Efforts
  - Pro-Active Community Engagement (PACE) Team
  - Holistic response to issues



# Pro-Active Community Engagement (PACE) Team

## Engage

- Build relationships with individuals
- Connect people to resources
- Educate on city code and state statutes

## Coordinate

- Community resource partners
- Local businesses
- Property owners

## Respond

- Rapid response to issues
- Provide advanced notice
- Ensure clean up completed and monitor



# Walmart Cart Signage

## Municipal Code 24-501: Interference with Property's Use

No person shall detrimentally use another's property or wrongfully interfere with the use of any public or private property by the owner or the person entitled to its use

(Code 1976, § 15-601; Ord. No. O-7273-56)

## HISTORY

*Adopted by Ord. O-2223-23 on 02/28/2023*



# Proposed Plan for Walmart Carts

NPD will make contact for citations

Once cited, cart will be seized and returned to store

Propose 3 options for cited individual belongings:

1. Abandon items (signing an affidavit of non-ownership) and items will be disposed of
2. Request items be booked into Property Custody as found property

Items will be collected and a “receipt” with a case # and the contact/hours of operation for retrieval will be provided

3. Move items into a bag or other vessel and individual may retain their belonging



## AFFIDAVIT OF NON-OWNERSHIP

I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent/guardian of (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_,  
being of lawful age and sound mind, do hereby state and affirm that I deny and disavow any  
legal interest, right or claim in and to the following property:

I understand that this will operate to bar any such claim now or in the future. I have read this  
Affidavit and I make this statement having been made no promises and without threat or  
coercion. I do so voluntarily and of my own free will. I understand that nothing in this statement  
can ever be used against me as evidence of criminal guilt in a court of law, pursuant to 22 O.S.  
§ 1321, nor will this Affidavit be admissible in any criminal proceeding against me now or in the  
future.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Affiant Signature



**Norman Police Department**

Courage • Compassion • Collaboration • Commitment

Case Number # \_\_\_\_\_



# Potential Next Steps

- Confirm Path Forward
- Continue PACE Team Engagement
- Begin Walmart Cart Education Campaign:  
Now
- Begin Walmart Cart Enforcement:  
August 1, 2025
- Meet with Other Businesses
- Propose Businesses Develop Cart  
Containment Plan?
- Provide Update to BACA:  
December 2025

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# Questions?

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