

2023 Proposed Code Changes

219.01 - Department of public service established.

There is established a department of public service consisting of a director of public service, ~~two (2)~~ deputy directors of public service, ~~assistant directors of public service~~, the division of traffic management, the division of infrastructure management, the division of design and construction, the division of mobility and parking services, and the division of refuse collection. The department of public service shall perform all lawful functions as may be directed by the mayor or ordinance of council.

219.034 - Division of mobility and parking services.

The division of mobility and parking services is established as a division of the department of public service. The administrative head of the division shall be the ~~assistant director for parking services administrator~~. The division shall have as its primary duties general transportation planning efforts to include bicycle infrastructure analysis, traffic calming and shared mobility. The division of ~~parking services~~ shall ~~have as its primary duties also oversee~~ the administration, operation, enforcement, and management of public parking. The division shall include the parking violations bureau as established by 2150.04 of the Columbus City Code.

919.23 - Traffic.

- (A) No person, except in an emergency, shall repair a vehicle in any park.
- (B) No person shall wash, wax, polish or otherwise clean any vehicle, in any park, except in areas designated for such purposes.
- (C) No person shall operate or park a vehicle on the grass except in designated areas.
- (D) No person shall operate any vehicle with a gross weight greater than eight thousand (8,000) pounds in any park without the permission of the director.
- (E) No person shall operate a snowmobile upon or over any area administered by the department except in those areas so designated.
- (F) No person shall operate a motor vehicle upon the roadways within any park in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour.
- (G) No person shall operate any vehicle upon the frozen surface of any waterway.
- (H) A violation of division (C) of this section constitutes the commission of a parking infraction to be handled pursuant to and governed by the provisions of Chapter 2150.

2105.28 Shared Mobility Devices

The director of the department of public service is empowered to promulgate rules and regulations for the operation of shared mobility devices within the City of Columbus, including, but not limited to, e-scooters, e-bicycles and bicycles, as well as shared mobility device vendors. Such rules and regulations shall establish procedures for the operation of shared mobility devices, shared mobility device vendors and permit fees, and shall be promulgated according to Section 2105.03.

2150.01 - Definitions.

- (A) "Parking Infractions" means a violation of Section 919.23(C), Section 2105.16, division (B) of 2131.27, Sections 2137.09, 2151.01, 2151.03, 2151.04, 2151.06, 2151.08, 2151.09, ~~2151.10~~, 2151.11, 2151.12, 2151.13, 2151.14, 2151.15, 2151.16, 2151.17, 2151.18, 2151.19, 2151.20, 2151.21, 2151.22, ~~2151.23~~, 2151.25, 2151.26, 2155.02, 2155.05, ~~2155.06~~, or 2157.04.
- (B) "Vehicle" has the same meaning as in Section 2101.51.
- (C) "Court" or "Municipal Court" means the Franklin County Municipal Court, unless specifically identified as another court, in which case it means the specifically identified court.

(D) "Bureau" means the City of Columbus, Ohio, Parking Violations Bureau, unless specifically identified as another bureau, in which case it means the specifically identified bureau.

(E) "Local authority" means every county, municipal corporation, township or other local board or body having authority to adopt police regulations pursuant to the constitution and laws of this State.

2150.02 - Impoundment and immobilization.

(A) The commission of a parking infraction, as defined in division (A) of Section 2150.01 of this chapter, within the City of Columbus shall not be considered a criminal offense for any purpose.

(B) A vehicle involved in three (3) or more parking infractions in which judgments or default judgments have been filed with the Clerk of the Municipal Court pursuant to division (C) of Section 2150.07 of this chapter is subject to impoundment or immobilization by law enforcement officers of the City of Columbus or their agents. Impoundment or immobilization pursuant to this division of this section is permitted without regard to whether the vehicle, at the time of impoundment or immobilization, is legally parked. The owner of a vehicle impounded pursuant to this chapter shall be liable for impoundment fees and storage charges as provided by Section 2107.06 of the Columbus City Code.

(C) A vehicle impounded or immobilized under division B or division D of this section shall be released to the owner upon the owner presenting a valid certificate of title to the vehicle to the violations clerk of the parking violations bureau and upon the owner either paying the fines, penalties, fees and costs due on the parking infractions issued or outstanding or payment of the judgments or default judgments which led to the impoundment or immobilization or posting a bond equal to the amount of said fines, penalties, fees, and costs. In no case, however, shall the owner of a vehicle impounded or immobilized pursuant to this chapter be required to post a bond in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to obtain release of the vehicle. If the vehicle owner posts a bond with the parking violations bureau and requests a hearing, the vehicle shall be released to the owner and a hearing scheduled. The hearing shall follow the procedures provided for in Section 2150.07 of the Columbus City Codes.

(D) Notwithstanding divisions (B) and (C) of this section, a vehicle parked, stopped or standing on a public street, easement, public right-of-ways, or highway in commission of a parking infraction is subject to impoundment.

Impoundment of a vehicle parked, stopped or standing on a public street, easement, public right-of-way, or highway in commission of a parking offense may be ordered, directed, or caused by division of Police or Parking Violations Bureau personnel.

2150.04 - Parking Violation Bureau.

(a) The City of Columbus Parking Violations Bureau is hereby established pursuant to Section 4521.04 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Bureau shall be a section within the division of mobility and parking services within the department of public service. The bureau has jurisdiction over each parking infraction that occurs within the territory of the City of Columbus. The bureau will also issue parking permits for areas established pursuant to Section 2105.21 of this Code. The issuance or renewal of a permit under this section shall not be granted until all outstanding parking infractions under this code are paid in full. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, each parking infraction that occurs within the jurisdiction of the bureau and the enforcement of each such parking infraction shall be handled pursuant to and be governed by the provisions of Title 21 of this Code.

(b) The operating costs of the bureau shall be paid by the City of Columbus. The director of public service shall appoint a security manager, hearing examiners and the necessary clerical employees. No person shall be employed as a hearing examiner unless the person is an attorney admitted to the practice of law in this state or formerly was employed as a law enforcement officer.

(c) The fines, penalties, fees and costs established for a parking infraction shall be collected, retained and disbursed by the violations clerk if the parking infraction out of which the fine, penalties, fees and costs arose occurred within the jurisdiction of the bureau. The violations clerk shall issue tickets for parking infractions to law enforcement officers for the City of Columbus and prescribe conditions for issuance and accountability. The fine, penalties, fees and costs collected by a violations clerk for a parking infraction shall be disbursed by the clerk to the City of Columbus.

(d) The director of public service shall have authority to contract with any non-governmental entity to provide services in processing, collecting and enforcing parking tickets issued by law enforcement officers and civil judgments and default civil judgments entered pursuant to this chapter. No contract shall affect the responsibilities of hearing examiners as prescribed in this chapter or the ultimate responsibility of the violations clerk to collect, retain and disburse fines, penalties, fees and costs for parking infractions and monies paid in satisfaction of judgments and default judgment entered pursuant to this chapter.

2150.05 - Answers, procedure.

(A) A person who is personally or constructively served with a parking ticket charging the commission of a parking infraction may answer the charge by appearing personally before the parking violations bureau by mail or online appeal. An answer shall be made within ten (10) days from the date of the infraction, and shall be in one of the following forms:

- (1) An admission that the person committed the parking infraction, by payment of any fine arising out of the parking infraction;
- (2) An admission that the person committed the parking infraction, with an explanation of the circumstances surrounding the parking infraction;
- (3) A denial that the person committed the parking infraction and a request for a hearing relative to the infraction. If the person desires the presence, at the hearing, of the law enforcement officer who issued the parking ticket, the person must request the law enforcement officer's presence in the person's answer.

(B)(1) A person who admits committing a parking infraction shall, and a person who admits committing a parking infraction with explanation may, when the person makes an answer, pay the fine arising out of the infraction admitted to the violations clerk of the bureau.

- (2) A person who admits committing a parking infraction with explanation shall submit evidence to the bureau that explains the circumstances surrounding the parking infraction. The evidence may be submitted in person or, to avoid the necessity of personal appearance, may be sent as affidavits and other documentary evidence by mail or electronic mail. The bureau, when it receives an answer admitting that the person committed a parking infraction with explanation, shall promptly determine whether the explanation mitigates the fact that the person committed the parking infraction and notify the person, in writing, by regular U.S. mail or by electronic mail, of its determination.

If the bureau determines that the explanation mitigates the fact that the person committed the parking infraction, the bureau shall eliminate or reduce the amount of the fine arising out of the parking infraction. If the fine is eliminated or reduced and the person has previously paid the fine, the amount paid in excess of the revised fine shall be returned to the person; if the fine is eliminated or reduced and

the person has not previously paid the fine, the person shall pay only the amount of the revised fine. If the bureau determines that the explanation does not mitigate the fact that the person committed the parking infraction, the person owes the entire amount of the fine arising out of the parking infraction, and if the person has not previously paid the fine, the person shall pay the entire amount of the fine. If a person admits to committing a parking infraction with explanation and the person fails to pay the amount of the fine due within ten (10) days after receiving notice of the bureau's determination, unless the amount due has previously been paid, the bureau's determination and the amount of the fine due shall be considered a judgment and shall be treated as if it were a judgment rendered subsequent to a hearing held pursuant to division (B) of Section 2150.07.

- (3) A person who denies the commission of a parking infraction shall be granted a hearing concerning the infraction. The bureau shall set a date for the hearing and notify the person, in writing by regular U.S. mail or by electronic mail, of the date, time, and place of the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by a hearing examiner of the parking violations bureau in accordance with Section 2150.07.

(C) If a person who is personally or constructively served with a parking ticket charging the commission of a parking infraction fails to timely answer the charge, as provided in division (A) of this section, the parking violations bureau shall issue the proper notifications of infraction pursuant to Section 2150.06, and proceed according to that section. Failure to timely answer a charge may result in the imposition of an additional penalty of fifteen dollars (\$15.00).

(D) The issuance of a parking ticket, the filing of or failure to file answer by a person personally or constructively served with the ticket, the substance of an answer, the payment of any fine, penalty, fee and cost, and any other relevant information shall be entered in the records of the bureau.

2150.10 - Parking infraction fines.

The following fines for parking infractions are hereby established:

Code Section	Violation	Current Penalty
919.23(C)	Parking on Grass in city Park	\$30.00
2105.16	Individual Parking Spaces	\$47.00
2131.27(bB)	Parking Near Emergency Vehicle	\$63.00
2137.09	Lights on Parked Vehicle	\$47.00
2151.01(1)(aA)	Parking prohibited on a sidewalk, shared-use path, curb, or street lawn area between a curb and right-of-way line, except a bicycle	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(aaAA)	Parking - prohibited within 1 ft. of wheelchair ramp	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(bB)	Parking - prohibited within 5 ft. of drive	\$55.00

Code Section	Violation	Current Penalty
2151.01(1)(bb BB)	Obstructing bus loading area	\$63.00
2151.01(1)(c E)	Parking - within an intersection	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(cc CC)	Parking in a loading zone	\$30.00
2151.01(1)(d D)	Parking - prohibited within 10 ft. of fire hydrant	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(dd DD)	Parking in a bike lane	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(e E)	Parking - prohibited on crosswalk	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(f F)	Parking - prohibited within 20 ft. of crosswalk	\$39.00
2151.01(1)(g G)	Parking - prohibited within 30 ft. of stop sign	\$39.00
2151.01(1)(h H)	Parking in or near a safety zone	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(i I)	Parking within 50 feet of railroad crossing	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(j J)	Parking near fire station entrance	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(k K)	Parking near street excavation or obstruction	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(l L)	Double Parking, Standing or Stopping	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(m M)	Parking - prohibited, bridge, viaduct or tunnel	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(n N)	Parking - prohibited within 1 ft. of another auto	\$25.00
2151.01(1)(o)(1) O1	Parking - prohibited, signs, no parking	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(o)(2) O2	Parking - prohibited, signs, no stopping	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(p P)	Parking - prohibited in front of schools	\$63.00
2151.01(1)(q Q)	Parking - prohibited in front of theaters	\$22.00
2151.01(1)(r R)	Parking - prohibited in street or alley 23 ft. or less in width	\$63.00
2151.01(1)(s S)	Parking - prohibited in front of church	\$22.00

Code Section	Violation	Current Penalty
2151.01(1)(t F)	Parking - prohibited in parkway	\$25.00
2151.01(1)(u U)	Parking - prohibited in front of auto mail box	\$25.00
2151.01(1)(v V)	Parking - prohibited on expressway	\$30.00
2151.01(1)(w W)	Parking - prohibited on service road	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(x X)	Parking - prohibited 20 ft. of junction of alley & street	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(y Y)	Parking - prohibited within 10 ft. of bulk refuse container	\$55.00
2151.01(1)(z Z)	Parking prohibited in disability space	\$500.00
2151.03	Parking without 10 ft. clearance	\$25.00
2151.04	Stopping not to obstruct street or crossing	\$39.00
2151.06(a A)	More than 12 inches from curb	\$22.00
2151.06(b B)	Parking facing wrong direction	\$25.00
<u>2151.08(a)</u>	<u>Motor running or brakes not set</u>	<u>\$47.00</u>
<u>2151.09(a)</u>	<u>Parking more than 72 hours</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>
2151.10B	Parking on public property	\$25.00
2151.10C	Parking on private property	\$22.00
<u>2151.08</u>	<u>Motor running or brakes not set</u>	<u>\$47.00</u>
<u>2151.09</u>	<u>Parking more than 72 hours</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>
2151.11	Parking near railroad spur tract	\$22.00
2151.12	Blocking driveway or garage	\$63.00
2151.13	Funeral service parking in front of church or funeral home	\$25.00
2151.14	Parking prohibited for displaying vehicle for sale	\$25.00

Code Section	Violation	Current Penalty
2151.15	Parking limited for displaying advertising	\$22.00
2151.16	Parking limited while offering materials for sale	\$25.00
2151.17	Parking for washing, greasing or repairing	\$25.00
2151.18	Parking in permit parking area	\$50.00
2151.19	Moving vehicle when loading space requested	\$25.00
2151.20	Overtime, truck, bus, boat, trailer or house vehicle	\$30.00
2151.21	Fail to register or display	\$50.00
2151.22	Inoperable motor vehicles on public property	\$30.00
2151.25	Parking in dedicated car-sharing parking space	\$50.00
2151.26	Overtime Parking	\$30.00
2155.02	Meter spaces limited to vehicles only	\$39.00
2155.05	Meter Non-Payment	\$30.00
2157.04	Parking, standing of vehicles prohibited - snow emergency	\$63.00

2151.04 - Obstructing street or crosswalk.

(a) No person shall stop a vehicle in such a way as to obstruct any street, highway, or crosswalk except in case of accident or other emergency or when directed to stop by a police officer. In such cases, the operator shall move ~~on again~~ as soon as possible.

(b) A violation of this section constitutes the commission of a parking infraction pursuant to and governed by the provisions of Chapter 2150.

2151.105 - Unauthorized towing.

(a) Except as provided in Sections 2151.22 ~~and 2151.23~~, no person shall remove or cause to be removed any vehicle from private property unless in conformance ~~with Section 2151.10~~ with respect to removing, or causing to be removed, motor vehicles from private property.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this division, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one (1) year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or

pleaded guilty to one (1) or more prior violations of this section or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

2155.04 - Powers and duties of the public service director.

The public service director is authorized and directed to make, modify, change from time to time and promulgate such administrative rules as in the director's discretion shall be deemed necessary to effectuate the provisions of this chapter.

The public service director is hereby authorized to establish, modify, and change from time to time, regulations which set forth the days of the week, hours of the day, and the intervals of time for which parking is permissible, and the funds and information required to complete a parking transaction for parking in individual parking spaces so designated and marked as provided for in Section 2155.01. Such regulations shall be signed by the public service director, filed with the city clerk of the city, and published in the City Bulletin.

The maintenance and repair of parking meters shall be under the supervision and direction of the public service director.

The public service director is further authorized to establish the rates for fees to be charged in the event that parking meters are temporarily removed for construction or other purposes as described in Section 2155.055, in accordance with the guidelines stated therein.

2155.05 - Deposit of funds required; meter non-payment.

(a) Whenever a vehicle shall be parked at a parking meter, as defined in Section 2155.01, during the days of the week and during the hours of the day for which the public service director has established regulations as provided for in Section 2155.04, the person parking such vehicle shall immediately deposit or cause to be deposited the required funds, the correct vehicle information, mobile payment zone number and any other information required to complete a parking transaction, except as provided for in the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to Section 2105.27. Upon the deposit of such funds, and the placing of such parking meter in operation, the parking space may be lawfully occupied by such vehicle during the period indicated on the parking meter. Any vehicle which fails to deposit the required funds and remains in an individual street or off-street parking space after the prescribed time for parking will be determined to be illegally parked and in violation of the provisions of this chapter. The fact that the vehicle is in an individual street or off-street parking space when the time on the parking meter for the same shows no parking permitted unless a deposit of the required funds is immediately made as herein provided shall be deemed prima-facie evidence of the unlawful parking of such vehicle by its owner. When a disabled designated vehicle is parked in a disabled designated space or any legal available parking space the vehicle shall be permitted to park two (2) hours beyond the legal limits on the meter or applicable parking space but not beyond the designated parking hours or other restricted hours that may apply.

(b) A violation of this section constitutes the commission of a parking infraction to be handled pursuant to and governed by the provisions of Chapter 2150.

2155.055 - Fees for parking meters out of service.

Whenever a parking meter is temporarily removed from service by hooding or by actual removal for later replacement, due to sidewalk repair, construction or other reason, the person or entity requesting such removal shall be required to pay a fee for each meter day that the parking meter is out of service. Such fee is to be determined by and shall not exceed the actual revenue loss to the city. Such actual revenue loss shall be determined by the parking meter rate in effect on the day that the meter is removed from service and shall be equivalent to the revenue amount that the parking meter would

generate if used continuously during the hours of enforcement for every meter day that the parking meter is out of service. ~~A waiver of the above noted requirement shall be granted to downtown special events by the service director upon receipt of satisfactory proof that the following conditions are met:~~

- ~~(1) That the sponsoring organization of a downtown special event be not for profit,~~
- ~~(2) That the function be not for profit,~~
- ~~(3) That the function be open to the public and~~
- ~~(4) That the function be held without admission charge.~~

Should it be necessary to remove and reinstall a parking meter post or otherwise remove a parking meter from service by hooding or by other means and restore the same, an additional fee shall be charged which reflects the cost entailed by the city for such removal and restoration or reinstallation. These fees shall be established by the service director, collected by the director's designee, and deposited in the Mobility Enterprise Fund ~~Parking Meter Program's designated fund.~~

2155.11 – Mobility Debt Retirement - Parking Meter Contribution Fund.

There is hereby created the City Mobility Debt Retirement - Parking Meter Contribution Fund into which City Incremental Parking Meter Receipts shall be deposited in the amounts necessary to maintain a balance of at least one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$1,400,000.00) in such fund, to the extent necessary to satisfy the City's obligations under Section 3.3 of the Cooperative Agreement among the Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority, the County of Franklin, Ohio and the City concerning the acquisition, construction, installation, equipping and financing of a full-service convention center hotel to be located on High Street, in Columbus, Ohio, across from the existing Columbus Convention Center. City Incremental Parking Meter Receipts means the incremental increase of receipts from fees and charges imposed by the City for street and off-street parking meters collected by the City as a result of any increase in rates charged after November 1, 2009.