

Chapter 64
VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

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§ 64-17. Violations and penalties. [Revision 10-7-96][subsection (b) stricken and replaced 11-4-96]

§ 64-18. Payment of fines; penalty for late payment. [(c) added 6-11-01.]

§ 64-19. Snow Emergencies [Added 11-4-96]

§ 64-20. School Zone Speed Monitoring Systems Authorized. [Added 10-25-09]

[HISTORY: Adopted 2-12-62. Amended and revised in its entirety 3-6-95, effective 3-26-95.

Amendment history noted where applicable. Amended by adding section 64-10.1 7-1-00. Amended by adding section 64-18 (c) 6-11-01.]]

§ 64-1. Definitions.

For purposes of this chapter, the terms used herein are defined as follows:

"Vehicle" -- Any device in, upon or by which any person or property may be transported or drawn upon a highway, excepting devices used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

"Motor vehicle" -- Any vehicle that is self-propelled.

"Parking lot" -- Any parking space or facility that is attached to a retail commercial center, multiple family dwelling facility, apartment house or apartment complex unit that contains greater than three (3) parking spaces.

Definitions of other the terms used in this chapter shall be found in the Maryland Vehicle Laws, as amended and supplemented from time to time, and shall be made a part of this chapter as though written herein.

§ 64-2. Enforcement.

The Town of Riverdale Park's Code Enforcement Officer and/or Police Department shall be responsible for enforcement of the provisions of Chapter 64.

§ 64-3. Official signs.

The signs referred to in this chapter, when authorized by the Mayor and Common Council of Riverdale Park, shall be deemed sufficient when in connection with the inscription thereon there shall appear the words, "Mayor and Council," "Police Department" or other language indicating that it is officially authorized.

§ 64-4. Vehicles to be licensed; fire lanes and ceremonial routes.

- (a) No vehicle shall remain on or be operated upon any street, alley or public way in the Town of Riverdale Park, unless such vehicle bears the appropriate license for the current year if such license be required by the state, county or municipal law.

(b) No vehicle shall be operated within any fire line established by the Fire Department, or in or upon any street, alley or public way or portion thereof from which traffic is excluded by the Mayor and Council for public ceremonies or because of a public emergency. The Police Department is authorized and directed to enforce such temporary traffic regulations.

§ 64-5. Trucks over five tons' gross weight. [Added 4-3-72.]

No vehicle in excess of five (5) tons' gross weight shall be operated on or in any town street where said town street has been posted by a sign: "No Trucks [or Vehicles] Over 5 Tons' Gross Weight."

§ 64-6. Stopping prohibited in specified places.

No vehicle shall be stopped in any of the following places, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the instructions of a police officer, an official traffic sign or a traffic light:

- (a) Within a street intersection.
- (b) On a crosswalk.
- (c) On a sidewalk space.
- (d) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction, when such stopping would impede traffic.
- (e) On any bridge or approach thereto.
- (f) On any streetcar or railroad track.

§ 64-7. Blocking or obstruction of fire department vehicle bays. [Added 2-3-92.]

No vehicle is permitted to block or obstruct the entrances and exits to and from the fire department vehicle bays at any time. To "block" or "obstruct" for purposes of this ordinance shall mean stopping, standing, pausing, or delaying a vehicle anywhere within the area marked by signs and/or yellow stripes on the street in front of the fire department's vehicle bays' doors so that the offending vehicle cannot be removed immediately from the area to permit immediate exit or entrance of any fire department vehicles. Violation of this section is a municipal infraction and the penalty for each violation shall be fifty dollars (\$50).

§ 64-8. Right-side parallel parking.

All motor or horse-drawn vehicles on any two-way street within the town shall, when not in motion, be parked or left standing on the right-hand side of the street parallel to and not more than twelve (12) inches from the right-hand curb or curblane of the street, except during an emergency or while actually loading or unloading passengers or merchandise.

§ 64-9. Double Parking.

Double parking on any street is prohibited, except that a vehicle may stop as near as practicable to parked vehicles only long enough to expeditiously load or unload passengers if no curb space is available within a reasonable distance, provided that such vehicle while so stopped will not unreasonably impede traffic or endanger public safety.

§ 64-10. Limitations on parking or standing in specified places. [Amended 4-3-72. Subsections (c) through (l) added 2-4-80. §64-10 amended 10-1-01. Other amendments noted where applicable.]

It shall be unlawful to park or leave standing any vehicle in any of the following circumstances:

- (a) Within three (3) feet of the front or rear of another vehicle parked on any street.
- (b) Within three (3) feet of the exit of, or the entrance to, any alley or driveway without the consent of the owner.
- (c) Where a sign prohibits parking.
- (d) In a loading or unloading zone.
- (e) Within twenty-five (25) feet of a stop sign.
- (f) Within twenty-five (25) feet of any intersecting street.
- (g) Within ten (10) feet of a fire plug.
- (h) On any street or public space for making repairs, except in minor cases.
- (i) Within twenty (20) feet of either side of a bus stop.
- (j) With respect to any commercial vehicles, on any street or public space unless loading or unloading.
- (k) Parking or leaving unattended any gasoline truck or other combustibles conveyance.

(l) Next to a yellow curb.

(m) In a designated handicap parking space without displaying the official Maryland vehicle handicap tag or handicap placard. **[Added 3-1-82.]**

(n) In a driveway or on driveway aprons so that the vehicle blocks or overhangs a sidewalk thus obstructing free pedestrian passage. **[Added 6-7-82.]**

(o) Upon, over or beyond the curb, within the public right-of-way. **[Added 8-2-82.]**

(p) Within twenty-five (25) feet of parking lot entrances and exits. **[Added 10-1-01.]**

§ 64-10.1. Parking on Unpaved and Unprepared Surfaces. [Added 7-1-00][Amended 10-2-08, effective 10-22-08]

(a) Definitions: The following words shall have the following definitions for purposes of this section.

"Prepared Surface" shall mean any surface covered by asphalt, concrete, brick, block, gravel, crushed stone or other similar permeable or semi-permeable aggregated material on the area which the tires of a vehicle rest or traverse.

"Unprepared Surface" shall mean any surface that is not a prepared surface.

"Vehicles" shall mean any vehicle that requires registration by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Authority to operate on the state roads of Maryland, including, but not limited to trucks, automobiles, boats, trailers, motor homes, and camping vehicles.

"Front building line" shall mean the point of the residential structure on a residential property that is closest to the public road on which the property has its street address. It shall be calculated by drawing a straight line at ninety (90) degree angle from the portion of the public road on which the property has its street address to the part of the residential structure that is the closest to the public road.

(b) General Rule: It shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on residential property on an unprepared surface.

(c) Exceptions: Nothing in this section shall be deemed enforceable (i) during the period of a snow emergency and (ii) during the period of the activity of moving, construction, or yard maintenance.

(d) Enforcement: Any code enforcement official or police officer shall have the authority under this section of the Code. Said individuals shall have the authority to enter upon private property in the Town of Riverdale Park in order to place a "48 Hour Warning Notice" on

a vehicle parked in violation of this section. This forty-eight (48) hour period of compliance shall be as a one-time event per subject vehicle. If the subject vehicle is not removed from the unprepared or unpaved surface or brought into compliance within forty-eight (48) hours from the placement of the "48 Hour Warning Notice," the code enforcement official or police officers shall be empowered to impound the vehicle. The vehicle owner shall be liable for all towing, storage, preservation, and/or charges relating to the disposition of the vehicle.

The Code Enforcement Supervisor, or his/her designee shall have the authority to extend the forty-eight (48) hour period for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days, upon receipt of a written statement from the vehicle owner or residential property owner setting forth the reasons for requesting such an extension.

The Mayor and Council shall have the authority to extend the forty-eight (48) hour period for any definite period of time in excess of the original thirty (30) day extension, upon receipt of a written statement from the vehicle owner or residential property owner setting forth the reasons for requesting such an extension.

(e) Penalty: Violation of this section shall be deemed a municipal infraction punishable by a fine of \$50 and may also subject property [owner/lawful resident] to impoundment of the vehicle in violation, or both. Each seven (7) day period in which the vehicle is in violation shall constitute a separate infraction.

(f) Effective date: July 1, 2000.

§ 64-11. Overtime parking.

(a) At any point on a street where an official sign designates a time limit for parking, no vehicle shall be left standing or remain parked in excess of the period of time so designated.

(b) No person shall park or leave standing any vehicle on any street for more than forty-eight (48) consecutive hours, Sundays and holidays excepted; provided, however, that this subsection shall not apply to an owner/occupant who otherwise legally parks his vehicle on streets abutting his property. **[Amended effective 10-22-89.]**

(c) In a parking meter zone during hours of its operation, no vehicle shall be left standing or remain parked in excess of the period of time designated. **[Added 8-2-82.]**

§ 64-12. Limitations on parking or standing of certain vehicles on streets or highways. **[Added 4-3-72. Amended 10-2-78.] [Amended 7-24-06]**

It shall be unlawful to park or leave standing on the streets, highways, and public spaces of the town any truck, truck-tractor, trailer or semi tractor-trailer, including but not limited to travel trailers, camping trailers, tractor trailers, or any combination of motor vehicles with one (1) or more vehicles propelled or pushed as a unit, mobile homes, special mobile equipment

including but not limited to tractors, construction or maintenance machinery, ditch-digging apparatus and concrete mixers, buses and school buses, and boat trailers except that exception may be made for trucks parked or left standing temporarily in the transaction of some business enterprise by permission of the Mayor and Council for good cause shown. This section shall not apply to any vehicle that is of a type to any vehicle that is of a type capable of being registered under Maryland law as a Class A (passenger) vehicle or as a Class E (truck) and the manufacturer's rated capacity is $\frac{3}{4}$ ton or less and the maximum gross vehicle weight is 7,000 pounds or less

§ 64-13. Parking permit areas. [Added 1-7-80. Amended 10-2-89.][Amended 4-2-12, effective 4-22-12]

(a) Designation. The Mayor and Council may, by resolution, designate sections of the town to be permit parking areas. Any such resolution shall be initiated only upon consultation with the affected residents and is subject to public hearing. On-street parking in such areas shall be restricted to those vehicles displaying a proper parking permit, in general from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays) unless specified otherwise by the signs posted in a designated area.

(b) Permits.

(1) Permanent resident permits. These permits can be obtained at the Town Office for a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) per permit upon presentation of vehicle registration and proof of residency in the parking permit area. Permanent resident permits are valid for two years and are nontransferable. A permanent resident permit may be renewed for successive two-year periods. The Town Council, by resolution, may limit the number of permanent resident permits issued for each residence in a permit area. Permit stickers must be attached to the back of the inside rearview mirror.

(2) Guest permits. Residents can obtain up to two (2) permits for use by their guests. Guest permits are designated to a certain residence and must be turned in to the Town Office if the resident moves. There is no fee for guest permits.

(3) Temporary permits. Permits for other than residents and their guests will be granted only on a case-by-case basis by the Town Administrator, subject to review by the Mayor and Council. Such permits will be considered on a temporary basis only, and a time period will be defined. There is no fee for temporary permits.

(4) The Town Administrator shall administer the parking permit program and may promulgate reasonable procedures and forms for this purpose.

(c) Penalty. Any permit not used appropriately is null and void, and a vehicle displaying such permit will be subject to a parking violation ticket.

§ 64-14. Parking meters. [Added 4-4-83.]

(a) Designation. The Mayor and Council may, by resolution, designate certain sections of the town to have parking meters installed.

(b) Rates. The Mayor and Council shall establish, by resolution at any regular Council meeting, the rates for such metered parking areas as well as hours of operation.

(c) Penalties. Vehicles parking in areas with meters indicating violation or expired time shall be subject to a penalty of ten dollars (\$10) to be paid on or before fifteen (15) days after issuance of the parking violation ticket. Tickets paid after fifteen (15) but less than thirty (30) days shall be doubled in cost to twenty dollars (\$20) Tickets paid after thirty (30) days shall be thirty dollars (\$30).

§ 64-15. Removal and impounding of unattended vehicles. [Amended 4-3-72.]

If any vehicle is left unattended upon any public road, highway, alley or parking lot in violation of any law, ordinance or order regarding the parking of vehicles, or if any vehicle is left unattended upon any road, highway, alley or parking lot for an unreasonable length of time so as to impede the movement of traffic or constitute a threat to public safety, the Police Department shall have authority to impound and remove such vehicle and charge the owner thereof the costs of towing, storage and any other charges incurred in connection therewith. No vehicle so impounded for a parking violation shall be released until all applicable costs, charges, and fines have been paid.

§ 64-16. Junked motor vehicles. [Added 3-6-95, effective 3-26-95.]

(a) Definitions. "Junked motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle that is in wrecked, dismantled or partially dismantled condition, or from which the wheels, engine, transmission, or any substantial parts thereof have been removed, or which for any reason is incapable of operation on its own power, or is unlicensed or bearing expired license tags.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to junk any motor vehicle at any place within the town, nor shall any owner or lessee permit any junked motor vehicle to remain on property within the town except in an enclosed garage.

(c) Exempt properties. Properties exempt from this section are licensed motor vehicle dealers, motor vehicle mechanical or body repair facilities, and towing storage compounds. Such vehicles must be stored on the licensed property.

(d) Notice of intent to impound. The Code Enforcement Officer or his designee may impound a junked motor vehicle after first attaching a notice on the presumed junked vehicle that shall state, in part, "This vehicle is presumed junked. If not removed within seventy-two (72) hours of the date of this notice, this vehicle shall be impounded and sent to a scrap processor."

(e) Authority to grant extension. The Code Enforcement Officer or his designee shall have the authority to grant an extension of the seventy-two (72) hour limit for a period not to

exceed an additional seven (7) calendar days. Upon receipt of a written statement prior to completion of the extension already granted, setting forth the reasons necessitating additional time beyond the fourteen (14) day period, the Council shall have the right to extend the seven day period for any definite time.

(f) Notice to property owner of completed impoundment

(1) Within twenty-four (24) hours after impoundment of any vehicle pursuant to this section, the town Code Enforcement Officer shall send by registered or certified mail a notice to the last known registered owner of the vehicle and/or the property owner of record from which the vehicle was removed.

(2) The notice shall contain the following:

(A) A statement as to the reason why the vehicle has been impounded;

(B) The year, make and model and vehicle identification number (VIN) of the vehicle as available;

(C) The location of the impounding facility where the vehicle is being held; and

(D) A statement that the owner has the right to reclaim the vehicle upon payment of all towing, storage, and other charges, penalties, and fines relating to the disposition of the vehicle. No vehicle so impounded shall be released until all applicable costs, charges, and fines have been paid.

(g) Removal of junked motor vehicles. Whenever any person fails to comply with the requirements of this section within thirty (30) days of the notice of impoundment, the cost of removal and storage of the junked motor vehicle, as well as any reasonable administrative and legal costs, shall be chargeable. Any costs and expenses incurred shall constitute a lien on the property from which the junked motor vehicle was removed if not paid within thirty (30) days of notice of impoundment.

(h) It shall be unlawful for any person or persons, firm or corporation to violate any of the provisions of this section, which violations are declared to be municipal infractions and for which the penalty for each violation shall be one hundred dollars (\$100). Each day a violation continues after initial notice shall constitute a separate or repeat offense.

(i) Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting the authority of the town to further regulate parking, vehicles or traffic.

§ 64-17. Violations and penalties. [Added 3-1-82. Amended 7-1-85. Amended 3-6-95, effective 3-26-95.] [Revision adopted 10-7-96][subsection (b) stricken and replaced 11/4/96] [Amended 4-2-12, effective 4-22-12]

(a) Violations of §§ 64-4 through 64-10(k) (except § 64-7) and §§ 64-10(n) through 64-13 are declared to be municipal infractions, for which the penalty for each violation shall be fifty dollars (\$50).

(b) Violations of §§ 64-10(l-m) and 64-19 are declared to be municipal infractions, for which the penalty for each violation shall be two hundred dollars (\$250).

§ 64-18. Payment of fines; penalty for late payment. [Added 9-7-82.]

If a person elects to stand trial for a violation under Chapter 64, the request for a trial date must be made in writing to the Police Department no later than ten (10) days from issuance of the citation. If no such request is received within the stated ten (10) days, the following shall apply:

(a) Any person issued a citation for violation of any section of this chapter shall pay the fine imposed as a penalty for violation of that section at the Police Department within fifteen (15) days from the date of notice of violation.

(b) Any person who fails to pay a required fine within fifteen (15) days of the date of notice of violation shall pay at the Police Department:

(1) Twice the amount of the fine if paid after fifteen (15) days but not more than thirty (30) days after the notice of violation; or

(2) Three (3) times the amount of the fine if paid more than thirty (30) days after the date of notice of violation.

(c) If a vehicle is observed in Town and the vehicle has two or more parking violations that are outstanding for more than thirty (30) days, the vehicle may be impounded at the discretion of the officer. The vehicle will not be released until all fines and fees have been paid. **[Added 6-11-01.]**

§ 64-19 Snow Emergencies [added 11-4-96]

(a) The Town Council is authorized to adopt special parking restrictions which shall be in effect during any time that a snow emergency condition exists. For purposes of this section, a "snow emergency condition" shall be considered in effect within the Town of Riverdale Park whenever a snow emergency is declared in effect in Prince George's County by the Prince George's County Executive, the Maryland State Highway Administration or the Maryland State Police.

(b) During any period in which a snow emergency condition exists and a snow emergency is in effect, it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any part of any street designated as a snow emergency street, provided that signs have been erected on that street giving notice that such street is a designated snow emergency street.

(c) During any period in which a snow emergency condition is in effect, it shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on the odd-numbered side of any public street in the Town of Riverdale Park regardless of whether such street has been designated a snow emergency street. Streets with parking restricted on one side are exempt from this section.

(d) Any vehicle parked in violation of the snow emergency provisions of the section may be removed and impounded by or under the direction of any duly-authorized police officer. The owner of said vehicle, in addition to any towing or impound fee, shall be liable for a fine of \$250.

§ 64-20 School Zone Speed Monitoring Systems Authorized.[Added 10-5-09, effective 10-25-09; amended 4-5-10, effective 4-25-10]

(A) Terms used in this section that are defined in Transportation Article, § 21-809, of the Maryland Annotated Code, as amended from time to time, shall have the same meanings in this section.

(B) The Town may use a speed monitoring system to monitor and enforce speed limit restrictions, including the issuance of citations, within the school zones designated in subsection (e) of this section. The locations in school zones within which speed monitoring systems are used from time to time shall be determined by the Town's Chief of Police.

(C) The Town shall use speed monitoring systems for the monitoring and enforcement of speed limit restrictions in accordance with the requirements set forth in Transportation Article, § 21-809, of the Maryland Annotated Code, as amended from time to time, and other applicable law.

(D) The Town may contract with a speed monitoring system operator to operate a speed monitoring system in the town in accordance with the requirements set forth in Transportation Article, § 21-809, of the Maryland Annotated Code, as amended from time to time, and other applicable law.

(E) The following school zones are established within the Town of Riverdale Park pursuant to Transportation Article, § 21-803.1, of the Maryland Annotated Code:

(1) Riverdale Elementary School zone. the limits of this school zone, and the maximum speed limits within this zone, are as follows:

a State Highway 410 (East West Highway) eastbound from Beale Circle east to State Highway 201 (Kenilworth Avenue), maximum speed set at 35 miles per hour.

b. State Highway 410 (East West Highway) westbound from State Highway 201 (Kenilworth Avenue) to 46th Avenue, maximum speed set at 35 miles per hour.

c. Taylor Road from Longfellow Street to Tuckerman Street, maximum speed set at 25 miles per hour.

d. Riverdale Road from 54th Avenue to Lafayette Avenue, maximum speed set at 20 miles per hour.

e. Queensbury Road from the Town's Public Works facility to Lafayette Avenue, maximum speed set at 25 miles per hour.

(2) Parkdale High School zone. The limits of this school zone, and the maximum speed limits within this zone, are as follows:

a. Good Luck Road eastbound and westbound from approximately 500 feet east of State Highway 201 (Kenilworth Avenue) to approximately 100 feet west of Crest Park Drive, maximum speed set at 35 miles per hour.

(3) De Matha Catholic High School zone. The limits of this school zone and the maximum speed limits within this zone, are as follows:

A. Federal Highway 1 (Baltimore Avenue) northbound from approximately 100 feet south of Madison Street to Sheridan Street, maximum speed set at 30 miles per hour.

B. Federal Highway 1 (Baltimore Avenue) southbound from state highway 410 (East West Highway) to approximately 100 feet north of Oliver Street, maximum speed set at 30 miles per hour.

(4) Saint Bernard's Elementary School zone. The limits of this school zone and the maximum speed limits within this zone, are as follows:

A. Riverdale Road from State Highway 201 (Kenilworth Avenue) to State Highway 410 (East West Highway), maximum speed set at 25 miles per hour.

B. State Highway 410 (East West Highway) eastbound and westbound from the Anacostia River northeast branch bridge to Riverdale Road, maximum speed set at 35 miles per hour.

C. State Highway 201 (Kenilworth Avenue) northbound and southbound from Carters Lane to River Road, maximum speed set at 35 miles per hour.

(5) William Wirt Middle School zone. The limits of this school zone and the maximum speed limits within this zone, are as follows:

State Highway 201 (Kenilworth Avenue) northbound and southbound from River Road to Good Luck Road, maximum speed set at 35 miles per hour.