



Public Works Transportation

DATE: October 21, 2015
TO: Honorable Mayor and Council
THROUGH: Dick Bowers, Acting City Manager
FROM: Jack Friedline, Director, Public Works 
SUBJECT: Response to Council Item of Special Interest – Backing Into Parking Spaces on Publicly Owned Property

This memorandum is in response to a Council Item of Special Interest raised by Mayor Weiers at the May 19, 2015 Council Workshop regarding vehicles being backed into parking spaces on city-owned property.

Sec. 24-53.(a)(9)(b) of the Glendale Municipal Code states:

“No person shall park a vehicle on publicly owned property marked for parking, except as designated by lines or markings upon the pavement or ground. No person shall park a vehicle in diagonal or at an angle parking on publicly owned property except with the front of the vehicle headed into the curb, cement block, wall, etc., which indicates the front of the parking area.”

Transportation staff researched head-in public parking and found no significant issues or studies to suggest one parking direction as being superior to the other in the case of 90° angle parking. Staff can only speculate some of the reasons for the preference for head-in parking may be:

- To allow for the license plate to be easily read if it is necessary to identify the owner of the vehicle for any reason.
- It takes most drivers longer to back in to a parking space (sometimes two or three tries), which slows down passing traffic.
- It may be easier to tow a head-in vehicle, if necessary.
- Damage can be caused to walls by drivers backing into them.
- Where businesses have outdoor seating areas, exhaust from backed-in vehicles can carry directly toward diners.
- Businesses with open doors can also have exhaust fumes from backed-in vehicles enter their buildings more easily.

In contrast, backing into a diagonal angled parking space (< 90°) presents the issue that drivers will be facing the wrong direction when pulling out of the space into traffic. Should Council

October 21, 2015

Page 2

choose to allow backing in, staff recommends the following change in verbiage to 24-53 (a)(9)(b):

“No person shall park a vehicle on publicly owned property marked for parking, except as designated by lines or markings upon the pavement or ground. No person shall park a vehicle in diagonal ~~or at an angle~~ parking (< 90°) on publicly owned property except with the front of the vehicle headed into the curb, cement block, wall, etc., which indicates the front of the parking area.”

Please let me know if I can provide further information related to this issue. Staff will proceed with a recommended ordinance change that will be brought before City Council at a regular voting meeting.

Attachment

Sec. 24-53. - Parking upon public property.

- (a) The city traffic engineer is hereby authorized to determine and designate No Stopping, No Standing, and No Parking areas on publicly owned property. In addition, the city traffic engineer is hereby authorized to restrict parking, stopping or standing in zones on publicly owned property for the public welfare. The above authority shall include, but not be limited to, creating the following zones:
- (1) No parking zones which prohibit parking and standing altogether;
 - (2) Zones where parking or standing is prohibited or allowed only during specified hours and/or during specified days;
 - (3) Zones where parking is prohibited for longer than the maximum time period specified at any time;
 - (4) Reserved parking zones where a person is only allowed to park or stand a vehicle where such person is a member of a designated group of persons;
 - (5) Permit parking zones where a person may only park or stand a vehicle which displays a clearly visible permit issued by the city;
 - (6) Motorcycle only zones which allow only motorcycles to park or stand therein;
 - (7) Compact vehicle only zones which only allow compact vehicles to park or stand therein (for purposes of this subsection, a "compact vehicle" is any vehicle not exceeding one hundred eighty (180) inches in length);
 - (8) Zones in front of any driveway or entrance-way or within ten (10) feet of any driveway or entrance area to any publicly owned property where parking or standing is prohibited; and
 - (9) Handicapped parking zones on publicly owned property in accordance with state law and as more specifically described in this Code.

The city traffic engineer shall place and maintain appropriate signs and/or markings indicating such zones. No person shall park a vehicle in violation of the restrictions of such a zone. Any person parking his vehicle in a parking zone in violation of restrictions of such zone shall be subject to the penalties specified in this chapter. Such a vehicle shall be subject to tow away and impoundment by order of the chief of police or his designee.

- (b) No person shall park a vehicle on publicly owned property marked for parking, except as designated by lines or markings upon the pavement or ground. No person shall park a vehicle in diagonal ~~or at~~ **an angle** parking ($< 90^\circ$) on publicly owned property except with the front of the vehicle headed into the curb, cement block, wall, etc., which indicates the front of the parking area.
- (c) For purposes of this section, "publicly owned property" shall mean any lands which the city owns either in fee simple or in which it has acquired a beneficial interest by virtue of an agreement of sale or conveyance and it shall include specifically parks and other recreation property including those parks and recreation properties which are leased to private parties and all publicly owned rights-of-way for streets and alleys. For purposes of this section, "parking" shall include stopping, standing and/or parking as such terms are defined in Title 28 of the Arizona Revised Statutes.
- (d) [Reserved.]
(Ord. No. 1392, § 2, 11-26-85; Ord. No. 2541, § 2, 1-23-07)