


Commission on Inclusion and Adaptive Living


**Sidewalk Obstruction
and Encroachment**






Sidewalks provide space for use by pedestrians that is safe, comfortable, and accessible to ALL. Infringement on this space, including obstructions and encroachment on sidewalks, is damaging and dangerous to our community.

The Commission on Inclusion and Adaptive Living has identified multiple concerns related to our sidewalks. These include bulk trash and trash cans impeding sidewalk flow, sidewalks in need of repair, vehicles being parked on sidewalks, sand bags improperly placed, and lack of snow removal.



Working together, we in the community of Flagstaff can do better at keeping our sidewalks safe, comfortable, and accessible.



Bulk Trash Impeding Sidewalk Flow



Bulk pickup comes every 5 weeks. The City Of Flagstaff has advised citizens not to block sidewalks, yet it continues. This was placed out on the curb, impeding the sidewalk for 2-3 weeks.



**Bulk trash
completely blocking
a sidewalk...**

**Note the appliance
which will not be
picked up unless an
appointment is
scheduled for pick
up.**

**Additionally,
this trash is
blocking a
sidewalk in a
school zone,
requiring
school children
to walk in the
street!**



Just a couple of bags but...





Try navigating this sidewalk!



Trash cans are also a problem.



Many citizens do not know that trash cans should not be placed on the sidewalk.

Also, after trash pickup, trash cans are often dropped back onto the sidewalk.

On some of our city's side streets nearly every trash can sits on the sidewalk.





**Just another
Thursday
morning in one
neighborhood...**

Another problem: This mailbox leaves less than 3 ft clearance for passage as required by ADA law. (It's been like this for years.)

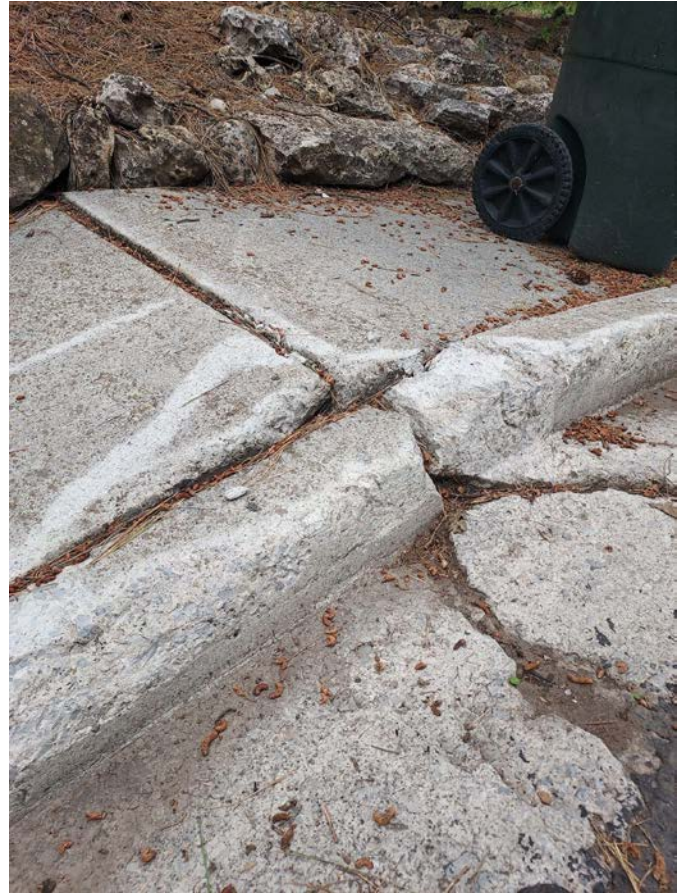


**This is another
problem we
see far too
often:**



Sidewalks in need of repair also present barriers.





Parking on sidewalks

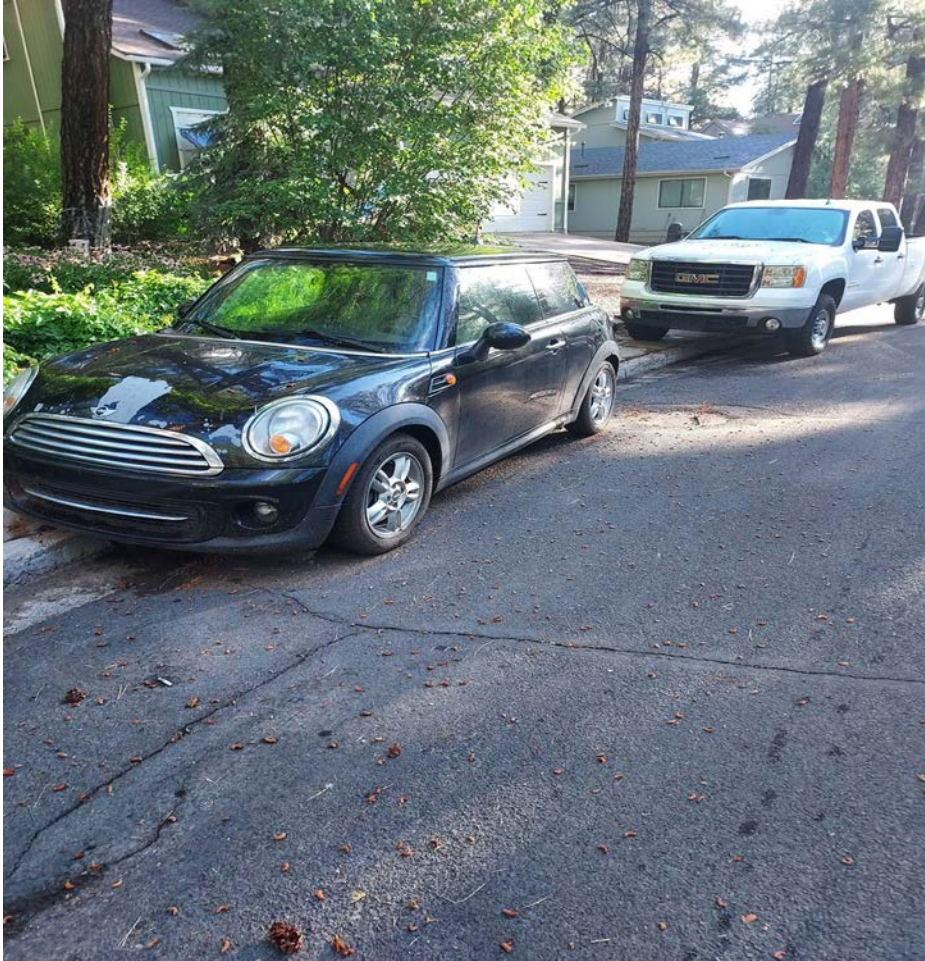
A person shall not stop, stand or park a vehicle unattended on a sidewalk.

ARS 28-873



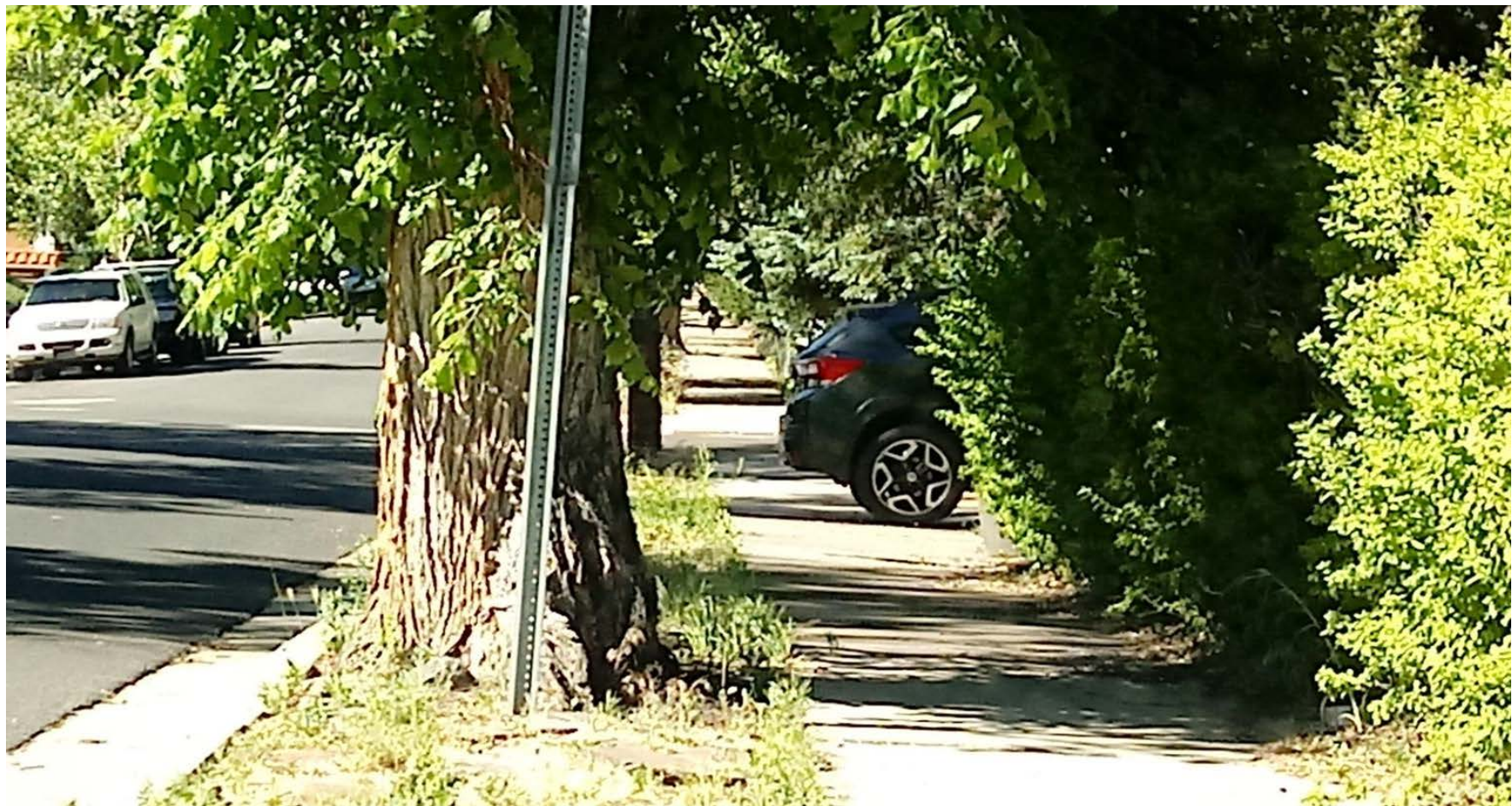
The entirety of the sidewalk is covered.





**It is Impossible
to use the
sidewalk here!**









This truck's rear hitch is a significant barrier. For someone with a visual disability, this poses a danger as they would run straight into the ball hitch. Wheelchair users would have no option but to go into traffic to avoid this obstruction.

This is a business vehicle that is impeding the sidewalk.



Business Supplies Taking Up the Setback



With proper storage of materials, patrons of this business would be able to park legally, thereby leaving the sidewalk as a safe passage.

ADA Disabled Parking

ADA **Spots** requires at least 1 accessible spot in a commercial parking area.

This is one example of a commercial business (of many throughout the city) that has no accessible parking spots. Proper signage and pavement markings also need to be placed in order to comply with ADA law.

2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. Sections 208 & 502 Parking Spaces





Note the man using the walker had to walk in the street due to the blocked sidewalk!



ADA Parking and Hash-Marked Sections



Hash marked areas are not meant to be parked in, but to allow extra space for people getting into and out of accessible parking spots. A person using a wheelchair would be stuck in this scenario. Even a person with a disability plaque cannot circumvent the ADA law.

ADA Title III Section 206
Accessible Route

Sand Bags



Flood mitigation is essential in Flagstaff. However, blocking a sidewalk inhibits differently-abled citizens from accessing a clear path to safety.







Please see that the sandbags completely block the sidewalk. Also note that this sandbag pallet was dropped onto the sidewalk by the city and was left there.

Even the curb ramp is blocked!



Snow Removal



As everyone living in Flagstaff knows, snow and snow removal can be challenging.

Consider the difficulties for individuals with mobility challenges!

Snow Removal

This snow was plowed right onto the sidewalk by a city snow plow and the property owner. This pile was still there three weeks after the last snowfall.



Another example of where the snow plow actually plowed the snow right onto the city sidewalk.

Clearly, this would be impossible for anyone to navigate and extremely difficult for anyone to remove.






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We understand what a challenge snow can be for people with mobility issues.

Enforcement of city ordinances for snow removal is difficult.

For many Flagstaff citizens, so is compliance. Are there things the City can do to help?








Accessibility is absolutely vital to our aging and disabled population. Working together, City of Flagstaff departments can tackle this issue.


Where Do We Go From Here?

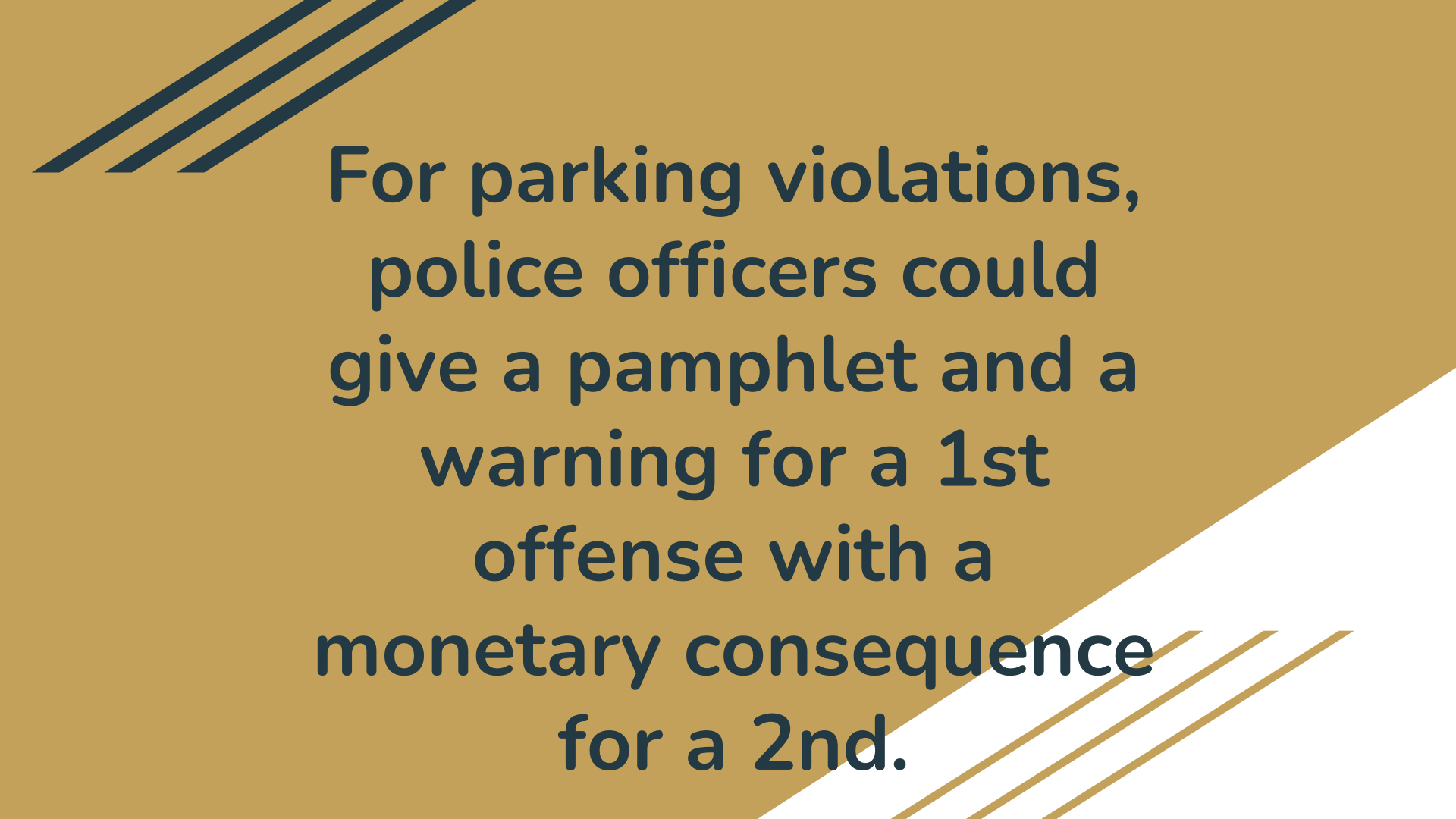


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- Environmental Services employees could be trained to not place trash cans on the sidewalk and note violations of city code for clear sidewalks.
 - Environmental Services could also add a note to water bills and email citizens explaining code compliance about bulk pickup, trash cans, and sidewalks.
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The City should continue to assess sidewalks in need of vegetation clearance and repair and should continue with those repairs as necessary.







**For parking violations,
police officers could
give a pamphlet and a
warning for a 1st
offense with a
monetary consequence
for a 2nd.**




**Sandbag placement
and other flood
mitigation should be
modified relative to
sidewalk accessibility.**







Property owners could also be informed/reminded of city requirements for snow removal from sidewalks.


The City should continue with the development of the “Snow Angel” program to aid citizens in need of assistance with snow removal.






Code Compliance can ensure laws are followed and educate violators. Pamphlets are a great 1st step but monetary penalties could also be applied.





Now let's chat. What can
this commission do to
help ensure top notch
accessibility in our city?



Flagstaff Commission for Inclusion and Adaptive Living

Special thanks to past, present and future
Commissioners



James Martinez, Rachael Simukonda, Keith
Becker and Russ Randall. August 2023