

CITY OF FORT PIERCE

PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**REPORT TO THE MAYOR
AND
CITY COMMISSION**



Should golf carts be allowed on the streets of Fort Pierce?

Presented by Committee Members:

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City of Fort Pierce Parks Advisory Committee Report to the Mayor and City Commission

- **Current Overview**
- **Actions Taken**
- **Information Gathered**
- **Recommendations**

Current Overview

- **Golf carts are becoming more popular in Fort Pierce, not only in South Beach, but also downtown.**
- **There has been a growing concern about the use of golf carts with citizens voicing complaints both for and against the use of golf carts on roadways, bike lanes, and sidewalks.**
- **Therefore, you, the City Commission, asked us to study the use of golf carts and make recommendations.**

Actions Taken

- **Reviewed prior data generated by the City Engineer and any relevant City Ordinances concerning golf carts**
- **Researched State Statutes and other relevant materials concerning golf carts**
- **Reviewed procedures in other golf cart communities, such as The Villages**
- **Requested opinions and interpretations from both the FPPD and the City Attorney**
- **Discussed all of the above and developed recommendations**

Information Gathered

- **The term “golf cart” must be defined, clarifying the difference between a Golf Cart and a Converted Golf Cart, which is classified as a Low Speed Vehicle by the State.**
- **The City has no Ordinances for the use of Golf Carts and Low Speed Vehicles on roadways that override State Statues.**
- **City Ordinance 17-6, Improper use of sidewalks, prevents any driving on sidewalks, regardless of the type of vehicle.**
- **And, of course, bike lanes are for bicycles.**

Information Gathered

What is a golf cart?

Per Florida Statute 320.02(22), golf carts are defined as a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour. Golf carts may only be operated on roadways or crossings that have been designated for golf carts per restrictive local Ordinance and that have posted signs (like The Villages). Fort Pierce does not have this Ordinance.

**Golf carts are not required to be titled or registered and are not required to be insured, so they have
NO LICENSE PLATE.**



Information Gathered

What is a converted golf cart, or Low Speed Vehicle (LSV)?

- **Per Florida Statute 320.01(41), a LSV is any four-wheeled vehicle whose top speed is greater than 20 mph, but not greater than 25 mph.**
- **LSVs must be registered, titled, and insured with personal injury protection and property damage liability insurance.**
- **Any person operating a LSV must have a valid driver license in their immediate possession.**
- **LSVs may be operated on any roadway with a speed limit of 35 mph or less.**
- **A LSV has A VALID LICENSE PLATE.**

Information Gathered

LSVs must be equipped with the following safety equipment:



Information Gathered

How do I convert my golf cart to a LSV?

- **Ensure that it has all safety equipment as shown. Not all golf carts can be converted to a LSV.**
- **Have it inspected and assigned a VIN at a Motorist Services Regional Office - it must be street legal before applying for title and registration.**
- **Complete the actions in your handout to title and register the converted golf cart.**

Information Gathered

The Bottom Line:

- **If a “Golf Cart” has a valid license plate (now a LSV), and is driven by a licensed driver, it can be driven on any roadway with a speed limit 35 mph or under per Florida state law.**
- **If a “Golf Cart” does not meet the above criteria, it cannot be driven on or cross any roadway in the City of Fort Pierce.**
- **No vehicle can be driven on sidewalks or in bike lanes.**

Recommendations

- **We recommend that the City maintain the current status quo with respect to Golf Carts and Low Speed Vehicles per State law.**
- **Education**
 - **Publicize these conclusions on City and FPPD websites and Facebook pages, in the newspapers and other online news outlets, in the SBA newsletter, and on Nextdoor sites**
 - **Produce a brochure that provides this information for FPPD officers, COP drivers, and other citizens to distribute**
- **Warnings**
 - **Ask FPPD to issue warning citations for one month to inform the public – possibly they could use the brochures and their lighted signs as well**
- **Enforcement**
 - **Ask FPPD to ticket violators of this Law**



Discussion and Questions