

Chapter XX PARKING

ARTICLE I. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

DIVISION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS; ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY; DEFINITIONS

Sec. XX-1. Title.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "City of Fort Pierce Parking Ordinance."

Sec. XX-2. Applicability.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply throughout the corporate limits of the City and to the use of parking-related property owned or operated by the City.

Sec. XX-3. Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, certain abbreviations, terms, phrases, words, and their derivatives shall have the following meanings:

Calendar days mean and include Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. Thus, in computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by this chapter, the day of the act, event, or default from which the designated period of time begins to run shall not be included; however, the last day of the period so computed shall be included, even if it is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, any provision of this Code to the contrary notwithstanding.

Citation means a parking ticket issued for a violation of the Code as described in this chapter.

Coin means any coin, authorized for currency by the United States Government.

Commercial parking permit shall mean an identification credential affixed to a vehicle issued to a business by the City in accordance with the provisions of this section.

Commercial vehicles shall mean any vehicle that is identified by permanent or removable markings on both sides of the exterior of the vehicle, in letters not less than three (3) inches high, of the name of the company operating such vehicle.

Contractor parking permit shall mean an identification credential affixed to a vehicle issued to a contractor on a temporary basis by the City in accordance with the provisions of this section.

Delinquent status means a citation where payment is past due and includes citations that have not been paid, or for which a request for a parking violation hearing has not been made. A citation which has been found to be in violation after a hearing shall be in delinquent status if not paid within the time period set. A violation set for a parking violation hearing which results in default shall immediately be in delinquent status. A citation will remain in delinquent status until paid in full, unless dismissed or found not to be a violation.

Hearing officer means the code enforcement special magistrate assigned to hear parking violation hearings and challenges to parking citation violations and immobilization of vehicles in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

Non-motorized vehicle means any vehicle which does not have an attached source of mechanical energy such as an engine in order to make it move, but has to be attached, drawn, pushed, or pulled in

order for it to be moved. Non-motorized vehicles include, but are not limited to, utility trailers, travel trailers, watercraft, boats, and watercraft or boat trailers.

Owner means any person, firm, corporation, or association controlling any motor vehicle or mobile home by right of purchase, gift, lease, or otherwise as defined under F.S. § 320.01, as of the date of the violation. The owner of a vehicle bearing a license plate that has been issued a citation shall be liable for payment of all penalties and costs.

Paid parking space means a designated parking space where parking is permitted upon the payment of a fee. For the purposes of this chapter, the term regulated space shall include paid parking spaces.

Park or parking means the standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of, and while actually engaged in loading or unloading merchandise or passengers.

Parking enforcement officer means a designated person who has successfully completed a parking enforcement officer training program established and approved by the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission.

Parking violation hearing means a hearing by a hearing officer in which a driver or owner of a vehicle bearing a license plate that has been issued a citation, may contest the issuance of the citation. Parking violation hearings shall provide the opportunity for testimony and evidence to be presented and the rules of evidence shall be liberally construed to allow for the presentation of testimony and evidence. Parking violation hearings shall also be used by a person with standing to challenge the immobilization of a vehicle in a post-immobilization hearing.

Pay station means a mechanical or electronic timing device authorized by ordinance of this municipality to be used for the purpose of regulating or controlling parking and which is actuated by the payment of authorized legal tender by manual or electronic means.

Residential parking permit shall mean an identification credential affixed to a vehicle issued to a resident by the City in accordance with the provisions of this section.

Resident vehicle shall mean a motor vehicle owned or leased by a person residing in the corporate limits of the City.

Stand or standing means the halting of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of, and while actually engaged in receiving or discharging passengers.

Stop or stopping, when prohibited, means any halting, even momentarily, of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or to comply with the direction of a law enforcement officer or traffic-control sign or signal.

Vehicle means every device in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon any public street within the City, excepting devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

Sec. XX-4 Administrative authority.

The provisions of this chapter shall be enforced by the City Manager or his or her designee.

Sec. XX-5. Authority to issue citations for parking tickets.

Parking enforcement officers, police officers and community service officers are authorized to issue parking tickets for violations of this chapter.

Sec. XX-6. Paid parking zones.

Certain described parts of streets, City-owned and/or operated off-street lots, parking structures, or property and parks, beach and recreation areas, or other property within the City limits may be designated by the City Commission as paid parking zones. In such zones, the City Manager or his/her designee shall cause pay stations or similar equipment to be installed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. XX-7 – XX-25. – Reserved

DIVISION 2. FEE AUTHORITY AND TYPES

Sec. XX-26. Fees—City Commission to establish.

The City Commission shall have the authority to set fees by resolution.

Sec. XX-27. Same—Types enumerated.

Fees may be charged for the following:

- (1) Use of a City-owned or operated paid parking zone or space or other parking facility or property.
- (2) Resident Beach Parking permits.
- (3) Temporary Contractor Parking permits.
- (4) Business Parking permits (for use in loading zones only).
- (5) Marina Parking permits.
- (6) Late payments.
- (7) Immobilization and impoundment of vehicles as provided for in this chapter.

Sec. XX-28 – XX-40. - Reserved

ARTICLE II. REGULATIONS; PERMITS; PENALTIES

DIVISION 1. GENERAL PARKING REGULATIONS

Sec. XX-41. Parking in City lots, garages, public streets, and other property.

- (a) *Improper Parking.* Any vehicle stopped, standing, or parked in a single parking space on any City owned or operated parking lot, garage, public street, or other property shall be parked within the lines marked for such single parking space. It is unlawful to stop, stand or park any vehicle across any such line or mark or to park such vehicle in any such way that the same shall not be within the area so designated by such lines or markings for that single parking space.
- (b) *Height Restrictions.* No vehicle shall enter into a parking garage which exceeds the height restriction posted on the clearance bar at the entrance of each garage.
- (c) *Restricted Parking.* It is unlawful for an operator of a vehicle to stop, stand or park such vehicle in a space not designated or designed for its size.
- (d) *Parking prohibited at all times.* When signs are erected or pavement markings are installed giving notice thereof, no person shall park a vehicle at any time upon any of the streets, sidewalks, sidewalk areas or other places so designated.
- (e) *Required distance from driveways.* It is unlawful for any person to stop, stand or park a vehicle, whether occupied or not, within ten (10) feet from the edge of a public or private driveway. It is unlawful for any person to stop, stand or park a vehicle across the street from a driveway if the street width is twenty-five (25) feet or less.
- (f) *Minimum street clearance.* It is unlawful for any operator to stop, stand or park any vehicle upon a street, in a traffic lane, any alley or other city owned or operated property in such a manner or under such conditions as to leave available less than ten (10) feet of the width of the traffic lane or roadway for free movement of vehicular traffic, except that an operator may stop only during the actual loading or unloading of passengers or when necessary in obedience to traffic regulations or traffic signs or signals or directions from a police officer or community service officer. Where streets are not completely paved or curbs provided, the parking of a car shall not usurp more than 12 inches of the paved portion of the street.
- (g) *Alleys.* No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle within an alley in a business district, except for the expeditious loading or unloading of materials, and in no event for a period of more than 20 minutes. No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle within an alley in such position as to block the driveway or entrance to any abutting property.
- (h) *Oversized vehicle restrictions.* No motor vehicle, as defined by Florida Statutes as may be amended, of eighty-six (86) inches or more in overall width (not including mirrors) shall be parked on any street, alley, or city owned or operated property, other than for loading and unloading, if parked adjacent to property designated by Chapter 125 of this Code as a residential district.
 - a. A written warning will be provided prior to the issuance of a citation. After twelve (12) hours, if the motor vehicle is parked in any prohibited location, a citation may be issued.
 - b. Failure to move the motor vehicle in violation from streets, alleys, or City owned or operated property within two (2) hours after the issuance of a citation shall subject the motor vehicle to immobilization and/or impoundment as provided under this chapter.

- c. If it is determined that continued parking of the oversized motor vehicle creates an unsafe condition or is hazardous to the safety of the community, the Police Department may have the vehicle towed in accordance with Sec. XX-127 of this chapter.
- (i) *Parking for certain purposes.* It is unlawful for any person to park any vehicle upon any City owned or operated lot, garage or other property or street for the primary purpose of:
 - a. Displaying such vehicle for sale.
 - b. Washing, greasing, or repairing such vehicle, except repairs necessitated by an emergency.
 - c. Displaying advertising in accordance with Section 117-5 – Prohibited signs or sign characteristics.
 - d. Selling food or merchandise from such vehicle except in a duly established special event, or when so authorized or licensed under the ordinances of the City in accordance with Section 22-461(b)(3).
- (j) *Parking on Right of Way.* It is unlawful to park in or on the City or State right-of-way except in designated parking spaces or parking lanes. For the purposes of this section, the term "right-of-way" shall have the definition provided in chapter 125.
- (k) *Parking to block stop signs.* No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle, with the exception to momentarily allow a person to enter or exit the vehicle, within fifteen (15) feet of a stop sign / stop bar.
- (l) *Parking in opposing traffic lane.* No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle by means of crossing on-coming traffic and park so as to face opposing traffic flow.
- (m) *Parking in fire lanes.* No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle, with the exception of allowing a disabled person to enter or exit the vehicle, in a fire lane located on any property within the city.
- (n) *Parking in spaces for persons with disabilities.* No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle within, or to obstruct, any space designated and marked as a disabled person parking space unless the vehicle displays a disabled parking permit or a license plate and the vehicle is transporting the person to whom the displayed permit is issued. Violation of this subsection is a Level III violation.
- (o) *Violations of F.S. Ch. 316.* Supplemental to the provisions of this chapter, the City hereby adopts provisions relating to parking, traffic control, enforcement and penalties as outlined in the F.S. Ch. 316.
- (p) *Exemptions.* The prohibitions stated in this section shall not apply to City, County, State and/or utility worker vehicles while parked in conjunction with discharging their official duties.

Sec. XX-42. Freight, loading and unloading spaces restricted.

- (a) Spaces designated "loading zones" shall be restricted to freight trucks, commercial vehicles as defined in this section and other vehicles properly displaying a business parking permit and while actually engaged in the loading and unloading of materials or in cases of emergency.
- (b) No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle for any purpose or length of time other than for the expeditious unloading and delivery or pickup and loading of materials in any place marked as a loading zone. In no case shall the stop for loading and unloading exceed thirty (30) minutes.

- (c) For any continuous parking in the same space, a violation will be deemed to have occurred for each interval of time designated that the vehicle remains in that space.

Sec. XX-43. Continuous parking in non-metered parking spaces.

- (a) It is unlawful for any person to permit a vehicle to remain in any parking space for more than twenty-four (24) hours in any non-residential zone, unless displaying a valid permit credential.
- (b) It is unlawful for any person to permit a vehicle to remain in any parking space for more than (4) hours after a citation has been issued for violation of subsection (a) of this section.
- (c) For any continuous parking in the same parking space, no more than one (1) offense under subsection (a) of this section and one (1) offense under subsection (b) of this section shall be deemed to have occurred on any one (1) date. In the case of any continuous parking in violation of subsection (a) or subsection (b) hereof covering parts of two (2) or more dates, one (1) offense under subsection (b) shall be deemed to have occurred on each of such dates.

Sec. XX-44. Electric vehicle charging station parking.

- (a) No person shall park any vehicle in any parking space located in any City-owned or operated parking garage or parking lot which is clearly marked as being reserved for the use of an electric vehicle charging station located within said parking garage or lot, unless such vehicle is actually using the electric vehicle charging station.
- (b) It is unlawful for any person to permit a vehicle to remain in a parking space reserved for the charging of electric vehicles for more than four (4) hours.

Sec. XX-45. Special Events.

- (a) When roads, City owned or maintained parking lots, parks or other City property are leased to a private party for a special event, consistent with Chapter 28, Article IV – Special Events, it is unlawful for a person to park any vehicle within the designated area without express permission from the event permit holder.
- (b) It is unlawful for any person to permit a vehicle to remain in the leased special event area for more than two (2) hours after a citation has been issued for violation of subsection (a) of this section. If a vehicle remains parked after two (2) hours, the Police Department may have the vehicle towed in accordance with Sec. XX-127 of this chapter.

Sec. XX-46 – XX-80. - Reserved

DIVISION 2. PAID PARKING REGULATIONS

Sec. XX-81. Hours of operation for parking meters; hours of enforcement.

- (a) Unless a parking pay station is posted with or displays specific hours of operation and enforcement, the days and hours of parking meter operation and enforcement are
 - a. Downtown: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM, Monday through Saturday.
 - b. Beaches and Parks: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM, 7 days per week.
- (b) It is unlawful to park in a paid parking space without complying with the provisions of this chapter during the hours of operation.

Sec. XX-82. Duty of operators of vehicles to actuate the pay station; parking beyond time fixed for such vehicle.

- (a) When any vehicle shall be parked in any time regulated parking space as designated pursuant to this chapter, where controlled by a paid parking station, the owner or operator of such vehicle shall, upon entering the parking space, immediately initiate payment by manual or electronic means and/or by payment of authorized legal tender. It is unlawful for any person to remove a vehicle from any City-owned or operated parking lot, garage, public street, or other property after the person shall have parked thereon without first making payment of authorized legal tender by manual or electronic means or for any person to make any attempt thereof to defraud the City.
- (b) It is unlawful for any person to permit a vehicle to remain or be placed in any parking space when the pay station indicates that parking time limits have expired.
- (c) It is unlawful and an offense for any person to deface, injure, tamper with, open, willfully break, destroy, or impair the usefulness of any pay station or equipment installed on any City-owned or operated parking lot, garage, public street or other property or to make any attempt thereof.
- (d) It is unlawful for any person to permit a vehicle to remain in any parking space for more than four (4) hours after a citation has been issued for violation of subsections (a) and (b) of this section.
- (e) For any continuous parking in the same parking space, no more than one (1) offense under subsections (a) or (b) of this section and one (1) offense under subsection (d) of this section shall be deemed to have occurred on any one (1) date. In the case of any continuous parking in violation of subsections (a) or (b) or subsection (d) hereof covering parts of two (2) or more dates, one (1) offense under subsections (a) or (b) and one (1) offense under subsection (d) shall be deemed to have occurred on each of such dates.
- (f) When signs are erected giving notice of time limits, no person shall park a vehicle in any parking space and/or zone for a continuous period of time longer than that period of time designated by such signs. In order to enforce this provision no person shall roll the tires of a vehicle in an attempt to circumvent time restrictions enforcement prior to removing the vehicle from the parking space.

Sec. XX-83. Taxicabs, vehicles for hire, parking in regulated parking areas.

All taxicabs and motor vehicles for hire are hereby prohibited from parking at any place upon City-owned or operated streets, lots, garages, or other property known as paid parking spaces without proper payment to occupy such space and at any place in those areas in which parking is restricted as to the length of time for such parking.

Sec. XX-84. Non-motorized vehicle parking prohibited.

Unless otherwise authorized in this Code, it shall be unlawful to park any non-motorized vehicle upon any street, alley, parking lot or City-owned or operated property, for longer than twenty-four (24) consecutive hours. Failure to move the non-motorized vehicle in violation from streets, alleys, parking lot or city owned or operated property within two (2) hours after the issuance of a ticket shall subject the non-motorized vehicle to immobilization and/or impoundment as provided under this chapter.

Sec. XX-85 – XX-100. – Reserved

DIVISION 3. PERMITS, PERMIT REGULATIONS

Sec. XX-101. On-Street parking permits.

- (a) The City Manager or his or her designee may grant and issue, renew, deny, or revoke on-street parking permits that, when properly displayed, will allow parking in a paid parking space without the requirement to make payment at the pay station or other restricted parking spaces. Fees shall be assessed for an on-street parking permit. Requests for on-street parking permits shall be made in writing to the City.

Sec. XX-102. Business parking permits.

- (a) Businesses may request a business parking permit for use of personal vehicles, used in the course of business, but that do not meet the definition of commercial vehicle, as defined by this chapter, to allow parking within designated loading zones. Fees shall be assessed for a business parking permit. Requests for business parking permits shall be made in writing to the City.
- (b) The permits provided for in this section may be used only in loading zones in the downtown area of the City. Parking is restricted to the thirty-minute time limit as permitted by section xx-42 of this code.
- (c) The permit is to be renewed annually, at the start of the fiscal year, in conjunction with their business tax receipt.

Sec. XX-103. Contractor parking permits.

- (a) Contractors or business owners may request a temporary contractor parking permit to allow for the use of restricted or paid parking spaces for the following:
 - (1) A vehicle which is actively used for construction, rehabilitation, or repair of a business, wherein materials and tools must be readily accessible.
 - (2) Dumpsters that are required for the construction, rehabilitation, or repair of a business.
- (b) Specific conditions may be placed upon the permit holder based on time, location, safety concerns or other such conditions as are warranted. Failure to comply with such conditions may result in the permit being revoked.
- (c) Requests shall be made to the City Manager or his/her designee and must include the time for which the permit will remain active. In no case will a contractor parking permit be issued for a time frame beyond that for which a building permit has been issued.

Sec. XX-104. Marina parking permits.

- (a) Marina tenants may request a marina parking permit for extended parking of personal vehicles. Fees shall be assessed for a marina parking permit. Requests for marina parking permits shall be made in writing to the City Marina. Marina permits are only good for the north marina parking lot and the parking garage.
- (b) In addition to the rules provided in this section, all marina parking permit recipients must abide by the Fort Pierce City Marina Parking Rules and Regulations, as amended, which are available in the Marina Office.

- (c) Vehicles may not be parked in one location for more than 10 days. Vehicles parked for more than 10 days must be used on the 3rd, 4th and 5th floor of the City Hall Parking Garage
- (c) The permit is to be renewed annually in conjunction with their marina lease.

Sec. XX-105. Juror parking permits.

- (a) All jurors are provided a temporary parking permit with their jury summons.
 - (1) When a juror is parked in a paid or restricted parking space, the permit must be displayed on the dashboard.
 - (2) The identification code on the permit must be entered, along with the juror's license plate number in the pay station to be properly registered.
 - (3) Such permits are only valid for a single day.
- (b) Once selected to serve on a jury, all jury members shall be provided a juror parking permit for extended parking throughout their time of service.
 - (1) When a juror is parked in a paid or restricted parking space, the permit must be displayed on the dashboard.
 - (2) The identification code on the permit must be entered, along with the juror's license plate number in the pay station to be properly registered.
 - (3) Such permits are only valid for a maximum of seven (7) days. Should a trial extend beyond seven (7) days, a new parking permit must be issued to the juror.
- (c) Long term juror parking permits shall be issued by the clerk of court assigned to the trial judge.

Sec. XX-106. St. Lucie County Sheriff's Department parking permits.

- (a) The St. Lucie County Sheriff's Department is authorized to issue parking permits to deputies assigned to the St. Lucie County Court House.
- (b) Sheriff's Department parking permits are only valid in marked parking spaces located on the west side of Indian River Drive.

Sec. XX-107. Resident Beach parking permit area.

- (a) *Application.*
 - (1) A residential beach parking permit shall be issued to a resident of the City of Fort Pierce for parking in City-owned or operated beach parking areas upon meeting any one of the following requirements:
 - a. Valid driver's license reflecting resident status.
 - b. Copy of a signed residential lease for a term of six months or longer.
 - c. Copy of a current utility bill reflecting resident status.
 - (2) If a resident provides proof of residency within the City of Fort Pierce, then a resident shall be entitled to the following:

- a. A maximum of two (2) resident beach parking permits per residence issued at no charge.
 - (3) A copy of the vehicle's current registration card must be presented prior to the issuance of the permit, providing proof that the vehicle is registered to residence.
 - (4) Permits shall be effective for one (1) year from date of issuance and must be renewed annually.
 - (5) Unless City signs clearly indicate to the contrary, a vehicle that has the permit credential displayed in accordance with the resident beach parking program and is parked in compliance with all other regulations of this code, is permitted to park in a designated beach paid parking area without additional fees or penalties.
- (b) *Regulation.*
- (1) All residential beach parking permit holders shall comply with all the following requirements:
 - a. Permit must be current. It is unlawful for the operator of a vehicle to properly display an expired or altered license plate permit credential.
 - c. License plate permit credential may not be transferred from the resident or vehicle to which it is assigned. Improper use of a resident beach parking permit credential is a violation of this chapter and may result in both a citation as well as revocation of the residential beach parking privileges.
 - d. Vehicles must be parked in a legal manner and in a designed parking space.

Sec. XX-106 – XX-120. – Reserved

DIVISION 4. PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT

Sec. XX-121. Issuance of parking citations; payment or contesting citations; penalties for parking violations; requesting a City review.

- (a) A law enforcement officer, community service officer or parking enforcement officer who discovers a vehicle parked in violation of this chapter or other law may issue a parking citation to a vehicle as identified by the license plate number, vehicle identification number, or with other specificity to ensure the vehicle in violation can be identified and deliver it to the driver; or if the vehicle is unattended, attach such citation to the vehicle in a conspicuous place.
- (b) The parking citation shall provide:
 - (1) The date and time of issuance.
 - (2) The name or identification number of the officer or parking enforcement officer who issued the citation.
 - (3) A description of the violation.
 - (4) The penalty amount.
 - (5) The period of time in which it must be paid or set for a parking violation hearing before it is considered in delinquent status.
 - (6) The vehicle information.

- (7) Information on how and where the citation may be paid; and
 - (8) Information on how the citation may be contested.
- (c) The driver or owner of the vehicle which was issued a citation shall elect to pay the citation as described on the citation or request a parking violation hearing as described in paragraph (h). Failure to pay a citation, or request a parking violation hearing, within the specified time period shall result in the citation being in delinquent status.
- (d) Unless otherwise specifically provided in this section, the violation of any provision of this chapter relating to parking shall be a Class I noncriminal civil infraction pursuant to Section 1-106 of the Code of Ordinances.
- (e) A violation of Section xx-41(l), enforcement of parking in spaces for persons with disabilities, shall be a Class III violation. Any penalty collected for such a violation may be deposited in a separate account to be used to defray expenses for administration of this violation; and to provide funds to improve accessibility and equal opportunity to qualified persons who have disabilities in the City and to provide funds to conduct public awareness programs in the City concerning persons who have disabilities.
- (f) A violation of Section xx-41(k), parking in fire lanes, shall be a Class II violation.
- (g) Any penalty not paid to the City within thirty (30) days of the date of the violation, unless a parking violation hearing has been requested, shall result in an additional penalty, which amount shall be set by Resolution plus any associated administrative fees pursuant to Section 1-105.
- (h) A person who wishes to contest a citation without being assessed additional penalties or costs for delinquency shall complete and submit a written request for a parking violation hearing which must be received by the City within fourteen (14) calendar days of the date of the violation. A request for a parking violation hearing shall be on the form prescribed by the City. Requests shall include a complete name and address of the person contesting the hearing, and a phone number and e-mail address. A copy of the parking citation and a description of the dispute must be included with the request for a hearing.
- (i) The Code Enforcement Department shall conduct a preliminary review off all parking citation appeals within seven (7) days of receipt of the written request. The determination may:
- (1) Affirm the issuance of the citation and the matter will be scheduled to be heard by the Special Magistrate.
 - (2) Find the appeal valid and dismiss the citation.
 - (3) Allow for a reduction in the penalty.
- (j) Upon an affirmation of issuance by management or confirmation of failure of the vehicle owner to pay the penalty or request a hearing, a notice of hearing will be issued. The City shall send a Notice of Hearing which states:
- (1) The date, time, and location of a pre-scheduled parking violation hearing.
 - (2) That a person who elects to contest the citation may be assessed a penalty of up to \$500.00 if found in violation after a hearing by the Special Magistrate.
 - (3) That a person who elects to contest a violation and then fails to appear at the parking violation hearing shall be deemed to have waived his or her right to a hearing and may be

found in violation by default subject to a penalty of up to \$500.00, unless otherwise authorized or prohibited by law.

- (4) That unpaid violations will be in delinquent status and are subject to being sent to St. Lucie County Court.
- (5) That vehicles bearing license plates which are identified as belonging to owners who have citations in delinquent status are subject to immobilization or impoundment as provided in this chapter.
- (k) The Notice of Hearing shall be sent by certified mail to the address provided by the Florida Department of Transportation or to the person making the request for a parking violation hearing at the physical address, with a copy sent to the e-mail address, provided in the request. A certification by the City that the Notice of Hearing was mailed to the physical address constitutes prima facie evidence that the person on the Notice of Hearing was served with the notice.
- (l) A person who requests a parking violation hearing waives his or her right to pay the initial civil penalty amounts set forth in this chapter. The Special Magistrate, after a hearing, shall make a determination as to whether a parking violation has been committed and may impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$500.00 unless otherwise authorized or prohibited by law, plus administrative costs.

Sec. XX-122. Cancellation or continuances of hearings; burden of proof; payment after hearing.

- (a) A scheduled parking violation hearing will be cancelled if full payment of the pending violation(s) is made at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing date.
- (b) A person wanting to continue a parking violation hearing date shall deliver a written request for continuance to the City at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the hearing date and shall be granted one continuance for a scheduled parking violation hearing of a contested citation or post-immobilization hearing.
- (c) A finding of violation requires all penalties and costs to be paid within seven (7) calendar days unless additional time is granted by the Special Magistrate or the City.
- (d) Failure to pay outstanding penalties or costs after a finding of a violation at a hearing shall result in the citation being forwarded to the St Lucie Clerk of Court to be scheduled to be heard by a St. Lucie County judge.

Sec. XX-123. Additional penalties and enforcement to include immobilization and impoundment.

- (a) The City of Fort Pierce is authorized to attach a device that is capable of immobilizing a vehicle as described in this chapter when:
 - (1) It is determined that the plate number attached to a vehicle, or the owner of a vehicle owes one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) or more to the City as a result of citations which are in delinquent status, according to the records of the City.
 - (2) A violation of section XX-84 exists, relating to non-motorized vehicles.
 - (3) A violation of section XX-41, relating to motor vehicles of eighty-six (86) inches or more in overall width.

- (b) In order to ensure the safety of the vehicle, an immobilized vehicle shall be impounded if the reason for the immobilization has not been resolved and the immobilization device has not been removed within twenty-four (24) hours of the immobilization.

Sec. XX-124. Immobilization of vehicles.

- (a) Immobilization referred to in this chapter shall be by an immobilization device attached to the vehicle at the place where it is found, except that no vehicle shall be immobilized on private property or within the traveled portion of any street or on any portion of a street when immobilization at such place would create a hazard to the public or to the traffic.
- (b) At the same time as the immobilizing device is attached to the vehicle, a warning notice shall be affixed to the windshield or other prominent place on the vehicle stating that the immobilizing device has been so attached, cautioning the operator not to attempt to operate the vehicle while the immobilizing device is still attached and informing the operator that the vehicle is under immobilization, the reason for the immobilization, and where the proper person must go in order to arrange for the removal of the immobilization device or request a post-immobilization hearing. Immobilization fees, including the administration fees for removal of the immobilization device, shall be paid to the City.
- (c) A person with standing who wishes to request a post-immobilization hearing in front of a hearing officer shall follow the procedure set out under section XX-126 of this chapter.

Sec. XX-125. Removal of immobilizing device unlawful.

It is unlawful for any person to attempt or to remove, damage, destroy or tamper with an immobilizing device affixed to a vehicle by the City. A violation of this section shall be a Class III infraction in accordance with City Code Section 1-106. Release of an immobilized vehicle will take place in accordance with section XX-127.

Sec. XX-126. Establishment of post-immobilization hearings.

- (a) Any person wishing to challenge the immobilization of a vehicle pursuant to this chapter shall be entitled to a post-immobilization hearing before a Special Magistrate. Post-immobilization hearings shall be handled on the same date and time as parking violation hearings. A person who wishes to contest an immobilization without being assessed additional penalties or costs for impoundment shall post a bond for the entire amount in dispute and complete and submit a written request for post-immobilization hearing which must be received by the City within two (2) business days of the date of the immobilization. A request for a post-immobilization hearing shall be on the form provided by the City. Requests shall include a complete name and address of the person requesting a hearing, and a phone number and e-mail address. A description of the dispute must be included with the request for a hearing. Upon such request, a notice of hearing will be issued, confirming the time and date of the hearing. A copy of the person's driver's license and vehicle registration will be necessary to schedule a post-immobilization hearing.
- (b) Within one (1) business day following receipt of the request for post-immobilization hearing, the parking enforcement management shall conduct a preliminary review of the immobilization appeal. The determination may:
 - a. Affirm the immobilization and the matter will be scheduled to be heard by the Special Magistrate.
 - b. Find the appeal valid and allow the release of the immobilization device without penalty.

- (c) Upon affirmation by the parking enforcement management, the City shall send a notice of hearing which states:
 - (1) The date, time, and location of a pre-scheduled post-immobilization hearing.
 - (2) That a person who elects to contest the immobilization waives his or her right to pay the initial amount of the ticket due at the time of the immobilization unless a bond was posted and the person will accrue additional penalties and costs for the impoundment of the vehicle until a hearing is held and a determination is made as to whether the vehicle was immobilized in accordance with chapter XX, Fort Pierce Code.
 - (3) That a person who elects to contest a violation and then fails to appear shall be deemed to have waived his or her right to a hearing and any bond will be forfeited to the City.
- (d) The Notice of Hearing shall be sent by mail or e-mail to the person making the request for a post-immobilization hearing to the physical address or e-mail address provided in the request. A certification by the City that the Notice of Hearing was mailed to the physical address or e-mail address provided on a post-immobilization request constitutes prima facie evidence that the person on the Notice of Hearing was served with the notice.
- (e) A person who requests a post-immobilization hearing waives his or her right to pay the initial penalty and costs due as of the date of the immobilization unless a bond was posted. The Special Magistrate, after a hearing, shall make a determination as to whether an immobilization was done in accordance with this chapter. If the hearing officer determines that the immobilization carried out by the City pursuant to this chapter was not in accordance with the applicable ordinances, statutes and regulations, the aggrieved party shall be entitled to a reimbursement of any bond, fines, costs, or penalties paid related to the contested immobilization or if the vehicle is still impounded, the vehicle shall be immediately released with a waiver of all fines, costs, and penalties.

Sec. XX-127. Impoundment of vehicles

- (a) Impoundment referred to in this chapter shall be done in accordance with on F.S. § 713.78. Impoundment of a vehicle under this chapter will require the Police Department to authorize the vehicle to be removed to a police impound lot. A vehicle impounded under this chapter will be subject to all liens and terms described under F.S. § 713.78, in addition to payment of all penalties and costs that are due.
- (b) The City of Fort Pierce is hereby authorized to remove a vehicle from streets, City-owned and/or operated off-street lots, parking structures, or property and parks, beach and recreation areas or other property or from any private alley, drive, driveway or other privately-owned property within the City limits and to cause the same to be impounded in the nearest garage or other place of safety, or in a garage designated or maintained by the police department or otherwise maintained by the City:
 - (1) When any vehicle shall be parked in front of or so as to block entrances or driveways into public or private property
 - (2) When any vehicle shall be parked in any private alley, drive, driveway or on other privately-owned property without the permission or consent of the owner of such private alley, drive, driveway, or property.

- (3) When any vehicle is left unattended and parked upon a street and is so parked illegally as to constitute a hazard or obstruction to the normal movement of traffic.
- (4) When any vehicle is left unattended and parked for an excessive period of time and in violation of any ordinance of the City or regulation of the City Manager limiting the time for parking of vehicles on designated streets or parts of streets within the City.
- (5) When a vehicle is so disabled as to constitute an obstruction to traffic or a hazard to persons or property and the persons in charge of the vehicle are by reason of physical injury or condition incapacitated to such an extent as to be unable to provide for its custody or removal.
- (6) As authorized under section XX-126(b), related to unresolved immobilization of vehicles.

Sec. XX-128. Release of immobilized or impounded vehicle.

- (a) An immobilized vehicle under this chapter may be released by the City upon: payment of all parking fines, costs, and immobilization fees; a City review determination to release the immobilization device without penalty; or upon a Special Magistrate finding in favor of the person challenging the immobilization.
- (b) A vehicle impounded under this chapter may be released upon: payment of all parking penalties, costs, towing, storage, and administrative fees in accordance with F.S. § 713.78; or upon the posting of a cash or surety bond totaling all applicable amounts owed until the disposition of any hearing held in accordance with section F.S. § 713.78. A person who posts a bond under this section and fails to file a complaint within the time period required under F.S. § 713.78 shall have waived his or her right to a hearing and the total amount of the posted bond shall be forfeited to the city.

Sec. XX-129. Disposition of unrecovered impounded vehicles.

Vehicles impounded under this chapter which are not recovered may be disposed of in accordance with F.S. § 713.78.

Sec. XX-130 – XX-140. – Reserved