

Parking on Front Lawn Ordinance

The City ordinance banning parking on front lawns becomes effective April 1, 2004. The ordinance bans parking in front and side yards of corner lots, except on approved driveways or parking pads. The law applies to single family detached, duplex, triplex and quadraplex dwellings.

Exceptions to the ordinance include special events or social gatherings and cases in which there is no parking on adjacent streets; the principal dwelling is less than 20 feet from the abutting street or the lot width is less than 25 feet.

The City will begin issuing warning tickets on April 1, 2004 and imposing \$25 fines beginning May 1, 2004. Residents can report all violations to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Customer Service Center at (704) 336-7600. The response time for violations is expected to be one to three working days.

City Ordinance for No Parking on Front Lawn

The applicable text is highlighted in bold and is located at the end of Section 14-216, number 25. This code addition became effective April 1, 2004.

Sec. 14-216. Illegal parking.

(a) It shall be unlawful to stop, stand, or park a vehicle:

(1) On a street or on any public property owned or leased by the city in violation of an official traffic control device when such traffic control device gives notice of restrictions or prohibitions on parking.

(2) In a space designated with a sign for handicapped persons when the vehicle does not display the distinguishing registration plate, windshield placard, or disabled veteran registration plate or placard issued pursuant to G.S. 20-37.6 or G.S. 20-79.4.

(3) So as to obstruct a curb ramp or curb cut for handicapped persons.

(4) In front of or within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.

(5) Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station when such entrance is within 75 feet of the fire station.

(6) In an area designated as a fire lane.

(7) In a marked off parking space in a manner that its overall dimensions are not entirely within the parking space as marked off.

(8) In any metered space without making proper payment therefor.

(9) On a sidewalk.

- (10) On a street in front of a public or private driveway.
- (11) Within an intersection.
- (12) On a crosswalk.
- (13) On a street within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection.
- (14) On a street within 30 feet upon the approach to any flashing signal, stop sign, or traffic control signal located at the side of a roadway.
- (15) On a street between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within 30 feet of the points on the curb immediately opposite the ends of a safety zone unless the traffic authority indicates length by signs or markings.
- (16) On a street within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing.
- (17) On a street alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when such stopping, standing, or parking would obstruct traffic.
- (18) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street.
- (19) Upon any bridge or other elevated structure upon a street or within a street tunnel.
- (20) On a street median, unless the vehicle is disabled, and then only temporarily for a period not to exceed 24 hours.
- (21) On a street other than parallel with the edge of the roadway, headed in the direction of traffic, and with the curbside wheels of the vehicle within 12 inches of the edge of the roadway, unless authorized to do otherwise by appropriate signs.
- (22) On a street so as to leave available less than ten feet of the width of the roadway, if such roadway has designated thereon traffic lanes.
- (23) On a street within the marked traffic lane area so as to leave available less than ten feet of the width of the right one-half of the roadway for the free movement of vehicular traffic.
- (24) Within a public alley in such a manner under such conditions as to leave available less than ten feet of the width of the roadway for the free movement of vehicular traffic.
- (25) **Between the curb or edge of the pavement of a street and the front building line of a single family detached, duplex, triplex, or quadraplex dwelling unit projected to the side lot other than completely upon an improved driveway or improved parking pad. For purposes of this subsection, "improved" means surfaced with concrete, asphalt, gravel, or any other material commonly used for the parking of vehicles, but not including grass or dirt. The prohibition of this section shall not apply:**

a. On lots where parking is not permitted on adjacent streets surrounding the property and the front building line of the dwelling unit is less than 20 feet from the back of the curb line or edge of pavement, or the lot width at the front building line is less than 25 feet; or

b. In conjunction with special events involving family or social gatherings provided such events do not occur more frequently than once a week.

(b) The prohibitions in this section shall not apply to emergency and public service vehicles whose operators are performing services for which they are responsible, nor do these prohibitions apply to vehicles belonging to persons under contract with the city to perform a public service. These exceptions, however, shall apply only when an emergency situation requires that such vehicles park in the prohibited areas.

(Code 1985, §§ 14-175, 14-179; Ord. No. 2456, § 1, 11-24-2003)

Editor's note: Ord. No. 2456, adopted November 24, 2003, states that subsection (25) shall not be effective until April 1, 2004

Parking of Commercial Vehicles in Residential Neighborhoods

Charlotte City Council recently adopted a new ordinance prohibiting parking of commercial vehicles in residential neighborhoods. The following questions and answers help explain the ordinance and how it will be enforced.

What does the ordinance prohibit?

Overnight parking of large commercial vehicles in residential neighborhoods. It also restricts overnight parking of light and medium commercial vehicles to no more than one per dwelling. Medium commercial vehicles must be parked on a clearly delineated driveway and cannot be parked in the public street.

Large commercial vehicles are defined as those weighing more than 13,000 pounds or those less than 13,000 pounds but with a height of more than 9.5 feet including installed accessories and/or a cargo area/work platform more than 14 feet in length.

Light commercial vehicles are defined as those weighing less than 13,000 pounds and a cargo area/work platform that is less than the height of the vehicle cab and no more than 9 feet in length.

Medium commercial vehicles are defined as those weighing less than 13,000 pounds with a cargo area/work platform that is less than 9.5 feet in height and no more than 14 feet in length.

Where does the ordinance apply?

The ordinance applies to single family detached, duplex, triplex and quadraplex dwelling units that are located in residentially zoned districts.

Are there exceptions to the ordinance?

Overnight parking of light and medium commercial vehicles is permitted, without screening, in true mixed-use developments where residential and non-residential uses occur vertically in the same building.

What is the purpose of the ordinance?

The ordinance supports the City's model vision of a clean and nuisance-free environment for all Charlotte neighborhoods. The ordinance also comes in response to citizen complaints.

What is the effective date of the ordinance?

The ordinance becomes effective April 20, 2004

What is the penalty for violating the ordinance?

Warning tickets will be issued upon the first violation. The second violation carries a \$50 fine. The third violation carries a fine of up to \$200, with fines of up to \$500 for the fourth violation. Fines will be imposed beginning April 20, 2004.

Who do I call to report a violation?

Violations should be reported to the Mecklenburg County Zoning Administrator at 704-336-3569. **DO NOT report violations to 911.**