

TITLE 15**MOTOR VEHICLES, TRAFFIC AND PARKING¹****CHAPTER**

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CHAPTER 1**MISCELLANEOUS²****SECTION**

- 15-101. Motor vehicle requirements.
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¹Municipal code reference

Excavations and obstructions in streets, etc.: title 16.

²State law references

Under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-307, the following offenses are exclusively state offenses and must be tried in a state court or a court having state jurisdiction: driving while intoxicated or drugged, as prohibited by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-401; failing to stop after a traffic accident, as prohibited by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-101, et seq.; driving while license is suspended or revoked, as prohibited by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-50-504; and drag racing, as prohibited by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-501.

- 15-110. Presumption with respect to traffic-control signs, etc.
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- 15-119. Passing.
- 15-120. Damaging pavements.
- 15-121. Trucks required to use truck routes.
- 15-122. Traffic control on the public square.
- 15-123. Reckless driving.

15-101. Motor vehicle requirements. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motor vehicle within the corporate limits unless such vehicle is equipped with properly operating muffler, lights, brakes, horn and such other equipment as is prescribed and required by Tennessee Code Annotated, title 55, chapter 9. (1968 Code, § 9-101)

15-102. Driving on streets closed for repairs, etc. Except for necessary access to property abutting thereon, no motor vehicle shall be driven upon any street that is barricaded or closed for repairs or other lawful purpose. (1968 Code, § 9-106)

15-103. One-way streets. On any street for one-way traffic with posted signs indicating the authorized direction of travel at all intersections offering access thereto, no person shall operate any vehicle except in the indicated direction. (1968 Code, § 9-109)

15-104. Unlaned streets. (1) Upon all unlaned streets of sufficient width a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the street except:

(a) When lawfully overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.

(b) When the right half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair.

(c) Upon a roadway designated and signposted by the city for one-way traffic.

(2) All vehicles proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn. (1968 Code, § 9-110)

15-105. Laned streets. On streets marked with traffic lanes, it shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to fail or refuse to keep his vehicle within the boundaries of the proper lane for his direction of travel except when lawfully passing another vehicle or preparatory to making a lawful turning movement.

On two (2) lane and three (3) lane streets the proper lane for travel shall be the right hand lane unless otherwise clearly marked. On streets with four (4) or more lanes either of the right hand lanes shall be available for use except that traffic moving at less than the normal rate of speed shall use the extreme right hand lane. On one-way streets either lane may be lawfully used in the absence of markings to the contrary. (1968 Code, § 9-111)

15-106. Yellow lines. On streets with a yellow line placed to the right of any lane line or center line such yellow line shall designate a no-passing zone, and no operator shall drive his vehicle or any part thereof across or to the left of such yellow line except when necessary to make a lawful left turn from such street. (1968 Code, § 9-112)

15-107. Miscellaneous traffic-control signs, etc.¹ It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian or the operator of any vehicle to violate or fail to comply with any traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device placed or erected by the state or the city. (1968 Code, § 9-113)

15-108. General requirements for traffic-control signs, etc. Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-5-108, all traffic control signs, signals, markings, and devices shall conform to the latest revision of the Tennessee Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, and shall be uniform as to type and location throughout the city. (1968 Code, § 9-114, modified)

¹Municipal code references

Stop signs, yield signs, flashing signals, pedestrian control signs, traffic control signals generally: §§ 15-505--15-509.

15-109. Unauthorized traffic-control signs, etc. No person shall place, maintain, or display upon or in view of any street, any unauthorized sign, signal, marking or device which purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles an official traffic-control sign, signal, marking or device or railroad sign or signal, or which attempts to control the movement of traffic or parking of vehicles, or which hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of any official traffic-control sign, signal, marking or device or any railroad sign or signal. (1968 Code, § 9-115)

15-110. Presumption with respect to traffic-control signs, etc. When a traffic-control sign, signal, marking or device has been placed, the presumption shall be that it is official and that it has been lawfully placed by the proper city authority. (1968 Code, § 9-116)

15-111. School safety patrols and mother's school patrol. All motorists and pedestrians shall obey the directions or signals of school safety patrols, when such patrols are assigned under the authority of the chief of police, and are acting in accordance with instructions; provided, that such persons giving any order, signal or direction shall at the time be wearing some insignia and/or using authorized flags for giving signals.

There is also hereby created a mother's school patrol to be composed of patrolwomen who shall help supervise and control traffic upon the streets of the City of Columbia in and around the areas of the public schools. They shall have the authority only to make citation arrests and shall report to the city manager the names of the drivers (when known) of motor vehicles and/or the license number of such vehicles violating any of the traffic laws and traffic ordinances of the City of Columbia.

All patrolwomen shall be appointed by the city manager and shall serve only during the regular school year. They shall be under the supervision and control of the Chief of Police of the City of Columbia.

Uniforms for patrolwomen appointed to the mother's school patrol shall be furnished by the City of Columbia, Tennessee. The patrol women shall receive a salary to be fixed by the city council. (1968 Code, § 9-117)

15-112. Driving through funerals or other processions. Except when otherwise directed by a police officer no driver of a vehicle shall drive between the vehicles comprising a funeral or other authorized procession while they are in motion and when such vehicles are conspicuously designated. (1968 Code, § 9-118)

15-113. Clinging to vehicles in motion. It shall be unlawful for any person traveling upon any bicycle, motorcycle, coaster, sled, roller skates, or any

other vehicle to cling to, or attach himself or his vehicle to any other moving vehicle upon any street, alley or other public way or place. (1968 Code, § 9-120)

15-114. Riding on outside of vehicles. It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, or for the owner or operator of any motor vehicle being operated on a street, alley or other public way or place to permit any person to ride on any portion of such vehicle not designed or intended for the use of passengers. This section shall not apply to persons engaged in the necessary discharge of lawful duties nor to persons riding in the load-carrying space of trucks.

No person on the streets of the city shall transport a child under the age of twelve (12) years in the bed of a truck with a manufacturer's ton rating not exceeding three-quarter ($3/4$) ton and having a pickup body style; except when such vehicle is being used as part of an organized parade, procession or other ceremonial event and when such vehicle is not exceeding the speed of twenty miles per hour. (1968 Code, § 9-121, as amended by Ord. #3325, Sept. 1999)

15-115. Backing vehicles. The driver of a vehicle shall not back the same unless such movement can be made with reasonable safety and without interfering with other traffic. (1968 Code, § 9-122)

15-116. Projections from the rear of vehicles. Whenever the load or any projecting portion of any vehicle shall extend beyond the rear of the bed or body thereof the operator shall display at the end of such load or projection, in such position as to be clearly visible from the rear of such vehicle, a red flag being not less than twelve (12) inches square. Between one-half ($1/2$) hour after sunset and one-half ($1/2$) hour before sunrise there shall be displayed in place of the flag a red light plainly visible under normal atmospheric conditions at least two hundred (200) feet from the rear of such vehicle. (1968 Code, § 9-123)

15-117. Causing unnecessary noise. It shall be unlawful for any person to cause unnecessary noise by unnecessarily sounding the horn, "racing" the motor, or causing the "screeching" or "squealing" of the tires on any motor vehicle. (1968 Code, § 9-124)

15-118. Vehicles and operators to be licensed. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in violation of the "Tennessee Motor Vehicle Title and Registration Law" or the "Uniform Motor Vehicle Operators' and Chauffeurs' License Law." (1968 Code, § 9-125)

15-119. Passing. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of a vehicle passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance and shall not again

drive to the right side of the street until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle. The driver of the overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal and shall not increase the speed of his vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

When the street is wide enough, the driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle which is making or about to make a left turn.

The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction either upon the left or upon the right on a street of sufficient width for four (4) or more lanes of moving traffic when such movement can be made in safety.

No person shall drive off the pavement or upon the shoulder of the street in overtaking or passing on the right.

When any vehicle has stopped at a marked crosswalk or at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the street, no operator of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall overtake and pass such stopped vehicle.

No vehicle operator shall attempt to pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless he can see that the way ahead is sufficiently clear and unobstructed to enable him to make the movement in safety. (1968 Code, § 9-126)

15-120. Damaging pavements. No person shall operate upon any street of the municipality any vehicle, motor propelled or otherwise, which by reason of its weight or the character of its wheels or track is likely to damage the surface or foundation of the street. (1968 Code, § 9-119)

15-121. Trucks required to use truck routes. When the city council has designated adequate "truck routes" through the City of Columbia, and appropriate signs giving notice thereof have been posted, it shall be unlawful, except as hereinafter provided, for any person to operate any truck rated at one ton or more over any city street not designated as a truck route. Trucks making deliveries or pickup on streets not on a truck route may do so provided that a truck route is used until reaching the intersection nearest the destination point and then returned to by the most direct route. (1968 Code, § 9-127)

15-122. Traffic control on the public square. The operator of a vehicle approaching the public square of the City of Columbia shall yield the right of way to vehicles which have entered the public square and are being operated thereon; the vehicle traveling on said public square shall have the right of way as to those vehicles entering same. (1968 Code, § 9-128)

15-123. Reckless driving. Irrespective of the posted speed limit, no person, including operators of emergency vehicles, shall drive any vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. (1968 Code, § 9-107)

CHAPTER 2

EMERGENCY VEHICLES

SECTION

- 15-201. Authorized emergency vehicles defined.
- 15-202. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles.
- 15-203. Following emergency vehicles.
- 15-204. Running over fire hoses, etc.

15-201. Authorized emergency vehicles defined. Authorized emergency vehicles shall be fire department vehicles, police vehicles, and such ambulances and other emergency vehicles as are designated by the chief of police. (1968 Code, § 9-102)

15-202. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles.¹ (1) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, subject to the conditions herein stated.

(2) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this title; proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down to ascertain that the intersection is clear; exceed the maximum speed limit and disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions so long as he does not endanger life or property.

(3) The exemptions herein granted for an authorized emergency vehicle shall apply only when the driver of any such vehicle while in motion sounds an audible signal by bell, siren, or exhaust whistle and when the vehicle is equipped with at least one lighted lamp displaying a red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred 500 feet to the front of such vehicle, except that an authorized emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display a red light visible from in front of the vehicle.

(4) The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the

¹Municipal code reference

Operation of other vehicle upon the approach of emergency vehicles:
§ 15-501.

consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others. (1968 Code, § 9-103)

15-203. Following emergency vehicles. No driver of any vehicle shall follow any authorized emergency vehicle apparently travelling in response to an emergency call closer than five hundred (500) feet or drive or park such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm. (1968 Code, § 9-104)

15-204. Running over fire hoses, etc. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive over any hose lines or other equipment of the fire department except in obedience to the direction of a fireman or policeman. (1968 Code, § 9-105)

CHAPTER 3

SPEED LIMITS

SECTION

15-301. In general.

15-302. At intersections.

15-303. In school zones and near playgrounds.

15-304. In congested areas.

15-305. Specific speed limitations.

15-301. In general. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle upon any highway or street at a rate of speed in excess of twenty-five (25) miles per hour except where official signs have been posted indicating other speed limits in which cases the posted speed limit shall apply and except as otherwise provided in this chapter. (Ord. #3516, Sept. 2003)

15-302. At intersections. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle through any intersection at a rate of speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour unless such person is driving on a street regulated by traffic control signals or signs which require traffic to stop or yield on the intersecting streets. (1968 Code, § 9-202)

15-303. In school zones and near playgrounds. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle through any school zone or near any playground at a rate of speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour when official signs indicating such speed limit have been posted by authority of the municipality. This section shall not apply at times when children are not in the vicinity of a school and such posted signs have been covered by direction of the chief of police. (1968 Code, § 9-203)

15-304. In congested areas. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle through any congested area at a rate of speed in excess of any posted speed limit when such speed limit has been posted by authority of the municipality. (1968 Code, § 9-204)

15-305. Specific speed limitations. All provisions of this chapter and all provisions of the Columbia Municipal Code to the contrary notwithstanding the following specific speed limits shall be in effect as to the following streets and it shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle upon

such streets in excess of the speed limits herein set forth as Exhibit "A."¹
(Ord. #3516, Sept. 2003)

¹Exhibit "A" is of record in the office of the city recorder.

CHAPTER 4

TURNING MOVEMENTS

SECTION

15-401. Generally.

15-402. Right turns.

15-403. Left turns on two-way roadways.

15-404. Left turns on other than two-way roadways.

15-405. U-turns.

15-401. Generally. No person operating a motor vehicle shall make any turning movement which might affect any pedestrian or the operation of any other vehicle without first ascertaining that such movement can be made in safety and signaling his intention in accordance with the requirements of the state law.¹ (1968 Code, § 9-301)

15-402. Right turns. Both the approach for a right turn and a right turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway. (1968 Code, § 9-302)

15-403. Left turns on two-way roadways. At any intersection where traffic is permitted to move in both directions on each roadway entering the intersection, an approach for a left turn shall be made in that portion of the right half of the roadway nearest the center line thereof and by passing to the right of the intersection of the center lines of the two roadways. (1968 Code, § 9-303)

15-404. Left turns on other than two-way roadways. At any intersection where traffic is restricted to one direction on one or more of the roadways, the driver of a vehicle intending to turn left at any such intersection shall approach the intersection in the extreme left hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the direction of travel of such vehicle and after entering the intersection the left turn shall be made so as to leave the intersection, as nearly as practicable, in the left hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in such direction upon the roadway being entered. (1968 Code, § 9-304)

15-405. U-turns. U-turns are prohibited. (1968 Code, § 9-305)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

CHAPTER 5

STOPPING AND YIELDING

SECTION

- 15-501. Upon approach of authorized emergency vehicles.
- 15-502. When emerging from alleys, etc.
- 15-503. To prevent obstructing an intersection.
- 15-504. At railroad crossings.
- 15-505. At "stop" signs.
- 15-506. At "yield" signs.
- 15-507. At traffic-control signals generally.
- 15-508. At flashing traffic-control signals.
- 15-509. At pedestrian-control signals.
- 15-510. Stops to be signaled.
- 15-511. Location of stop signs at specific intersections.
- 15-512. Location of yield signs at specific intersections.
- 15-513. Location of traffic control signals at specific intersections.

15-501. Upon approach of authorized emergency vehicles.¹ Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle making use of audible and/or visual signals meeting the requirements of the laws of this state, or of a police vehicle properly and lawfully making use of an audible signal only, the driver of every other vehicle shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection and shall stop and remain in such position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer. (1968 Code, § 9-401)

15-502. When emerging from alleys, etc. The drivers of all vehicles emerging from alleys, parking lots, driveways or buildings shall stop such vehicles immediately prior to driving onto any sidewalk or street. They shall not proceed to drive onto the sidewalk or street until they can safely do so without colliding or interfering with approaching pedestrians or vehicles. (1968 Code, § 9-402)

15-503. To prevent obstructing an intersection. No driver shall enter any intersection or marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on

¹Municipal code reference

Special privileges of emergency vehicles: title 15, chapter 2.

the other side of such intersection or crosswalk to accommodate the vehicle he is operating without obstructing the passage of traffic in or on the intersecting street or crosswalk. This provision shall be effective notwithstanding any traffic-control signal indication to proceed. (1968 Code, § 9-403)

15-504. At railroad crossings. Any driver of a vehicle approaching a railroad grade crossing shall stop within not less than fifteen (15) feet from the nearest rail of such railroad and shall not proceed further while any of the following conditions exist:

- (1) A clearly visible electrical or mechanical signal device gives warning of the approach of a railroad train.
- (2) A crossing gate is lowered or a human flagman signals the approach of a railroad train.
- (3) A railroad train is approaching within approximately fifteen hundred (1500) feet of the highway crossing and is emitting an audible signal indicating its approach.
- (4) An approaching railroad train is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to the crossing. (1968 Code, § 9-404)

15-505. At "stop" signs. The driver of a vehicle facing a "stop" sign shall bring his vehicle to a complete stop immediately before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if there is no crosswalk, then immediately before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until he can proceed through the intersection in safety. (1968 Code, § 9-405)

15-506. At "yield" signs. The drivers of all vehicles shall yield the right of way to approaching vehicles before proceeding at all places where "yield" signs have been posted. (1968 Code, § 9-406)

15-507. At traffic-control signals generally. Traffic-control signals exhibiting the words "Go," "Caution," or "Stop," or exhibiting different colored lights successively one at a time, or with arrows, shall show the following colors only and shall apply to drivers of vehicles and pedestrians as follows:

- (1) Green alone, or "Go":
 - (a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at such place prohibits such turn. But vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left, shall yield the right of way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk at the time such signal is exhibited.
 - (b) Pedestrians facing the signal may proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk.

(2) Steady yellow alone, or "Caution":

(a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal is thereby warned that the red or "Stop" signal will be exhibited immediately thereafter and such vehicular traffic shall not enter or be crossing the intersection when the red or "Stop" signal is exhibited.

(b) Pedestrians facing such signal shall not enter the roadway unless authorized so to do by a pedestrian "Walk" signal.

(3) Steady red alone, or "Stop":

(a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until green or "Go" is shown alone.

(b) Pedestrians facing such signal shall not enter the roadway unless authorized so to do by a pedestrian "Walk" signal.

(4) Steady red with green arrow:

(a) Vehicular traffic facing such signal may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow but shall yield the right of way to pedestrians lawfully within a crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

(b) Pedestrians facing such signal shall not enter the roadway unless authorized so to do by a pedestrian "Walk" signal.

(5) In the event an official traffic-control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of this section shall be applicable except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application. Any stop required shall be made at a sign or marking on the pavement indicating where the stop shall be made, but in the absence of any such sign or marking the stop shall be made a vehicle length short of the signal. (1968 Code, § 9-407)

15-508. At flashing traffic-control signals. (1) Whenever an illuminated flashing red or yellow signal is used in a traffic sign or signal placed or erected in the city it shall require obedience by vehicular traffic as follows:

(a) Flashing red (stop signal). When a red lens is illuminated with intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at an intersection or at a limit line when marked, or if none, then before entering the intersection, and the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.

(b) Flashing yellow (caution signal). When a yellow lens is illuminated with intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles may proceed through the intersection or past such signal only with caution.

(2) This section shall not apply at railroad grade crossings. Conduct of drivers of vehicles approaching railroad grade crossings shall be governed by the rules set forth in § 15-504 of this code. (1968 Code, § 9-408)

15-509. At pedestrian-control signals. Wherever special pedestrian-control signals exhibiting the words "Walk" or "Wait" or "Don't Walk" have been placed or erected by the city, such signals shall apply as follows:

(1) Walk. Pedestrians facing such signal may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right of way by the drivers of all vehicles.

(2) Wait or Don't Walk. No pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of such signal, but any pedestrian who has partially completed his crossing on the walk signal shall proceed to the nearest sidewalk or safety zone while the wait signal is showing. (1968 Code, § 9-409)

15-510. Stops to be signaled. No person operating a motor vehicle shall stop such vehicle whether in obedience to a traffic sign or signal or otherwise, without first signaling his intention in accordance with the requirements of the state law,¹ except in an emergency. (1968 Code, § 9-410)

15-511. Location of stop signs at specific intersections. All provisions of this chapter and all provisions of the Columbia Municipal Code to the contrary notwithstanding, the following specific intersections shall have stop signs for traffic on the intersecting streets and the failure of a person to obey such stop signs shall be a violation of § 15-505 of the Columbia Municipal Code and the penalties determined accordingly. The location of the stop signs, the type of intersection and the number of stop signs are as follows:

(Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.)² (1968 Code, § 9-411)

15-512. Location of yield signs at specific intersections. All provisions of this chapter and all provisions of the Columbia Municipal Code to the contrary notwithstanding, the following specific intersections shall have yield signs for traffic on the intersecting streets and the failure of a person to

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

²See exhibit to Ord. #1700, and amendments thereto, of record in the city recorder's office.

obey such yield signs shall be a violation of § 15-506 of the Columbia Municipal Code and the penalties determined accordingly. The location of the yield signs, the type of intersection and the number of yield signs are as follows:

(Exhibit B attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.)¹ (1968 Code, § 9-412)

15-513. Location of traffic control signals at specific intersections.

All provisions of this chapter and all provisions of the Columbia Municipal Code to the contrary notwithstanding, the following specific intersections shall have traffic control signals for traffic on the intersecting streets and the failure of a person to obey such traffic control signals shall be a violation of § 15-507 of the Columbia Municipal Code and the penalties determined accordingly. The location of the traffic control signals, the type of intersection and the number of traffic control signals are as follows:

(Exhibit C attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.)² (1968 Code, § 9-413)

¹See exhibit to Ord. #1700 of record in the city recorder's office.

²See exhibit to Ord. #1700 of record in the city recorder's office.

CHAPTER 6

PARKING

SECTION

- 15-601. Generally.
- 15-602. Parking spaces.
- 15-603. Where prohibited.
- 15-604. Regulation of parking.
- 15-605. Classification of parking spaces.
- 15-606. Unlawful to occupy more than one parking space.
- 15-607. Unlawful to deface or tamper with signs or markings.
- 15-608. Presumption with respect to illegal parking.
- 15-609. Parking of a trailer or trailers on the public streets and roads.
- 15-610. Parking in city owned and maintained parks.
- 15-611. Designation of tow-away zones and the towing and storage of illegally parked vehicles.
- 15-612. Block parking zone created and defined.
- 15-613. Parking restrictions within block parking zone.
- 15-614. Overtime parking in block parking zone.
- 15-615. Violations of parking restrictions in block parking zones.

15-601. Generally. No person shall leave any motor vehicle unattended on any street without first setting the brakes thereon, stopping the motor, removing the ignition key, and turning the front wheels of such vehicle toward the nearest curb or gutter of the street.

Except as hereinafter provided, every vehicle parked upon a street within this city shall be so parked that its right wheels are approximately parallel to and within eighteen (18) inches of the right edge or curb of the street. On one-way streets where the city has not placed signs prohibiting the same, vehicles may be permitted to park on the left side of the street and in such cases the left wheels shall be required to be within eighteen (18) inches of the left edge or curb of the street.

Notwithstanding anything else in this code to the contrary, no person shall park or leave a vehicle parked on any public street or alley within the fire limits between the hours of 1:00 A.M. and 5:00 A.M. or on any other public street or alley for more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours without the prior approval of the chief of police.

Furthermore, no person shall wash, grease, or work on any vehicle, except to make repairs necessitated by an emergency, while such vehicle is parked on a public street.

For the purpose of this chapter:

(1) The word "vehicle" shall mean any device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported upon a highway, except a device which is operated upon rails or tracks.

(2) The word "street" shall mean any public street, avenue, road, alley, highway, lane, path or other public place located in the City of Columbia, and established for the use of vehicles.

(3) The word "person" shall include any individual, firm, co-partnership, association or corporation.

(4) The word "operator" shall mean and include every individual who shall operate a vehicle as the owner thereof, or as the agent, employee or permittee of the owner, or is in actual physical control of a vehicle.

(5) The word "park" or "parking" shall mean the standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, upon a street otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in, receiving or discharging passengers or loading or unloading merchandise or in obedience to traffic regulations, signs or signals or an involuntary stopping of the vehicle by reason of causes beyond the control of the operator of the vehicle.

(6) All streets as herein defined located within the corporate limits of the City of Columbia shall be subject to this chapter, but nothing herein shall be construed to require the city manager to designate all streets to be within any of the classifications herein provided, said specific designation being left to the discretion of the city manager in conformity to the provisions of this chapter. (1968 Code, § 9-501)

15-602. Parking spaces. All spaces for parking of vehicles in the City of Columbia whether providing angle parking or parallel parking shall be as designated by the city manager. On those streets or parts of streets which shall be designated for angle parking no person shall park or stand a vehicle other than at the angle indicated by signs or markings erected at such parking spaces. On those streets or parts of streets designated for parallel parking no person shall park or stand a vehicle except within the area indicated by such signs or markings. No person shall angle park any vehicle which has a trailer attached thereto or which has a length in excess of 24 feet. No person shall parallel park any vehicle where any portion of said vehicle extends in front or rear beyond the limits of the markings designating a parallel parking space. (1968 Code, § 9-502)

15-603. Where prohibited. No person shall park a vehicle in violation of any sign placed or erected by the city, nor:

- (1) On a sidewalk;
- (2) In front of a public or private driveway;
- (3) Within an intersection or within twenty-five (25) feet thereof;

- (4) Within fifteen (15) feet of a fire hydrant;
- (5) Within a pedestrian crosswalk;
- (6) Within fifty (50) feet of a railroad crossing;
- (7) Within twenty (20) feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station, and on the side of the street opposite the entrance to any fire station within seventy-five (75) feet of the entrance;
- (8) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when other traffic would be obstructed;
- (9) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street;
- (10) Upon any bridge;
- (11) Alongside any curb painted yellow or red by the city.
- (12) On Columbia Avenue from Davis Avenue to West 15th Street. (1968 Code, § 9-504, as amended by Ord. #3492, April 2003, and Ord. #4235, May 2019 *Ch8_3-12-20*)

15-604. Regulation of parking. Except as otherwise provided in this code, no person shall park any vehicle on any streets or parts of streets regulated as herein provided between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, except in the manner and upon the conditions herein provided. (1968 Code, § 9-506)

15-605. Classification of parking spaces. All spaces whether providing angle parking or parallel parking are hereby classified as follows:

(1) **"Class A" parking spaces.** Those parking spaces designated by the city manager to provide for one (1) hour of free parking shall be "Class A" parking spaces. Such parking spaces shall be marked by sign or otherwise in such manner as to clearly inform persons parking vehicles in such spaces of such one (1) hour free parking limitation.

(2) **"Class B" parking spaces.** Those parking spaces designated by the city manager to provide for three (3) hours free parking shall be "Class B" parking spaces. Such parking spaces shall be marked by sign or otherwise in such manner as to clearly inform persons parking vehicles in such spaces of such three (3) hours free parking limitation.

(3) **"Class C" parking spaces.** Those parking spaces designated by the city manager to provide for parking upon the issuance of a permit for permanent downtown residents and downtown employees shall be "Class C" parking spaces. Such parking spaces shall be marked by sign or otherwise in such manner as to clearly inform persons parking vehicle in such spaces of such permit parking. The fee for such permit shall be sixty dollars (\$60.00) per year.

(4) **"Class D" parking spaces.** Those parking spaces designated by the city manager to provide for free parking on any terms other than the terms set

forth in "Class A," "Class B," and "Class C" parking spaces shall be "Class D" parking spaces. Such "Class D" parking spaces shall be identified by sign or other marking clearly indicating to persons using such "Class D" parking spaces, the terms, limitations, and conditions under which vehicles may be parked in such "Class D" spaces. (Ord. #3492, April 2003, as replaced by Ord. #3828, Dec. 2009)

15-606. Unlawful to occupy more than one parking space. It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator of any vehicle to park or allow his vehicle to be parked across any line or marking designating a parking space regardless of the classification of such parking space so that such vehicle is not entirely within the designated parking space; provided, however, that vehicles which are too large to park within one space may be permitted to occupy two (2) adjoining spaces. In the event such vehicle too large to park in one (1) space occupies two (2) adjoining spaces, the limitations upon parking designated upon the signs or markings for such parking spaces shall apply to such vehicle as to both parking spaces. In the event such adjoining parking spaces are spaces of different classification one to the other, the classification providing for the shorter time of free parking shall apply to both such adjoining parking spaces. (1968 Code, § 9-509)

15-607. Unlawful to deface or tamper with signs or markings. It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to deface, damage, tamper with, wilfully break, destroy or otherwise harm any sign or marking erected or placed as provided in this code. (1968 Code, § 9-510)

15-608. Presumption with respect to illegal parking. When any vehicle is found parked in violation of any provision of this code there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the registered owner of such vehicle is responsible for such illegal parking. (1968 Code, § 9-512)

15-609. Parking of a trailer or trailers on the public streets or roads. It shall be unlawful to park any trailer upon the roads, streets or public ways of the City of Columbia, except in the spaces marked or designated by the City Manager of the City of Columbia. The word "trailer" shall be defined as a separate vehicle, not driven or propelled by its own power, but drawn by some independent power. The operator of any trailer parked in violation of this chapter shall be fined fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each such violation. (Ord. #3492, April 2003)

15-610. Parking in city owned and maintained parks. (1) The City Council of the City of Columbia, Tennessee, has determined that it would be in the best interest for the safety and well-being of the its citizens that parking be

regulated in all parks owned and maintained by the City of Columbia, Tennessee.

(2) No vehicle will be allowed to park upon the grass areas of any park owned and maintained by the City of Columbia, without the prior written consent of either the City Manager of the City of Columbia or the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Columbia.

(3) Any person violating this section will be fined fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each such violation. (1968 Code, § 9-516)

15-611. Designation of tow-away zones and the towing and storage of illegally parked vehicles. The Chief of Police of the City of Columbia is hereby authorized to designate parking areas within the corporate limits of the City of Columbia as tow-away zones where parking in such areas would create or constitute a traffic hazard, block the use of a fire hydrant, obstruct or may obstruct the movement of any emergency vehicle or in any other manner constitute a hazard or danger to public safety. The zones so designated shall be clearly marked by signs and other methods stating that vehicles parked in such zones are subject to being towed and also provide a telephone number where a person whose vehicle is towed may call for information. Vehicles so towed away shall be stored at the site of the commercial towing service that towed such vehicle and shall not be restored to the owner or operator of such vehicle until all costs of towing and storage are paid in full to such towing service. The charges set forth herein are in addition to any other fine or cost incurred by the owner or operator of such vehicle as a result of such illegal parking. (Ord. #1895, Sept. 1992)

15-612. Block parking zone created and defined. A block parking zone is hereby created in the City of Columbia. A block parking zone is any side of a block or blocks designated in the central business district for which parking is restricted through the use of parking meters or other time restrictions pursuant to this chapter. Said block parking zone shall be within the region from West 8th Street North to West 5th Street and from Garden Street East to Woodland Street. Each time a vehicle exceeds the restrictions contained herein, shall be considered a separate violation and subject to the imposition of additional fines. (Ord. #3492, April 2003)

15-613. Parking restrictions within block parking zone. No person shall park a vehicle within a designated block parking zone beyond a specified period of time within a period of twenty-four (24) hours. Such time period shall begin when the vehicle is first parked in a blocked parking zone. (Ord. #3492, April 2003, as replaced by Ord. #3801, April 2009)

15-614. Overtime parking in block parking zone. It shall be a violation of this chapter for any person or driver to cause, allow, or permit any motor vehicle registered in his or her name or operated or controlled by him or her to be parked in any block parking zone beyond the maximum amount of time allowed for parking by the parking time restrictions within the specified block parking zone. (Ord. #3492, April 2003)

15-615. Violations of parking restrictions in block parking zone. Each and every hour during which a motor vehicle shall remain unlawfully parked in any block parking zone shall constitute a separate and distinct violation of this chapter, subject to a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each violation. In the event any citation is paid within a twenty-four (24) hour period of its issuance, said fine shall be reduced to five dollars (\$5.00). (Ord. #3492, April 2003)

CHAPTER 7

ENFORCEMENT

SECTION

- 15-701. Issuance of traffic citations.
- 15-702. Failure to obey citation.
- 15-703. Illegal parking.
- 15-704. Impoundment of vehicles.
- 15-705. Violation and penalty.
- 15-706. Handicapped parking spaces.

15-701. Issuance of traffic citations.¹ When a police officer halts a traffic violator other than for the purpose of giving a warning, and does not take such person into custody under arrest, he shall take the name, address, and operator's license number of said person, the license number of the motor vehicle involved, and such other pertinent information as may be necessary, and shall issue to him a written traffic citation containing a notice to answer to the charge against him in the city court at a specified time. The officer, upon receiving the written promise of the alleged violator to answer as specified in the citation, shall release such person from custody. It shall be unlawful for any alleged violator to give false or misleading information as to his name or address. (1968 Code, § 9-602)

15-702. Failure to obey citation. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate his written promise to appear in court after giving said promise to an officer upon the issuance of a traffic citation, regardless of the disposition of the charge for which the citation was originally issued. (1968 Code, § 9-603)

15-703. Illegal parking. Whenever any motor vehicle without a driver is found parked or stopped in violation of any of the restrictions imposed by this code, the officer finding such vehicle shall take its license number and may take any other information displayed on the vehicle which may identify its user, and shall conspicuously affix to such vehicle a citation for the driver and/or owner to answer for the violation within forty-eight (48) hours during the hours and at a place specified in the citation. (1968 Code, § 9-604, modified)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 7-63-101, et seq.

15-704. Impoundment of vehicles.¹ Members of the police department are hereby authorized, when reasonably necessary to prevent obstruction of traffic, to remove from the streets and impound any vehicle whose operator is arrested, or any vehicle which is illegally parked, abandoned, or otherwise parked so as to constitute an obstruction or hazard to normal traffic. Any vehicle left parked on any street or alley for more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours without permission from the chief of police shall be presumed to have been abandoned if the owner cannot be located after a reasonable investigation. Such an impounded vehicle shall be stored until the owner claims it, gives satisfactory evidence of ownership, and pays all applicable fines and costs. The fee for impounding a vehicle shall be five dollars (\$5.00) and a storage cost of one dollar (\$1.00) per day shall also be charged. (1968 Code, § 9-601)

15-705. Violation and penalty. Any violation of this title shall be a civil offense punishable as follows:

(1) Traffic citations. Traffic citations shall be punishable by civil penalty up to fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each separate offense.

(2) Parking citations. If the offense is a parking violation, the offender may, within seventy-two (72) hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, have the charge against him disposed of by paying the city recorder a fine of six dollars (\$6.00) for the first violation within a calendar year, twelve dollars (\$12.00) for the second violation within a calendar year, twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the third violation within a calendar year and a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the fourth and all future violations within a calendar year, provided he waives his right to a judicial hearing. Upon a finding of the city court that the offender is guilty of any violation of the parking provision of this code, he shall be fined an amount of not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) plus costs. (Ord. #1973, Nov. 1993, modified, as replaced by Ord. #4265, Nov. 2019 *Ch8_3-12-20*)

15-706. Handicapped parking spaces. (1) Definitions. For the purpose of this section:

(a) "Handicapped" means those people who are mobility-limited, unable to move about freely without restrictions.

(b) "Properly identified parking space" means a parking space with a sign carrying the handicapped designation visible to a motorist driving a motor vehicle.

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 55-16-103--55-16-110.

(c) "Properly identified vehicle" means a vehicle bearing any of the following: A handicapped symbol or special state-issued limited-use permit prominently displayed on the windshield or a license plate issued to disabled veterans or handicapped persons.

(d) "Adequate time" means one (1) hour.

(e) "Disabled parking enforcement volunteers" shall be those persons as defined by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-21-110.

(2) Unlawful activities -- removal of vehicles. The parking, stopping or standing of any personal property, including motor vehicles not properly identified as being used by a handicapped person, or any other means of obstructing handicapped parking spaces on private and public property shall be prohibited at all times pursuant to the inherent and statutory powers of the City of Columbia, Tennessee, to preserve the health, welfare and safety of its citizens. Any vehicle or other personal property found to be parked or standing in a handicapped parking space not identified as used by a handicapped person shall, with the consent of the owner, lessee or other person in possession or control of the real estate where such a handicapped parking space has been established if on private property, be towed away or removed upon request of any law enforcement officer or disabled parking enforcement volunteer after the vehicle has been cited by the police or disabled parking enforcement volunteer and adequate time has been given the owner to remove the vehicle or personal property. The owner of such personal property shall be responsible for all tow-in charges and resulting storage charges, if any.

(3) Violation -- penalty. The owner of any personal property or motor vehicle found in violation of this section shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$25.00 plus costs nor more than \$50.00 plus costs.

(4) Enforcement. The provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-21-108 shall be enforced within the corporate limits of the City of Columbia, Tennessee, whether violations occur on public or private property. (Ord. #1973, Nov. 1993, as amended by Ord. #3178, Sept. 1997)

CHAPTER 8

BICYCLE SAFETY

SECTION

15-801. Definitions.

15-802. Purpose.

15-803. Child bicycle safety rules and regulations.

15-804. Penalty; defense; inadmissibility as evidence in civil action.

15-801. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Bicycle" means a human-powered vehicle with two (2) wheels in tandem designed to transport, by the action of pedaling, one (1) or more persons seated on one (1) or more saddle seats on its frame. "Bicycle" also includes a human-powered vehicle designed to transport by pedaling which has more than two (2) wheels where the vehicle is used on a public roadway, public bicycle path or other public right-of-way, but does not include a tricycle.

(2) "Operator" means a person who travels on a bicycle seated on a saddle seat from which that person is intended to and can pedal the bicycle.

(3) "Other public right-of-way" means any right-of-way other than a public roadway or public bicycle path that is under the jurisdiction and control of the state or the City of Columbia and is designed for use and used by vehicular and/or pedestrian traffic.

(4) "Passenger" means any person who travels on a bicycle in any manner except as an operator.

(5) "Protective bicycle helmet" means a piece of head gear which meets or exceeds the impact standards for protective bicycle helmets set by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or the Snell Memorial Foundation, or which is otherwise approved by the chief of police.

(6) "Public bicycle path" means a right-of-way under the jurisdiction and control of the state or the City of Columbia for use primarily by bicycles and pedestrians.

(7) "City street or roadway" means a right-of-way under the jurisdiction and control of the City of Columbia for use primarily by motor vehicles.

(8) "Restraining seat" means a seat separate from the saddle seat of the operator of the bicycle that is fastened securely to the frame of the bicycle and is adequately equipped to restrain the passenger in such seat and protect such passenger from the moving parts of the bicycle.

(9) "Tricycle" means a three-wheeled human-powered vehicle.
(Ord. #3242, July 1998)

15-802. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to reduce the incidence of disability and death resulting from injuries incurred in bicycling accidents by requiring that, while riding on a bicycle on city streets and roadways, all bicycle operators and passengers under the age of sixteen (16) years wear approved protective bicycle helmets; that all bicycle passengers who weigh less than forty pounds (40 lbs.) or are less than forty inches (40") in height be seated in separate restraining seats; and that no person who is unable to maintain an erect seated position shall be a passenger in a bicycle restraining seat. (Ord. #3242, July 1998)

15-803. Child bicycle safety rules and regulations. With regard to any bicycle used on a city street or roadway, it is unlawful:

(1) For any person under the age of sixteen (16) to operate or be a passenger on a bicycle unless at all times when so engaged such person wears a protective bicycle helmet of good fit fastened securely upon the head with the straps of the helmet.

(2) For any person to be a passenger on a bicycle unless, with respect to any person who weighs fewer than forty pounds (40 lbs.), or is less than forty inches (40") in height, the person can be and is properly seated in and adequately secured to a restraining seat.

(3) For any parent or legal guardian of a person below the age of sixteen (16) to knowingly permit such person to operate or be a passenger on a bicycle in violation of subdivision (1) or (2).

(4) To rent or lease any bicycle to or for the use of any person under the age of sixteen (16) unless;

(a) The person is in possession of a protective bicycle helmet of good fit at the time of such rental or lease; or

(b) The rental or lease includes a protective bicycle helmet of good fit, and the person intends to wear the helmet, as required by subdivision (1), at all times while operating or being a passenger on the bicycle. (Ord. #3242, July 1998)

15-804. Penalty; defense; inadmissibility as evidence in civil action. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) below, any adult person violating any requirement set forth in § 15-803, shall be guilty of a violation and upon conviction sentenced to pay a fine of two dollars (\$2.00) and court costs.

(2) Upon commission of the first offense within a twelve month period under § 15-803(3), it shall be a defense that the accused has since the date of the violation purchased or provided a protective bicycle helmet or a restraining seat, and uses and intends to use or causes to be used or intends to cause to be used the same as the law requires.

(3) In no event shall failure to wear a protective bicycle helmet or to secure a passenger to a restraining seat be admissible as evidence in a trial of any civil action. (Ord. #3242, July 1998)