

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT, AMENDING TITLE III OF THE NEW HAVEN CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 29, DIVISION ONE, SECTION 29-35 (I) – PARKING PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN PLACES TO CHANGE FROM 72 HOURS TO 24 HOURS CONCERNING ABANDONED VEHICLES, VEHICLES WITH NO LICENSE PLATES, UNREGISTERED OR INOPERABLE VEHICLES, AND TRANSFERRING THE POWERS, DUTIES, AUTHORITY FROM THE NEW HAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT TO THE TRANSPORTATION, TRAFFIC AND PARKING DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, the City of New Haven is committed to maintaining clean, safe, and accessible streets for the benefit of all residents, businesses, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the presence of abandoned vehicles, vehicles with no license plates, unregistered vehicles, and inoperable vehicles on public streets poses significant challenges to the efficient use of public space, reduces available parking, and can lead to a decline in the aesthetic and safety standards of neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the current 72-hour timeframe for a vehicle to be classified as abandoned or otherwise in violation of parking regulations under Section 29-35 (I) of the New Haven Code of Ordinances has proven to be insufficient for the effective management of city streets, often leading to prolonged periods of inaction and the accumulation of such vehicles, which may contribute to neighborhood blight and reduced property values; and

WHEREAS, reducing the allowable timeframe from 72 hours to 24 hours for identifying and addressing abandoned vehicles, vehicles with no license plates, unregistered vehicles, and inoperable vehicles will enable the City to respond more swiftly to parking violations, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life in New Haven by ensuring that streets remain clear, orderly, and conducive to safe transportation and pedestrian movement; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Haven seeks to streamline and enhance the enforcement process by transferring the powers, duties, and authority related to the identification, removal, and impoundment of such vehicles from the NHPD to the Transportation, Traffic, and Parking Department, an agency specifically focused on the management of public spaces and traffic systems, which is better positioned to handle these responsibilities with the specialized knowledge, resources, and coordination required to address parking-related concerns more effectively; and

WHEREAS, this transfer of responsibilities is expected to lead to improve a more effective and timely response to parking violations and vehicle abandonment issues, ultimately benefiting the residents of New Haven through more responsive and dedicated service;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, Title III, Chapter 29, Division One, Section 29-35 (I) of the New Haven Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

Section 29-35 (I) - Parking Prohibited in Certain Places

(I) No person shall park, store, or leave any vehicle on any public street, highway, alley, or other public place within the city for a period exceeding 24 hours if such vehicle:

Is abandoned;

Has no license plates;

Is unregistered;

Is inoperable;

Any such vehicle parked, stored, or left in violation of this section shall be subject to removal by the City at the owner's expense. The powers, duties, and authority related to the enforcement of this section, previously vested in the New Haven Police Department, are hereby transferred to the Department of Transportation, Traffic, and Parking.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the city is committed to maintaining order, improving public safety, and optimizing municipal operations by transferring enforcement responsibilities to the department best equipped to handle them.